

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 24, 2009 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman David Canada, Selectmen Bruno Federico and Tim Copeland, and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

The meeting opened at 6:50 PM. Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session with the Ad Hoc Conservation Bond Subcommittee to discuss a potential acquisition of property. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 7:57 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the discussion of a potential acquisition of property. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 8:00PM, the Chair opened the meeting.

Mr. Canada expressed the public condolences to the family of Gordon Barker after his unexpected passing this past week. He said there would be a remembrance ceremony later this week, which the Board planned to attend.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had a negative balance of \$628,531.59 with \$4,500,000 invested, which would cover this deficit.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Highway: Fred Hutton gave his weekly report. Mr. Hutton reported that he had gotten the results of the State bids for acquiring road salt. There were several different prices depending upon the distance hauled. The price for the Town of Stratham via the State bid was quoted at \$54.53 per ton. By dealing directly with Morton Salt, Mr. Hutton was able to get a quote for \$51.88 per ton due to our excellent business relationship in the past with Morton Salt. Mr. Canada moved to accept the proposal of \$51.88 per ton from Morton Salt. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hutton asked to discuss further the issue of line painting. He felt that all the roads including Stratham Heights Road, Guinea Road, Union Road, Barker Road, High Street, Willowbrook Avenue, Lovell Road, Stratham Lane, Depot Road, and portions of Doe Run Lane, Emery Lane, River Road, and Frying Pan Lane needed to be done. He was referring to the centerline since all these roads have had to be redone in the past each year. He also felt that the stop bars needed to be done on each road every year. Mr. Canada did not agree that all of them needed to be done. He felt the Board had an obligation to make that determination. Mr. Deschaine tried to frame the question in three different paths. First, there were roads that had been paved and would need to be painted. Next were roads where it needed to be evaluated whether they needed to continue to do the centerlines or not, and if so, whether the centerlines were bad enough to need to be repainted. Lastly, there was the question of whether or not all the stop bars needed to be done, or only those that had faded. Mr. Federico moved to authorize the Highway Department to contract at a price of \$4,698.86 to repaint the yellow centerlines as proposed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed two for the motion and one against. The Board also confirmed that they would leave it to Mr. Hutton's discretion as to which stop bars needed to be repainted.

The discussion next turned to the proposed removal of a large tree on River Road with which Mr. Hutton expressed concerns. Mr. Canada did not believe that the tree needed to be removed. Mr. Hutton disagreed. There was no motion presented to authorize the removal of the tree at a cost of \$2,500.

The discussion moved on to the purchase of four new tires for the 2001 Dodge pickup. Mr. Hutton obtained the lowest quote for four tires at \$538 at Graham Tire. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the purchase. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hutton stated that his department had repaired the rear springs in the Ford Explorer usually used by Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Terry Barnes.

Mr. Hutton also reported on his efforts to assist in the construction of the baseball fields at Stevens Park. He stated that the irrigation systems to the Babe Ruth ball field and to the softball field needed to be prepared to be installed in fairly short order.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Bob Law was present to discuss a request to send department members to the annual EMS Conference that is held in North Conway. Mr. Copeland asked if all the people proposed to attend the conference are regularly participating EMTS who the Town will pay to attend the conference. Mr. Law said that only regular EMT members are asked to attend at the cost of the Town. Others are still allowed to attend at their own expense. Mr. Canada also asked about transportation arrangements. Mr. Law thought that they could carpool up by using at least two Town vehicles. He suggested others could pay their own travel expenses. Mr. Canada, with Mr. Copeland's concurrence, rejected that offer. The Town should pay travel expenses, but asked that car-pooling be used to the maximum extent possible. After further discussion, Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the Fire Chief to spend up to \$3,933 in rooming costs to have the members attend the 2009 EMS Conference scheduled to be held on October 16 through October 18, 2009. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Federico had to leave briefly during the discussion and was not present to vote.

Mr. Law stated that he had ordered twenty safety cones to be placed on the new fire engine at a price of approximately \$655.96. A general discussion ensued regarding general budget levels, both in terms of the operating budget and the capital budget for fire equipment. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the purchase of the safety cones. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Law said that he would place all the cones on the new ambulance instead of the engine since there were more monies left in the ambulance account.

Mr. Canada announced that the Old Engine 2 has been sold to another fire agency in Oklahoma and that the engine left for that location today. Mr. Law thanked the Board for all their efforts in disposing of the vehicle.

Mr. Copeland thanked Kim Woods, who was in the audience, for all her cooperative efforts during the Fair. A number of members of the Fair Committee commented to Mr. Copeland that they appreciated Ms. Woods' efforts.

Administration: Mr. Deschaine distributed the Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector's report since he was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Mr. Deschaine reported on the quotes he had received for the hot water heater for the Municipal Center. Mr. Canada moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to accept the proposal from Proulx Propane and Oil at a cost of \$850 installed for a ten-year warranted, forty-gallon, water heater tank. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine spoke to the service contract the Town has on the server for the Municipal Center and the annual renewal cost of \$791. Mr. Canada moved to approve the maintenance contract as proposed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico returned to the meeting at 9:05PM.

Mr. Deschaine presented a proposal to purchase an upgrade to the DacEasy accounting system that the Town currently uses at a cost of \$659.95. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the purchase of the upgrade. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed with two voting for the motion and one against.

Mr. Deschaine reminded the Board about the invitation to the retirement celebration of Mary and Charlie Currier at the Rockingham County Conservation District. An RSVP was pending but no one on the Board noted an ability to attend.

There was a discussion regarding a letter received by the Trustees of the Trust Funds from the Department of Revenue Administration concerning the Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund. They were looking for some additional information regarding that fund since it was created but has not had any appropriation made to it until this year. Mr. Deschaine will discuss the issue with Joyce Rowe, Chairman of the Trustees, now that he completely understands the issue.

Mr. Canada moved to appoint Diane Morgera to fill the unexpired term of Murray Segal on the Trustees of the Trust Funds. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine noted that he needed to meet with Mr. Copeland and review the Police Department's Standard Operating Procedures for some inconsistencies he has found subsequent to their last approval.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED THIS WEEK/MEETINGS TO REPORT ON:

Mr. Canada then reviewed the meetings held during the past week and those meetings scheduled for the coming week. Mr. Canada noted that the retirement party held for retiring Police Chief Mike Daley was well attended.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Deschaine reviewed the status of the selection process for a new Police Chief. The Board asked for a list of all the applicants and the agencies at which they are presently employed and to identify which of the applicants are included in the top twenty-seven applicants that MRI has selected to move on to the next step. The Board would also like the rank of the individuals involved. The Board also agreed that the top twenty-seven candidates, at this point, could be sent the essay question. The Board will review the essay question from these twenty-seven (?).

Mr. Deschaine reported on the plans for Joe Marchio's retirement luncheon. He and Valerie Kemp are still working on the arrangements and Mr. Deschaine will inform the Board when they are finalized.

Mr. Canada asked why Conner Bottling Company still has a vending machine at the Fire House. No one expressed any knowledge of a reason. Mr. Federico will approach the Conners to request its removal.

Mr. Canada asked if the Board had any objection to allow the ivy along the front side of the Municipal Center building to go up the wall. No one noted any objection.

Mr. Canada announced that Lincoln Daley has been hired as the new Town Planner and is scheduled to start on September 8, 2009.

Mr. Canada mentioned that the Ladies Auxiliary had requested to use up to eight tables from the Municipal Center during the Celebration of Life for Gordon Barker. The Board authorized the use of the eight tables at Gordon Barker's wake. Mr. Federico asked if any conditions should be placed on the use of the tables since they were going to be used outdoors. Mr. Canada did not feel any conditions needed to be set but moved, nonetheless, to allow the use of the Municipal Center tables as necessary as long as they were returned in a clean state. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:43PM, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to negotiate contract terms with Kim Woods and to discuss a potential acquisition of property. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 10:35 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to contract negotiations, legal issues, and proposed property acquisitions being discussed. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:36 PM, Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator