

## **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2009 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

The meeting was opened at 7:04 PM with Mr. Canada moving to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 7:37 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the matters of personnel discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:41 PM, the Chair opened the public meeting of the Board.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported he had \$685,718.67 in the general checking account. He also had \$1,250,000 invested.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector:** Joyce Charbonneau was present to request authorization to accept prepayments of taxes. She stated she had received a number of requests to do so and she found no reason not to at this time. Without this authorization, any prepayments she receives now must be refunded back to the payer. Mr. Canada asked Mr. Deschaine his thoughts on the matter. Mr. Deschaine said he was not opposed to the acceptance of prepayments so long as the following items could be addressed:

1. That there was a demonstrated need;
2. That there was no added burden on the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office;
3. There was no added burden to the Accounting Office;
4. That the period of prepayments was for a finite and short period of time;
5. That if this was authorized, the Board accepted the fact that any refunds that resulted from accepting prepayments would only increase the amount of overlay needed.

Mr. Canada saw no problems with accepting prepayments up to the two-year period authorized in the statute; however, he acknowledged that we should try it out before moving ahead to the maximum period of time. Mr. Canada then moved to authorize Ms. Charbonneau to implement the program of prepayments as she described in a memo to the Board dated October 5, 2009, pursuant to RSA 80:52-a. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Fire Department:** Kathy Flagg was present to answer any questions concerning the EMS Conference scheduled to occur on October 16, 17 and 18, 2009. Having previously approved the cost of accommodations to attend this conference, Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the expenditure consisting of registration fees for eleven members of the Department to attend at a cost of \$1,925. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Cemetery Committee:** Chairman Bob Cushman was present to update the Board on the Committee's efforts to expand the Maple Lane Cemetery. He outlined the progress to date. He

noted that approximately \$19,500 worth of work was left to do if Bell & Flynn was hired to completely finish the project, which included grading, loaming and seeding the expansion area. However, if the Town provided and did the trucking of the loam with Town forces, the remaining costs for Bell & Flynn would be \$7,500. Mr. Hutton stated that his Department can manage to do the trucking especially since Martin Wool is available to help truck the loam. This project, along with others, has all been affected by the poor weather during this summer. Ken Lanzillo has laid out the lots on paper, and after all the groundwork, they will validate that layout physically on the ground. Mr. Cushman also reported that the Cremation Garden has also been moved to a more central location in the newly expanded area. Mr. Canada asked who did the tree removal. Mr. Cushman replied that Greg Claar did it. Mr. Canada moved to allow the Cemetery Committee to expend up to \$8,000 to loam and seed the expansion area of Maple Lane Cemetery. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Highway:** Fred Hutton was present to give an update on his Department's activities. He reported that all the centerlines and stop bars have been painted on Town roads. He noted that it takes twenty-two seconds for the paint to dry once applied. He has heard of a complaint from someone who alleges his car was damaged during the painting process. He has not had time to contact the person directly.

Mr. Canada asked if the no-parking area behind the Library had been lined. Mr. Hutton said that he would make sure that it was done before the paint machine was put away for the winter.

Mr. Hutton estimated between \$48,000 and \$50,000 worth of savings was realized by using Town equipment during the Stevens Park ball field construction. The donation of additional fill also contributed to making the project come under budget. He stated that Tara Barker has the current budget figures for the project.

Mr. Federico noted that he has seen a number of the speed limit signs have been vandalized with black spray paint. Mr. Hutton said he had not seen or heard of such damage but would look into it. Mr. Canada asked that a stop sign be cleared of brush to make it more visible.

Mr. Canada then pointed out that the State law does not require a fire extinguisher to be part of the vehicle inspection process. Mr. Hutton said that might be the case, but the federal highway laws do require it to be in the vehicle in addition to a triangle warning sign. He felt there was confusion between the two jurisdictions. Mr. Canada said regardless if an extinguisher were required, they would remain in the truck. He now has inspection tags for the extinguishers, which are compliant with the Fire Marshall's Office. Mr. Hutton thought the situation was clear now even though the laws were not.

**Parks and Recreation:** Tara Barker was present to discuss the budget for the Stevens Park improvements. She requested a non-public session due to contract negotiations with Bell & Flynn. At 8:47 PM, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss negotiating contract terms. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 9:06PM Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the contract negotiations discussed. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Barker suggested finishing the work on the ball field, which consisted of \$7,000 worth of earth

work and the conduit needed for the scoreboard. The total cost should not exceed \$10,000. The remaining costs for this year would be \$5,000 for hydro seeding. Since the cost of fencing has been estimated at over \$25,000, this task cannot occur this year. After the remaining earthwork, the conduit being installed and the seeding, there should be approximately \$10,000 left in the budget. Mr. Canada asked what the cost estimate for the irrigation system was. Ms. Barker said the estimates have ranged between \$11,162 and \$11,380. Mr. Canada moved to authorize up to \$6,000 for hydro seeding, to hold off on the installation of the irrigation system and the fencing, and to further authorize Bell & Flynn to do the remaining earthwork at a cost not to exceed \$7,500 and to proceed with the Kramer Electric work at a cost not to exceed \$3,000. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada thanked Ms. Barker for all her work in coordinating the project and investing the time needed to make it a success. He also thanked Mr. Hutton and the Highway Department for all their contributions.

**Administration:** Mr. Deschaine gave his report first by asking when the Board was going to set the observance of Trick-or-Treat. Traditionally in Stratham, it has been held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, which is a Friday. Halloween, which is on the 31<sup>st</sup>, is a Saturday. Mr. Canada observed that the 30<sup>th</sup> has been beggar's night in Stratham for many years. Mr. Copeland said that police coverages would be better on Friday. Mr. Federico moved to observe Trick-or-Treat on the 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada asked if the Board thought irrigation was needed at the Fire House. The grass at that location has had over a year to grow in and it needs to be re-seeded. He noted that the lawns in front of the Stratham Historical Society were nice and green but the areas disturbed for the Fire House construction are not so lush. Mr. Canada reported that he had a quote, which was as follows from Rainscapes: Irrigating the area by the flagpole would be at a cost of \$1,960. There would be an additional \$1,000 due to the remaining lawn areas, which face Portsmouth Avenue. The other lawn area facing Cornerstone Baptist Church would cost an additional \$1,650. The lawns adjacent to the Stratham Historical Society would cost an additional \$4,850. The total cost to do all the areas at the Fire House would be approximately \$9,500. Mr. Canada asked if the other members wanted to approach this issue. If so, how much would they be willing to spend on irrigation? He admitted the previous thought was to go green with the building and not have to water the lawns; however, it does not seem to be working. Mr. Federico had suggested installing a system right from the beginning. Having heard a favorable response to the proposal, Mr. Canada will proceed with getting a comparable additional quote.

Mr. Canada asked to have the Fire Safety Inspection Program started. He said there needs to be a Life Safety Selectmen's Liaison and an Employee Life Safety Officer. Mr. Canada moved to appoint Mr. Copeland as the Liaison and Charlie Browne as the Officer. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada asked if the Eagle Scout candidate Scott Gallant had contacted anyone regarding the replacement of the Stratham Hill Park sign. Mr. Deschaine said that he called Ms. Barker last week and is intending to move forward.

Mr. Canada then stated that the Public Works Commission, Mr. Deschaine and Lincoln Daley had been reviewing the proposed contract with Wright Pierce for the Fire Suppression Study.

Mr. Canada moved to authorize the Chair to execute the Wright Pierce contract for an amount not to exceed \$32,700. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Martin Wool, Lissa Ham, and Colleen Lake were present to discuss the Town Center Study Committee. The Committee has submitted a Transportation Enhancement Grant to the State Department of Transportation and the Rockingham Planning Commission. They have been told that the application has been rated nine out of eleven applications received. The Planning Commission is evaluating the ratings of the staff and will finalize them on October 14, 2009. The Town Center Committee feels that there have been some discrepancies in the rating of the Town's application. Mr. Wool is a Rockingham Planning Commissioner and Bob Goodrich is the other Stratham representative on the Commission. It was noted that Mr. Goodrich's wife recently had surgery and he may be unable to attend the meeting on October 14, 2009; consequently, Mr. Wool asked that Lissa Ham be appointed as an alternate to the Commission on behalf of the Town. Mr. Wool had already asked the Director of the Planning Commission and found out that alternates are allowed. He strongly felt that Stratham needed its full representation on the Committee to respond to the questions the Committee might have regarding the rating. Ms. Ham was the most knowledgeable about the contents of the application. Mr. Federico asked if Mr. Wool and/or Ms. Ham were conflicted out of speaking in favor of the application since they were members of the Town Center Committee. Both Mr. Wool and Ms. Ham said that the Planning Commission had said that there was no conflict since Commissioners were there to advocate on behalf of their towns. The individual points that went into the rating of the applications were discussed, specifically the penalty assigned for not completely supporting COAST. Mr. Canada moved to appoint Lissa Ham as an alternate to the Rockingham Planning Commission. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED THIS WEEK/MEETINGS TO REPORT ON:**

The Board reviewed the meetings held during the past week and the meetings scheduled for the next two weeks since there is no meeting of the Board next Monday in observance of the Columbus Day holiday.

At 10:03 PM, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 10:55 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session, to seal the minutes due to the personnel matters discussed, and to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow  
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine  
Town Administrator