

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 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 7:33 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported he had \$401,341.14 in the general checking account.

NEW BUSINESS:

Travis Thompson, of the Stratham School Board, was present to give a report on the Stratham School Board's recent activities. The Financial Advisory Committee has met at least once. He observed that 80% of the School's costs are related, in some manner, to personnel costs or what he would like to call human capital. Mr. Federico asked if there were any recent retirements that may have impacted those personnel costs. Mr. Thompson said that there have not been that many vacancies recently; however, the School Board is investigating the possibility of hiring personnel that would start at a lower level of the wage scale when retirements or vacancies occur.

Mr. Thompson reported that they anticipate a 21.9% increase in health insurance costs. Dental insurance is expected to go up 5.5%. With the increase of these two costs, the total budget increase would start at 2% before any other added costs are considered. He noted that the maintenance and special education trust funds have been fully funded at \$25,000 each.

Mr. Thompson also reported that \$15,000 is currently in the budget to install a plug that would accommodate a generator to power a portion of the building during an emergency. This was the only amount the School Board could support under the current budgetary constraints. Options other than the plug installation were discussed. Mr. Copeland suggested that the SAU could buy one or two large generators and share the costs. The advantages and disadvantages of such a proposal were then discussed. Given the size of the expense to purchase generators that could power entire school buildings, there does not seem to be a justification for that type of investment.

Mr. Thompson explained that a secure entry door has been installed at Stratham Memorial School and that an automated electronic defibrillator has also been purchased and installed at the school. Mr. Copeland asked if staff had been trained in the use of the AED. Mr. Thompson was not sure, but thought the unit was very self-explanatory.

Mr. Thompson mentioned that the School Board is reviewing the act of bullying at the school and updating its policies as a result. He provided the Selectmen with some materials for them to review on the issue.

Mr. Thompson also reviewed the enrollment, which has been steadily increasing to the current number of 643 students as of November 4, 2009. He also reviewed with the Selectmen a calendar of events for the month of November.

Mr. Copeland thanked Mr. Thompson for his involvement during the Police Chief's selection process to which the rest of the Board also expressed their appreciation.

Theresa Walker, from the Rockingham Planning Commission, Laura Weit, of the Department of Environmental Services, and Don Clement and Richard Peterson, both of Exeter, who are members of the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee, were present to discuss the possibility of nominating the Squamscott River to become part of the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. There are currently fifteen rivers in the program, one of which is the Exeter River. Ms. Walker explained that the Exeter River and the Squamscott River are really one river and one of the few that have a fresh water component and a tidal portion with two different names. If the Squamscott River were named part of the program, it would fall under the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee. Stratham could have up to three residents who would serve on the Committee along with three other residents in the Town of Newfields. Both Towns adjoin the Squamscott River, which would be part of the Exeter River Advisory Committee with seven other Towns that abut the Exeter River. Ms. Walker made it clear that designating the river under the program does not affect local zoning requirements. What the enrollment of the Squamscott River into the program does do is open the opportunity for grants. Mr. Copeland asked if there were any costs to the Town for participation. Ms. Walker said that there are no other charges. There is a \$150 voluntary contribution requested from each of the member Towns to help offset the overhead costs of the Committee. Ms. Weit pointed out a designated river receives greater recognition when applying for grants. Various grant activities have included educational programs, studies and other efforts according to Mr. Clement. Ms. Walker said there would be an application process that would occur in the coming spring. This would only happen after a series of public meetings with riverfront landowners. They hope the Selectmen would offer a letter of support sometime in March after learning the results of those public meetings. They observed that most landowners, once they understand the program, become very supportive. Mr. Canada asked if the Squamscott was designated part of the Program would the restrictions placed on the river be any more restrictive to the property owners than the recently enacted NH Shoreline Protection Act. Ms. Walker replied that the Shoreline Protection Act was more restrictive. Mr. Clement noted that the Exeter River Advisory Group has been looking at their influences on the Great Bay, but the effect of their activities on the Exeter River ignores what happens between the Exeter River and Great Bay, which is along the Squamscott River. This is an opportunity for Stratham and Newfields to interact with their counterparts upstream, who may have more of an influence on the downstream of the Squamscott River. Mr. Deschaine asked for further clarification on the river classification presented in the program overview. The classifications are based on the land uses adjacent to the river. The Exeter River has been classified as rural, as would the Squamscott River likely be. However, there are many other uses along the Squamscott River that may impact that classification. The Board of Selectmen thanked this group for their presentation.

Mr. Deschaine presented a request for a raffle permit from the Cooperstown Baseball Team under the auspices of the Park and Recreation Department. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize

the issuance of a raffle permit to the Cooperstown Team. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED THIS WEEK/MEETINGS TO REPORT ON:

The Chairman then reviewed the meetings scheduled and the meetings held during the past week.

The Board discussed the logistics of hosting an Open House on Friday, November 13, 2009. The Selectmen will act as ushers throughout the day with the Staff greeting guests as they arrive.

Mr. Federico reported on the Planning Board's first review of the Form-Based Code, which went well.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Police: Lieutenant Richard Gendron was present to give the department's monthly report. He stated that the Standard Operating Procedures are in place and that all Officers have been requested to sign an acknowledgement sheet to document their receipt of the SOPs. Most, but not all, have complied.

Regarding General Orders, Lt. Gendron stated that he had only issued one to date and that it, at the Selectman's previous request, had been canceled.

Lieutenant Gendron then noted the Department has identified at least three thirteen-year-olds who have been involved in the illegal use of ATVs at the Park. The Department is following up with meetings with their parents as part of their investigations.

Mr. Copeland asked if the Department was completely up-to-date with reporting requirements to State and Federal authorities, such as criminal statistics. Mr. Gendron said that the Department was current in that regard.

Mr. Copeland asked if Lieutenant Gendron knew any more details regarding a reimbursement request for a pair of replacement pants for David Pierce. Mr. Gendron said that he had submitted the request previously. Mr. Canada stated that he wanted to discuss that in the latter part of the meeting.

Mr. Deschaine asked about the status of the purchasing of the automated electronic defibrillators, AEDs, for the Department and one for the Municipal Center. Lieutenant Gendron said that they were waiting for a doctor's prescription authorizing the ordering of the units. Kelley Dold, of the Ambulance Squad, was arranging to have a doctor authorize the purchase.

Mr. Canada asked if the Police portion of the budget was OK. Mr. Gendron said that he was only concerned about the overtime expenses; otherwise, a few line items will be over, but there were other line items that will be offsetting that.

Administration: Mr. Deschaine continued the discussion on the request by the Alliance for Community Health to store a mobile health van. Mr. Copeland stated he had scoped out the size of the van at the Exeter Hospital parking lot. He noted they were full-sized RVs. Mr. Canada identified several spots at the Park that may accommodate their needs. Mr. Deschaine had found out that they need at least a 60-amp, 240-volt electrical service to plug in these vans. The Alliance has offered to pay for the cost of the electricity and any cost to connect the service to the van. Mr. Canada stated he did not know which of the spots would be preferable in terms of snow removal. He will be talking with Mr. Fred Hutton and Ms. Kim Woods about a preferred spot and get back to the Board next week.

Mr. Deschaine mentioned that there was an invitation to the Rockingham Planning Commission's Legislative Forum. No one expressed an interest in attending at this time due to conflicting schedules.

Mr. Deschaine presented a request for a proclamation from the Board entitled "Buy Local First". The Board supported the effort and the proclamation. Mr. Copeland moved to issue the proclamation as presented to be published and signed at a later date. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented Mr. Hutton's recommendation to hire James Davis as a part-time, seasonal, on-call plow operator. Mr. Hutton had interviewed Mr. Davis and did a driving records check. He had seemed to be a viable candidate. Mr. Canada moved to hire Mr. Davis for the position as recommended by Mr. Hutton. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Canada said that he has approached Pat Elwell, Chair of the Conservation Commission, to see if there is an interest in having Jim Scamman serve on the Conservation Commission. There was no further input at this time.

The discussion concerning the restitution of \$100 for the damages to David Pierce's uniform pants was brought up again. The restitution was made recently after a two-year wait. Mr. Copeland would like to get the pants for Mr. Pierce. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the purchase of a pair of uniform pants to replace Mr. Pierce's damaged pants up to a cost of \$100. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada asked if there was any discussion that had occurred about the possibility of having Park Ranger Kim Woods issue summonses for town ordinance violations at Stratham Hill Park. Mr. Copeland had spoken to Prosecutor Bill Hart who will speak with Judge Cullen, presiding justice of Exeter District Court, concerning any concerns he may have with Ms. Woods issuing summonses. The Judge requested, and has been provided with, copies of the pertinent ordinances. Mr Hart is waiting to hear the Judge's response.

Mr. Canada reported that the Scammans have created an improved access to the wells on the Scamman Farm to allow for their testing.

The Board then reviewed the minutes awaiting approval. Mr. Canada moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2009, October 9, 2009, October 14, 2009, October 19, 2009 and October 26, 2009 as having been amended by Mr. Canada previously by email. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico reported that he had lost the copy of the pandemic materials that Mr. Deschaine had previously distributed. He asked Mr. Deschaine if he had another copy. Mr. Deschaine would have to go look and will provide a copy, once he found the originals, to Mr. Federico.

At 9:25 PM, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator