

## **MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 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 6:36 PM. Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss personnel matters with Police Chief John Scippa. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 7:41 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. The Chair then opened the recessed meeting at 7:45 PM.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mr. Deschaine gave the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Kevin Peck. He had a negative balance of \$992,639.91. Mr. Peck intends to withhold \$1,140,212 worth of checks, leaving an operating balance of \$147,572.09. Those checks will be released upon the receipt of enough tax monies to cover those held checks.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Highway:** Fred Hutton gave his monthly report. He noted that the Transfer Station is now on the winter schedule, which means that it will only be open from 9:00AM to 4:00PM on the first and third Saturdays of the month. This will be until April. The Transfer Station; however, has still been very busy.

Mr. Hutton then reported that the one-ton truck needed front-end repairs and the bill is estimated to be \$1,255.00. Al Williams had discussed the amount with Mr. Deschaine prior to obtaining the repairs. The repairs included the upper and lower u-joints and front suspension. There was no question that the work needed to be done and Mr. Deschaine had authorized it to proceed even though it was over the \$500 limit and that it was not a discretionary expense.

Mr. Hutton reported on the first snowstorm of the season. The snow removal efforts went well. The new drivers got well oriented to their routes.

Mr. Hutton then explained the process of calibrating the sanders and why it took nearly sixty-four man-hours to do. He said that you have to start repetitively with each truck until the ideal dispersion rate is created. All the trucks are now rated to distribute approximately two hundred and fifty pounds per mile. Mr. Williams explained his efforts by demonstrating that one five-gallon bucket weighs approximately fifty pounds, so five of those buckets are used in one mile with the current calibration. He observed that this is a significant reduction in the dispersion rate and will, hopefully, result in less salt being used. Mr. Canada asked if, once the settings are established, is there any need to re-do them since the settings are known. Mr. Williams and Mr. Hutton said that that was correct until they get a new truck or a significant part is replaced on the sanding equipment. Mr. Williams stated they are also mixing one bucket of sand with every three buckets of salt. Mr. Hutton said that mix is the standard mix but it will be adjusted based on the type of storm experienced. Mr. Federico asked how easy is it to adjust the settings. Mr. Hutton said on Tim Slager's truck, it is all computerized, so doing so is easy. The manual trucks are not so easy to get a known result once adjusting it. Mr. Copeland asked how much of a

reduction will these adjustments result in. Mr. Williams said that, if he had to estimate, it would be approximately a twenty percent reduction in material used over last year. Mr. Canada followed up with the mix of salt to sand. Mr. Hutton said that at the end of a storm, if it is warming up, more sand can be used. If the temperatures are falling, more salt is used but you start at the three buckets of salt to the one to one and a half buckets of sand. Mr. Canada noted that going from three hundred to five hundred pounds of material per lane mile and increasing the mix to twenty to twenty-five percent sand will hopefully reduce the amount of salt used. Mr. Slager had noted that the additional sand used would not avoid various environmental concerns. The EPA has become equally concerned with the use of sand, as it is salt. He added that maintenance in swales, drainage ways, etc., is also an added cost.

Mr. Hutton said that he was asked to look at the private way access to Wingate Circle. You can only access Wingate Circle via the other private drive, which is owned by the Peninsula Condos. Neither road is close to Town specifications and there would be greater liability to the Town if it were to maintain substandard roadways. He stated it would cost a fortune to upgrade these roads to Town standards.

The Board next discussed the analysis done of using a second shift for snow removal. Mr. Hutton keeps a log of each storm during the year. Over the past three years, there were a few storms that would have needed a second shift. Mr. Canada agreed with that conclusion. There was no need to staff-up for storm events that only happen once or twice a year.

**Administration:** Mr. Deschaine handed out an abatement request for a Veteran's credit that had been accidentally dropped before the tax billing. The Board approved the request and signed the appropriate paperwork.

Mr. Canada next moved to appoint the Chief's recommendation of nominating Charlie Brown as an Assistant Fire Warden. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine brought forward the Volunteer Fire Department's request for a waiver of the alcohol prohibition during their holiday celebration. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented his initial findings on possible encumbrances to the Public Safety Bond. There appears to be more uncertainty on the remaining requests to be made. Mr. Canada suggested waiting until the Fire Chief is before the Board on January 21, 2010 to finalize any of the encumbrances.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Jeff Karam was present to discuss his appointment to the Board of Adjustment. The Board thanked him for his willingness to serve. Mr. Karam asked how much of a time commitment it would be. Mr. Copeland explained when the Board meets and the responsibilities. Mr. Karam felt that it is a commitment that he could make. Mr. Deschaine noted that there was a Board of Adjustment meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Mr. Federico reported on his discussions with the director of the Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network, Mary Paige-Provost. The Network would like to have a demonstration activity at the Park by having a "Cardboard City" at that location to bring attention to the issue of homelessness. The date that they had asked for in their letter last week was not a firm date. Mr. Federico said that they would be willing to move the event to correspond with the opening of the Park when full water and restroom services would be available. They would be also willing to move to a location at the Park in any area that makes better sense on the site. Ms. Paige-Provost would meet with the Board after the first of the year to work on logistics further. Mr. Canada asked about the proper supervision. Ms. Paige-Provost would also address those issues when she attended the Board meeting in the coming year.

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

The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and the meetings held during the past week. The Board noted that the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony was well attended and enjoyed by all.

At 8:57 PM, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss an issue, which might affect the reputation of another who is not a member of the Board. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 9:28 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the discussions having to do with the reputation of another. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 9:29 PM, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Norma Corrow  
Recording Secretary

Paul Deschaine  
Town Administrator