

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 2010 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 7:30 PM by the Chair.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Highway: Fred Hutton was present to give his monthly report. He stated that storm recovery was the largest event since he had last seen the Board. Tree removal was the focus to make roads passable. The Department has been coordinating with Unitil and their tree removal crews. Particular focus was done on River Road, which was the most challenging. Several large trees had come down taking down various utility wires and making the road impassable, so their focus on River Road was extensive.

As a result of the windstorms that we recently experienced, the Transfer Station was open this past Saturday to take brush. There was a moderate amount of activity somewhat dependent on the weather. He predicted next Saturday would be busy if the weather is good.

The Department has also begun going back to clean up along the roadsides to repair plow damage and any drainage work that needs to be done. This; however, does not mean that the Town will be chipping debris from private property. The cemetery has also experienced a few down trees from the windstorm, but the ground is way too wet in those areas to work on.

He next discussed the drainage problem along Frying Pan Lane. Mr. Hutton suggested inletting some of the field drainage that comes off Stevens Park into an adjacent drainage system that services Tall Pines Drive. This would mitigate some of the water being experienced by an abutter. This drainage system has a large cross culvert under Frying Pan Lane and outlets further down into a wet wetland behind the abutter's horse farm. This is where all the drainage ends up anyway, but currently sheet flow is the discharge point for the current drainage patterns. Transmitting this water through the Tall Pines Drive drainage system would help the affected property owner.

Mr. Hutton reported he has started the semi-annual vehicle inspections since they are due during the month of March. He noted several repairs were necessary in order to obtain a State inspection sticker.

Mr. Canada asked if the Mill Pond sump was being inspected regularly. Mr. Hutton said that he does inspect that area from time to time and the sump area was only half-full the last time he inspected it.

Mr. Canada asked if individual Department members attended the open house for the new Lowes that opened in Greenland. Mr. Hutton said that they were invited and they attended on their own personal time.

Administration: Mr. Deschaine explained the Memorandum of Understanding from the Department of Safety regarding the Radio Interoperability Program. He would be giving copies of the memorandum to the Police Department and the Fire Department should the Board approve the agreement. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada thanked all involved in responding to this past weekend's windstorm, which started on Thursday, February 25, 2010. He noted that Unitil's response was greatly improved as compared to the ice storm a year ago and they were highly cooperative. He specifically thanked the Fire Department, the Police Department and the Highway Department members for their dedication in responding to the challenges presented.

The Public Utilities Commission hearing is scheduled for tomorrow. Mr. Deschaine felt that it would be important to have a Town representative present. Mr. Canada volunteered to attend on behalf of the Town.

Mr. Deschaine discussed the possibility of having another Tri-Town Legislative meeting for a tentative date of March 29, 2010. The Board stated they are willing to participate if it was held early enough before our regular meeting sometime around 6:00PM.

Mr. Deschaine then reviewed the posted Warrant and discussed with the Board how to manage the Warrant during Town Meeting by assigning individual Articles to Board members to present.

The Board then discussed any updates regarding the Police Department looking into what the Fire Tower at Stratham Hill Park is being used for in regards to the State Police and/or the County Sheriff's Department communication needs. No further updates were available.

The Board then discussed the overtime provisions in the current Employee Manual. Mr. Canada felt that the ability to qualify for overtime on any hours in excess of eight hours in a day was not appropriate and was excessive compared to the Federal requirements. He felt that the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act of requiring to pay overtime after forty hours in a week was more appropriate. Mr. Copeland agreed. Mr. Canada moved to make that change in the Employee Manual so that overtime is only qualified for in excess of forty hours in a week. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada asked Mr. Deschaine to include that revision in the new Employee Manual but to review the contents of callback pay, which is in Section 11.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED THIS WEEK/MEETINGS TO REPORT ON:

The Chair then reviewed meetings held during the past week and the meetings scheduled in the coming week.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

The following Park Permits and Municipal Center Rentals were acted upon:

The Great Bay Kids Company requested use of the Park on May 22, 2010 along with a request to waive the prohibition on rebounding devices. The Board then discussed the necessity of requiring a \$5,000,000 Certificate of Insurance naming the Town as an additional insured for these types of waiver requests. Mr. Canada moved to allow the use with the waiver contingent on a proof of insurance naming the Town as an additional insured in an amount up to \$5,000,000 based on the recommendation of Town Counsel. Mr. Deschaine will consult Town Counsel in regards to the appropriate amount given the statutory immunities provided to municipalities and the terms of our own insurance program.

Susan Gleason requested use of the Park on June 26, 2010 for the Spark People New Hampshire Team. The use was approved.

Pat Izzo requested use of the Fire Station on April 18, 2010. The Board approved that use.

Bradford Bent requested use of the Park on October 10, 2010 for a wedding, which was approved.

Tiffany Dibartolomeo and her mother, Donna Dibartolomeo, requested use of the Morgera Room at the Fire Department on October 10, 2010. Mr. Canada stated he believes that Tiffany is not a current member of the Fire Department or the Ladies Auxiliary and that Donna, although a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, may not be an active member. There was no motion or action taken upon the request.

NEW BUSINESS:

Laura Batchelder was present on behalf of the Stratham Memorial School to request the closure of Gifford Farm Road for about one hour on May 19, 2010. This is for the purpose of conducting a Community Wellness Walk. Mr. Copeland moved and Mr. Federico seconded to approve the request. Mr. Canada asked if the Police Department had any concerns. Police Chief John Scippa said that he had none. The vote passed unanimously.

Whitney Saidla, Mike Donahue, Alex McCraft, and John Ring were all present to discuss certain aspects of their proposed development to occur at 32 Bunker Hill Avenue. Mr. Saidla explained some of the history behind a sixty-foot right-of-way between the Town's property and the Hollis Durant property off of Bunker Hill Avenue. Because of some land that was given to the School District when the Municipal Center was a school, this created a knuckle in the right-of-way, which narrows the width of the right-of-way to less than sixty feet. They would like to remove the knuckle using Town property and would assist the Town with access to the softball fields behind the Municipal Center. They also have heard that the Town needs to locate a future water tank in the vicinity. They would support a locating a tank on their property but would prefer to have it buried underground. Mr. Canada pointed out that it is necessary to match the elevation of the Exeter water tank with any new water tank that the Town of Stratham puts up, so burying it may be problematic. Mike Donahue felt that there have been many different inquiries about what the Town wants so they thought it was better to approach the Board of Selectmen directly, rather than deal with rumor. Mr. Federico asked what specifically they needed. Mr. Donahue said they propose that the access road for the development be a public road, so laying it out on

Town property would not really be a significant endeavor since the Town would eventually own the entire right-of-way anyway. Mr. Federico asked how far the edge of the right-of-way would be from the closest point to the Municipal Center Building. Mr. Ring stated it would be about thirty feet. He also noted that at its narrowest point, the knuckle is about forty-five feet in width. Mr. Saidla said that twenty percent of the development would be dedicated to affordable housing and another twenty percent would be dedicated to elderly housing. Mr. Copeland asked what was considered affordable. Mr. Saidla said that it would conform to the Town's current Zoning Ordinance if the affordable housing provisions were to pass this year's Town Elections. With that, the Board thanked the members present of the development team with coming forward and updating them on the project.

Tina Holmes, the Office Manager, and Diane McCombie, the Financial Support Specialist, for the One Sky Community Services were present to request the use of the Park for a community event. They also asked that the reservation fee be waived. Mr. Canada said that they could waive the fee but they also usually require groups of size to pay for the pumping of the septic systems. Ms. McCombie noted that it is only a three-hour event. Mr. Federico observed that paying the reservation fee or paying for the septic system pumpings really amount to the same thing. The group has requested June 25, 2010 for their use. Mr. Canada moved to approve the use without waiving the fee but no additional charges would apply. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented a proclamation to name March as Red Cross Month. Mr. Copeland moved and Mr. Canada seconded to approve the proclamation, which passed unanimously.

At 9:28 PM, Mr. Canada moved and Mr. Copeland seconded to go into non-public session to discuss a legal matter. The motion passed unanimously. At 9:34 PM, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 9:35 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