

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2010 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:34 pm.

Mr. Canada introduced the Board's memoriam in this year's Town Report to Gordon Barker and Jerry Batchelder in gratitude for their service to the Town. He presented signed copies of the Town Report to Edie Barker, and Betty Batchelder while their extended families were present in observance of this occasion. On behalf of the Board, he thanked both families for their long-term contributions to the Town by reading the following statement, "It seems a year seldom goes by when Stratham doesn't lose a friend. In 2009, we lost two special ones, Jerry Batchelder and Gordon Barker. It was my privilege to serve with both of them on the Conservation Commission and, by doing so, get a feeling for their passion for Stratham. We will all miss them personally and the community will miss their quiet work towards making a better community. To note our loss, the Board of Selectmen has chosen the Town Report as a memoriam to both Gordon and Jerry."

Mr. Canada then expressed the Board's gratitude to Town Administrator Paul Deschaine by introducing the dedication of the 2009 Town Report to him. He also thanked Paul's wife, Mikki Deschaine, for sharing Paul with the Town. With that, he then presented a signed copy of the Town Report to Mr. Deschaine and read the following statement, "One who happily has not left us for either a greater reward or greener pastures is arguably the man who has shaped Stratham more than any single person, Paul Deschaine. Of course, times make the man and certainly the last twenty years in Stratham have been the most dynamic in our three hundred-year history. In Paul, we chose a leader who has given us the gift of longevity in his position, as well as steadfast guidance as the Town grew from a rural community to the much more suburban Town that we live in today. Thanks to Mikki for sharing Paul with us. It is our honor to dedicate the 2009 Town Report to you.

After these observances Mr. Copeland introduced Mr. Oliveira as the newest member of the Stratham Police Department. He then administered the Oath of Office to the Town's newest Police Officer, in presence of family and friends.

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

Park Permits/Municipal Center Rental:

Mr. Deschaine continued the discussion concerning the request made last week by Tiffany Dibartolomeo to use the Fire House. A question has been raised as to what degree a requester has to be as an active member of the Lady's Auxiliary. He brought this up to get a feel as to what measurement would be used to determine someone's qualification for private use of the Morgera Meeting Room. Mr. Canada suggested that the applicants should provide a narrative of why they think the prohibition against private use should be waived. This could detail recent participation in activities which have supported the Town. The other Board members agreed with that suggestion. With that, Mr. Deschaine presented Jon Dardani's request to use the

Morgera Room on April 16, 2010, which the Board approved based on his commitment to the Fire Department.

Mr. Dan Demers requested the use of the Municipal Center for a Special Olympics Youth Athletes Program. The use of the Municipal Center would be from unspecified dates of April 23, 2010 through May 29, 2010. Mr. Copeland moved and Mr. Federico seconded to waive the fee and allow the use. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carbonneau requested the use of the Park for a family reunion on August 8, 2010, which was approved.

Susan McGrail requested the use of the Park for a graduation party on June 20, 2010, which was approved.

Leia Hackenson requested the use of the Park for a wedding on September 25, 2010, which was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Town Treasurer, Kevin Peck, reported that he had \$2,822,922.03 in general funds of which, \$2,500,000.00 was invested.

Police Department:

Police Chief John Scippa was present to give his monthly report. Chief Scippa informed the Board that the mystery invoice that appeared in his Department from Dunkin Donuts was indeed from the Citizens Academy during 2009. It had been misdirected, which prevented its payment when due. Chief Scippa is taking actions to have the invoice paid.

Chief Scippa presented the Annual Impoundment Agreement between the Town, and the SPCA. Mr. Federico asked if the status of the agreement has changed from the form of the agreement of last year. Chief Scippa did not believe so. Mr. Canada moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Annual Impound Agreement, Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Scippa presented a DWI Enforcement Grant and a Speeding Enforcement Grant Application to the NH Highway Safety Committee. The total amount of the grants is approximately \$12,000.00. The grants will cover 100% of the costs associated with both programs. Chief Scippa is also looking into getting a 50% grant for the acquisition of laptop computers in order to support the SPOTS system in the cruisers program we hope to implement. The other 50% match would be a donation from the Police Association.

Chief Scippa has prepared paperwork associated with the Equitable Sharing Agreement and the annual Certification Report for the drug forfeiture monies. Mr. Federico moved to authorize the Chair to sign these documents. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Scippa then discussed a conversation he had with the NH Department of Safety regarding the radio equipment on Stratham Hill. A Lieutenant George Brown referred him to a Jim

Kowalik who is the Supervisor of the State Radio System. Mr. Kowalik stated that there has not been power to this location since the ice storm in December of 2008. The original memorandum of understanding has technically expired and the State Police are still very much interested in maintaining this site. There is very little known of any past or potential future uses by the Rockingham County Dispatch of this site. The discussion then continued on the radio needs of the Town since the State Police have offered to assist the Town in return of continued use of the Fire Tower site. Chief Scippa said that the radio communication has improved vastly since Newmarket moved their transmission site to a better location. The only continuing problem location is at the Industrial Park, inside one of the buildings. That may just be the nature of the construction of the buildings rather than a location issue.

Chief Scippa reported that Steven McAulay has planned to start with the Department next week. He will be filing the 2nd of the three vacancies in the Department. They have started the hiring process of the third vacant position by beginning testing this week. Sergeant Call has been doing an excellent job coordinating the application process. In addition, Sergeant Call has made a significant arrest that may solve a string of thefts that have been occurring at the State liquor stores.

Mr. Copeland mentioned that at least two residents have complained to him about speeding vehicles on Depot Road and asked for added enforcement in that area. Mr. Canada asked if the speed monitor trailer was being used. Chief Scippa stated it really is not used during the winter season due to logistical issues. He will be able to deploy it soon with the improvement of weather. Mr. Federico asked if the trailer records speeds, vehicle count, and time of day, etc. to be able to do a more intricate study of the traffic patterns. Chief Scippa responded that the trailer does have that capability and would investigate using it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Deschaine then presented a NH DOT Parade Permit for the Community Run Association, which hopes to have a benefit run for the American Liver Foundation. Mr. Federico moved to authorize the Chair to sign the permit. Mr. Copeland seconded the permit which passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed logistics relating to tomorrow's local elections involving traffic, police presence, and conduct at the polls. The Police Chief will have an officer available should one be needed.

Mr. Canada revisited the intent of clearing the woodlands behind the softball field at the Municipal Center. Mr. Hutton said if the trees are cut, the Highway Department could then stump it. If the area were stumped, the potential for any grow back would be greatly reduced. Consequently, he would support clearing the area if the \$50,000.00 appropriation in the Capital Improvement Plan passes. This would be the first step in implementing the parking lot improvements.

Mr. Canada mentioned that the Board did not act on the material that Lincoln Daley submitted regarding the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Canada felt it was important to reestablish the Committee and have the Board reauthorize Mr. Daley to proceed. Mr. Deschaine

thought Mr. Daley needed more direction and input on the material he presented. The Board agreed to discuss that next time Mr. Daley was present.

Mr. Canada asked if Mr. Deschaine had been able to make any or all corrections to the Fire Department Meeting Room calendar. Mr. Deschaine reported that he had not been able to last week, but he contacted the IT Coordinator, Derek Hall, who was working on the issue. The Board confirmed they want Mr. Deschaine to have full administrative control of the calendars in order to implement the Board's policies appropriately.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kirk Scamman asked if any of the Conservation Easements on his father's property were available. He had not seen any drafts since the one presented to him in January. Mr. Canada asked if there were any specific concerns that Mr. Scamman had so that the Town can address them. Mr. Scamman felt that the possibility of public access and trails on the property could impede his family from hunting and trapping on his property. This helps maintain the wildlife detrimental to agricultural activities and if he can't hunt the nuisance animals because of the presence of danger to hikers, it could impact his ability to farm on his property. He said this is only a sample of some of his concerns. Mr. Canada agreed when Mr. Deschaine stated that the only way to be certain of having the latest addition of the easement is to contact the Southeast Land Trust who is drafting these documents. Mr. Scamman will contact Brian Hart and later discuss it with his father.

Chief John Scippa was representing the parents of the Co-Operative Middle School choir, to inquire as to what the process is for a raffle permit. Mr. Deschaine explained the process, and Chief Scippa understood that he needed to write a letter of request explaining to who, what, when, where and how details regarding the raffle.

Mr. Deschaine then discussed his research conducted with Town Council regarding rebound devices. Town Council, Abby Sykas also researched the issue and proposed several different options to pursue. Mr. Canada wanted to take the week to read the material to make an informed decision.

Mr. Canada informed the Board that he had been approached with a request to put a streetlight at the intersection of Blue Ridge Circle and Portsmouth Ave. Mr. Canada asked the other Board members to drive by that area at night to see if the request was warranted.

At 9:33 pm Mr. Federico moved to adjourn, Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Sarah Del Rossi
Planning Assistant

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant