

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2010 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:33 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Dave Canada thanked everyone for participating in Town Meeting and making it a successful endeavor.

Mr. Copeland then moved to name Mr. Canada as Chair for the year 2010. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Copeland then moved to name himself Vice Chairman. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada then moved to have the Board members keep their current assignments to various Boards and Committees as they were during the year 2009. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$2,821,537.34 in the general checking account, of which \$2,500,000 was invested, leaving a balance in the operating account of \$321,537.34.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Planning Department: Lincoln Daley was present to give his monthly report on his Department's activities. He reviewed the goals for the Department and for the Planning Board in the coming year. They are looking to amend the parking and sign regulations. They are also working on individual Master Plan chapters being updated. They hope to do the Conservation chapter first and then move on to Recreation. Both chapters are hoped to be done by this coming May.

The Town Center Committee is moving forward with work on developing their own Master Plan for that section of town.

He then discussed the draft of the Charter for the Economic Development Committee. Once adopted by the Board of Selectmen, they could then appoint members to it. A discussion occurred concerning logistics in implementing the Charter. Mr. Canada volunteered to serve on the Economic Development Committee as the Board's representative. He moved to accept the Charter as amended. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Those amendments included changing the membership of the proposed committee such that it would be five regular members; one who shall represent the Board of Selectmen, one who shall represent the Town Administrator, one who shall represent the business community, and two other members to be residents at large. The number of alternates was also reduced from three to two. The other amendment proposed was for the Board of Selectmen to appoint the Chairperson of the Committee. Mr. Daley will make those corrections and provide a final approved draft to the Board as soon as possible.

The Board then discussed a draft of the proposed licensing of home occupations. Under the newly amended Zoning Ordinance, home occupations need to be licensed by the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Daley is working on drafts with Mr. Deschaine for the Selectmen to review next week.

Mr. Daley then reported on the Energy Efficiency Grant. He will be working with Mr. Deschaine in getting this work bid out and started in accordance with the grant requirements, and hopefully in coordination with the Library renovations.

Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector: Terry Barnes was present to talk about his monthly activities. He had just attended a two-day seminar on all the new changes to the IOC 2009 Code. There is a lot of information that he is still getting oriented to, but this seminar provided some great reference materials.

Construction and renovations are progressing on the Pet Life retail space at the Parkman Brook Plaza. The fire system servicing that building appears to be full now, but that may be due to the recent heavy rains.

He stated he has issued a building permit to VIP for the recently Planning Board approved tire storage addition to the building. Mr. Barnes also noted Lindt is near completion of their work.

He then reported that the mediation session with the Daigle's, who have appealed their Home Occupation denial by the Board of Adjustment, is scheduled for March 26th. Otherwise, he has been chasing a new rash of illegal signs that have been placed throughout town.

Parks and Recreation: Tara Barker was present to give a monthly report on her Department's activities. She provided a written review of the Recreation Revolving Fund for the Board. She noted problems with the report but said she was working with Accounting Supervisor Val Kemp to correct them. Mr. Canada reminded her that the Board needed the final enrollment numbers for programs conducted during 2009. Ms. Barker said that the November enrollment numbers would be the last session of enrollment, however, there were a few classes that started in November, but went into January. Mr. Canada asked if the reporting would be easier if done on a quarterly basis rather than monthly. Ms. Barker said that it would make much more sense to report enrollments on a quarterly basis rather than on a monthly basis.

Ms. Barker reported on the damage to Stratham Hill Park during the February wind storm. Roof panels of the Fire Tower blew off, several shingles on the sausage snack shack also came off, fence damage caused by trees falling on the fencing, and the entrance sign to the Park blew over. Mr. Deschaine said he has placed a \$20,000 claim with the Town's insurance carrier including these items and also damage to the roof of the old Wiggin Memorial Library building, which is now the home of the Stratham Historical Society. He is awaiting the results of the adjuster's inspections of these damages to determine what insurance may or may not cover.

Ms. Barker reported that Kim Woods' examination for a pesticides license will occur on April 2, 2010. She is currently taking a practice course in preparation for that exam. Ms. Woods is also attending a CPR/First Aid class. Later in the month, she will also be attending a Turf Management Program at the Cooperative Extension Service.

Ms. Woods and Ms. Barker are also exploring the purchase of an RTV approved for funding at Town Meeting.

Ms. Barker then reported that Summer Camp registrations have started. The Spring/Summer programming brochure should be out within a month. Ms. Barker also reported that the Recreation Commission wishes to move forward in conducting background checks by following the National Recreation and Park Association guidelines for background checks of volunteers and program leaders. The Commission is also investigating options relative to conducting online registrations.

Lastly, Ms. Barker reported that she will be on vacation from March 31st through April 11th.

Mr. Canada asked Ms. Barker about the space behind the Municipal Center softball field. He wanted to know if she felt there was enough space for another softball field in that area. Ms. Barker thought so. Mr. Deschaine said that Jeff Hebert had scoped out the space when he designed the current softball field and had indicated that there was plenty of room.

There was a short discussion regarding using Timberland's Day of Caring services to reduce costs in constructing the Babe Ruth baseball field. Ms. Barker indicated that she was coordinating this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Canada handed out an anonymous letter that he received criticizing the Board for having secret negotiations with the owners of the property proposed for development at 33 Bunker Hill Ave. Several abutters were also present to hear what had been discussed at a prior meeting. The Board spoke to what occurred, which was very limited and preliminary in nature. The abutters asked for various clarifications on the process, which the Selectmen answered. The individuals present thanked the Board for their assistance.

The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and the meetings held last week. Mr. Federico stated that he had received feedback from those attending Town Meeting. It was related to the visual representations provided of the articles being discussed. Several had expressed a need for additional displays to assist in considering articles requesting funding. When asked specifically what additions or improvements could be made to the presentations and what else to present, the response was rather nebulous.

Administration: Mr. Deschaine continued the discussion on rebound devices. Mr. Canada felt, after reading materials from Mr. Deschaine and Town Council Abby Sykas, the real solution to this issue is to have Primex add the coverage to the Town's policy. Until they do that, there was no real advantage to allow such devices for the Town. He noted the difficulties in determining whether third party certificates of insurance necessarily provide any type of coverage for the Town at all. Mr. Canada moved to not allow rebound devices on Town property. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Deschaine will proceed to approach Primex to determine if they will consider adding this type of coverage to their current programs. Mr. Canada then noted that aviation events are also excluded from the Primex coverage. Consequently, Mr. Canada moved to bar aviation events on Town property. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine outlined his explanation to Tiffany Dibartolomeo regarding the denial of her use of the Morgera Room in an email to her explaining what additional information might be provided for the Board to reconsider the denial. He has not heard back from her.

Mr. Deschaine discussed the issue of debris removal as a result of the February wind storm and the Town's policy regarding the disposal of debris found on private property. The Board made a prior decision not to deal with the disposal of private debris. Mr. Deschaine stated that was before the Board learned that there was a possibility of being reimbursed by FEMA for handling such debris. The Selectmen felt it was too late now to reverse that previous decision and therefore, the current policy will stand.

There was discussion about the engagement letter to conduct the 2009 audit. Mr. Federico moved to authorize the Chair to sign the engagement letter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine noted that they have received a letter from the NH Department of Transportation concerning a culvert replacement proposed on Squamscott Road. Mr. Copeland and Mr. Federico had not seen the letter; Mr. Deschaine will forward it to them. The NH Department of Transportation was looking for input from the Town about concerns relative to the replacement project.

Mr. Deschaine reported that administrative rights to the Fire Department calendar had been established, per the Board's request.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed its current policy on providing public data and other information upon request. Mr. Deschaine gave the historic perspective on the various charges that had been developed over time. Mr. Canada explained that he had been approached by a resident at the recent elections requesting a copy of the new assessments in an Excel spreadsheet. Town Clerk/Tax Collector Joyce Charbonneau was available and did some quick research. The cost estimate she got indicated that it would be over \$200.00. Upon looking at the policy, he felt there were some inconsistencies. The Board discussed various data requests that could be made and it was felt that general public records could be produced in a standard fashion for \$25.00 that would cover the cost to the Town, however, requests for data dumps needed to be analyzed more closely to be sure the Town was covering all its costs. The most important element the Board felt should be removed from the current policy was the charge for the intrinsic value of the data, which started at \$125.00. The belief was that this did not reflect any true costs to the Town and therefore, was not a relevant charge. Mr. Canada moved to develop a policy based on this discussion. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Deschaine will develop a draft policy for the Board.

Mr. Canada noted and thanked Charlie Browne for all of his efforts in the set up and tear down of the polls for the local elections. Everything went smoothly as a result.

Mr. Canada reported that the Stratham Historical Society had a couple of issues as a result of the recent wind storms with heavy rains. First, portions of the slate roof need to be repaired. Second, the masonry walls appear to be in need of re-pointing. The basement experienced water

intrusion as a result of the porousness of the wall. He will be attempting to find an estimate for re-pointing the masonry walls in order to keep the water out.

Mr. Canada then reported on the results of his survey that he conducted during Town Meeting concerning holding a public supper. He had 34 responses, 27 of which were positive and 7 which responded negatively, on having a public supper prior to Town Meeting. This was encouraging, he felt, but the sample size was somewhat limited. He will consider investigating this in the future.

There was a discussion concerning the second phase of the Library renovations. Since Town Meeting had funded the second phase, Mr. Canada had a proposal from Crow Construction to complete the Library renovations. It was arrived on the same basis as the first phase consisting of a 15% construction management fee and a not to exceed cost of \$244,300.00. Mr. Federico moved to accept the proposal and authorized the Chair to execute an agreement to that effect. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Board then agreed not to meet on April 5, 2010 due to Mr. Deschaine being on vacation, and other members not being present.

Mr. Deschaine discussed the problems with the boiler for the Municipal Center. He informed the Board that a circulator seal has ruptured, leaking water all over the basement. He has chosen not to repair the boiler in anticipation of the new HVAC system taking over the heating and cooling demands for that area of the Municipal Center served by that boiler.

A quick review of the approved budget noted some corrections that Mr. Deschaine will make note of in regards to pay raises.

At 10:25 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant

Reviewed By,

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator