

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 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 7:06 pm by the Chair.

Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss an issue that could possibly affect the reputation of another who is not a member of the Board. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico arrived at the meeting at 7:25 pm.

At 7:30 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the items discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada then opened the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen by again congratulating Mr. Hutton on being named the New Hampshire Road Agent of the Year for 2010.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Highway: Mr. Hutton was present to give his monthly report. He said the Department has been responding to several wind storms this past week which caused damage by downed trees and drainage issues. These were the most common problems responded to. He noted that during one of these storms, the automated fuel dispensing system at the Highway Garage was damaged, possibly by a lightning strike. One of the memory boards was damaged by losing a week's worth of dispensing information. Mr. Canada asked if individual departments keep their own records of their fuel usage. Mr. Hutton did not know. Mr. Deschaine stated that his Department members do. Mr. Copeland stated that he believed the Police Department does also. Mr. Hutton will try to recreate the logs from that information. It is Mr. Hutton's intent to look into a lightning suppression system to eliminate future problems of this nature.

Mr. Hutton noted that the shoulders have been graveled along Union Road which was recently paved. They hope to have the topcoat on Butterfield Lane some time this week. Once that is done, the striping of the roads would be accomplished.

The Department is mowing continuously as the grass continues to grow. Mr. Hutton noted that the newly seeded areas in the Maple Lane Cemetery will probably need some fertilizer to assist in its growth. The Highway Department will do this work.

Mr. Hutton noted that the new ball field at Stevens Park has been mowed at least twice to try and keep the Rye grass at bay. He also reported that the irrigation company should come back and compact some of the trenches they created when installing the irrigation system. Mr. Hutton also noted that there was a growing problem with dogs at Stevens Park. Owners are not picking up after their animals and should not be allowed to use the fields anyway. Mr. Hutton has been

noting the license plate numbers of the animal owners and reporting them to the Police Department to enforce the issue.

Mr. Copeland asked Mr. Hutton if he had a need for any part time help this year. Mr. Hutton said so far they have not, but they will in the future in order to cover the vacation schedules.

Mr. Copeland noted that the parents of Andrew Stevens have offered to relocate and repair the bench that was vandalized at the Park. The proposal to relocate the bench is to hopefully reduce the likelihood of it being damaged again. One alternate location to be considered was somewhere in the cemetery. Mr. Canada said that if the bench was going to be relocated to the cemetery, then the Cemetery Committee should be consulted before doing so. Mr. Canada also observed that the intended use of the bench was at the Park. It would be too bad to relocate the bench away from its original intention. Mr. Hutton agreed to see if there was a better way to secure the bench. Mr. Federico mentioned that this is one of the reasons that the Board has been resistant in the past to accept such memorials. Relocating this bench may result in objections from other donors who the Board previously did not accept their offers.

Mr. Federico asked if Mr. Hutton had heard anything of the State offering or giving State roads maintenance and ownership to the town. Mr. Hutton stated that he has heard that before, but they would have to totally rebuild each of these State roads before he could support the idea.

Police Department: Chief John Scippa was present to continue the discussion regarding the COPS grant application. Mr. Canada had obtained a legal opinion from the Local Government Center that a Town Meeting vote would be necessary to commit to the grant terms since it is a multi-year process being committed to. Mr. Copeland suggested calling the Department of Justice to see if the application can be submitted without the Town Meeting vote knowing we would be attempting to secure that approval either by calling a special Town Meeting or offering a warrant article at the next annual Town Meeting. Mr. Copeland continued to support moving forward. Mr. Canada was not opposed to trying to obtain the grant, but it would have to be in conformance with the LGC's legal opinion. Mr. Federico asked if the decision timeline was noted in the grant materials. Mr. Scippa was not sure, but would try to find out when the award decision might occur.

Mr. Scippa mentioned that the Highway Safety Committee has awarded the Town three different grants. One of these grants is for 50% of the cost of obtaining laptops to be placed in the cruisers, however, it is a reimbursement program. The Town has to provide the money up front and then apply for reimbursement. The discussion then turned to the accounting intricacies involved in paying for such grants. Mr. Deschaine will schedule a public hearing that is necessary to accept the award winning of these grants.

Mr. Scippa then discussed the two other grants which involved the expenditure of funds for overtime needed to conduct DWI patrols on June 11th and 12th, July 23rd and 24th, and August 20th and 21st, which are the dates that are set for the saturation patrols. Mr. Deschaine will include this grant in the public hearing notice also. Mr. Canada noted and thanked the Police Association for their generous offer to donate the other 50% of the cost associated with the laptops purchased.

Sgt. David Pierce was present on behalf of the Police Association to request a raffle permit for their annual Harley Davidson motorcycle raffle. Mr. Copeland moved to issue the permit according to the terms as issued last year. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Chair then reviewed the meeting schedule for the coming week and the meetings held during the past week.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

The following park permits and municipal center rentals were discussed and acted upon:

Rhonda Phanthachack requested the use of the Municipal Center on June 17, 2010 for a wake. The use was approved.

Robert Ray requested the use of the Park by the US Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Portsmouth on June 18, 2010. Mr. Canada moved to waive the fee and approve the use. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Shannon Young requested use of the Park for a baby shower on July 18, 2010. The use was approved.

Christopher Rock requested use of the Park for a birthday party on June 27, 2010. The use was approved.

Terry Winters of the Diamond Library at UNH requested the use of the Park for a company picnic on August 6, 2010. The use was approved.

Administration: Mr. Deschaine reported on the discussion he had with individuals that had expressed an interest in serving as Health Officer. The Board will evaluate the candidates and their submittals in the coming week and hopefully make a recommendation to the Department of Health and Human Services next week.

Discussion occurred on a letter from the Rockingham Planning Commission regarding COAST support. Mr. Deschaine and Mr. Canada explained the content of the letter in which the Rockingham Planning Commission agreed to exempt the Town of Stratham from the penalty criteria used in evaluating transportation enhancement and CMAQ grants. This offer was done by general agreement that unique circumstances affecting Stratham and its funding of COAST do not warrant the penalty. Those circumstances are directly related to the funding formula used by COAST which placed an unfair burden on the Town because of these circumstances. Mr. Canada, therefore, moved to reaffirm that the Town will fund a donation to COAST in the amount of \$6,000 this year. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine noted that John Scippa wished to donate back to the Town his reimbursement check for being involved in the graded exercise earlier in the year. Mr. Copeland moved to accept the donation. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed the problems occurring in the Municipal Center relating to the smell emanating from the hot water taps. The problem was successfully treated with hydrogen peroxide. This process may have to be done every couple of months to maintain the water quality in the hot water tanks.

At 9:08 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 9:50 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes to the personnel matters discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 9:51 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator