

## **MINUTES OF THE JUNE 28, 2010 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

At 7:30 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Canada extended, on behalf of the Board, condolences to the family of Lori Breard at her passing in a tragic fire this past week despite the valiant efforts of the Town's first responders. The Chair also noted the passing of Frances Bradford, a former Town Clerk/Tax Collector for the Town, and also the loss of Barbara Scamman. Mr. Canada also noted the passing of Jay Bodine, the former pastor of the Stratham Community Church. He called for a moment of silence in the memory of all four individuals.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that he had \$5,086,144.49 in the general checking account. Tax monies appear to be coming in a healthy fashion.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Parks & Recreation:** The Chair noted that Tara Barker has submitted her resignation effective July 2<sup>nd</sup>, to go to work for a neighboring community. As such, she was present to give her last monthly report to the Board.

Ms. Barker reported that Kim Woods is back from vacation and everything went smoothly in her absence thanks to the help from members of the Highway Department, particularly Russ Stevens. Ms. Barker noted that the Kubota RTV has been delivered today to the Park. Ms. Woods is looking over the piece of equipment and evaluating where to store it.

Ms. Barker informed the Board that the summer camp program has begun. The enrollment for the first session was 34 individuals which is usually less than the other sessions held.

She also noted that the Summer Concert Series starts June 30<sup>th</sup> and the TGIF Morning Matinee will also begin this week.

Ms. Barker reported that the Stevens Park fencing has started. AAA Fencing anticipates having it done by this Thursday. Mr. Copeland asked how the gated access will be handled. Ms. Barker stated that instead of having two 12' gates, the Baseball Board has requested to have one 20' gate in order to be able to accommodate the batting shell. Mr. Copeland asked if the irrigation system was operational. Ms. Barker said that it was, but it will be shut down until it is actually needed, otherwise, it would just promote the growth of existing weeds.

Ms. Barker has obtained a quote from Cameron Sod Farm which consists of \$5,400 for fertilizing, seed and lime, \$2,200 for rock hound and \$1,000 to kill the weeds. The weed killer would be applied a week to ten days prior to the seeding. The total cost of the proposal was \$8,600. She is in the process of obtaining other quotes.

Mr. Copeland asked what other components of the field have been committed to. Ms. Barker stated that the Baseball Board is still fundraising and needs to get a commitment of the work to be performed by volunteers from the Timberland Company. They have specifically volunteered to construct the dugouts. The Baseball Board is coordinating all their efforts.

Mr. Canada asked about the signs for Stratham Hill Park. Ms. Barker said that they were ordered 2-3 weeks ago. Correctional Industries will call when they are ready.

Ms. Barker stated the repairs to the Andrew Stevens memorial bench at the top of Stratham Hill have been ordered. She also stated that the act of vandalism has been reported to the Police Department for their actions. Mr. Copeland suggested increasing the police foot patrols or bike patrols at the park to curtail the amount of vandalism. Ms. Barker agreed that would be a helpful effort.

The Board thanked Ms. Barker for her services to the Town over her tenure and wished her well in her new position.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Dave Tosatti was present to discuss the possibility of being recommended to the Department of Health and Human Services to be the Town's Health Officer. He has been managing medical practices for a number of years and has been active in the medical field his entire career. Mr. Canada moved to recommend Dave Tosatti as the Town's Health Officer. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Kranthi Kantipudi was present to discuss her request for use of the Municipal Center for the remainder of the year. She has already used the space several times previously this year and is requesting four additional dates. The Board wanted to know her future interest in the space. She said it is a group of parents teaching their children their common language and ethnic traditions. Mr. Canada expressed concerns about her use monopolizing the space for so many successive dates. He asked if it was possible to move her gathering to a smaller space like the library meeting room if there were other interests in using the Municipal Center. She said that could be a possibility and their group would be flexible if there were other people wanting to use the room. Mr. Canada moved to allow the dates requested from July 11<sup>th</sup> to September 26<sup>th</sup>, on the intervening Sundays, with the exception of August 8<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**Assessing:** Andrea Lewy was present to give her monthly report. She reviewed recommendations for actions on various abatement applications (please see attached). After review and comment by the Board, the Board requested further information and study on the abatement request of Albert & Donna Frost, Map 12, Lot 8. Otherwise, Mr. Canada moved to approve all the remaining recommendations of Andrea Lewy with that exception. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy then presented her recommendations on actions on veteran's credit applications to start in the tax year 2011 (please see attached). Mr. Canada moved to accept these recommendations. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy continued the Assessor's report by discussing a request from the Department of Revenue Administration to determine if the Board was going to require the use of inventories in the coming year. Mr. Canada moved not to use the inventories in the coming tax year. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board then signed the Department of Revenue Administration form accordingly.

Ms. Lewy reviewed the contents of a letter going to Joan and Cameron Sewall regarding their current use status of their property. They have claimed the farm land qualification for current use for property that is less than 10 acres in size. To qualify for those provisions, they must present documentation to the Town that they gained at least \$2,500 in farm related income from the land that is in current use. The letter also explained that should they not meet that qualification, the estimated land use change tax would be approximately \$30,000.

Ms. Lewy reported that the Department is still working on the remaining abatement requests and the field work related to such requests. They will continue to work diligently on responding in a timely fashion.

Ms. Lewy also reviewed the content of a letter from the Department of Revenue Administration expressing their opinion regarding the validity of the Town's 2009 reevaluation. The Board congratulated her on the positive content of the letter which was a great accomplishment. She noted that the Department of Revenue Administration will be conducting their certification of the Town's assessment practices during 2010.

The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the next two weeks. There will be no meeting of the Board of Selectmen next week due to the Independence Day holiday. He then reported on the meetings held this past week.

**PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:**

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

Amy Edwards requested use of the Park on October 23, 2010 for a Cub Scouts sleepover. There was concern that there would not be water available or restroom facilities open at that time due to the freezing conditions. The Board recommended an earlier date be requested.

Peter Masterson requested the use of the Park for a Masonic picnic on August 19, 2010. That request was approved.

Comcast Corporation requested the use of the Park on August 18, 2010 for a company picnic. That request was approved.

Seacoast Eat Local requested the use of the Park on July 18, 2010 as a volunteer thank you picnic. That request was approved.

Mike Jordan of the IFFCC requested the use of the Park on September 11, 2010 for a barbecue. That request was approved.

Waldon Engineering & Construction requested the use of the Park on August 26, 2010 for a company picnic. That request was approved.

Kathy Peplinski requested the use of the Municipal Center on August 15, 2010 for a wedding reception. That request was approved.

**Administration:** Mr. Deschaine noted that the individual Board members have received an invitation by the Secretary of State to attend this year's election law workshops. Mr. Deschaine presented each invitation to a Board member for them to respond.

Mr. Deschaine then presented the position announcement for the Parks & Recreation Director. The ad would be placed on State and National Recreation Association websites, Seacoast Online, Craig's List and the Town website. The Board approved the content of the position announcement, which will also be physically posted here at the Town Hall.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Canada was able to investigate the structure that exists on the proposed property to be tax deeded. He stated it is nothing more than a fishing shack that possibly floated downstream and ended up on the property. As a consequence, Mr. Copeland moved to accept the tax collector's deed for the property located on Map 20, Lot 10 on the Squamscott River. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The Board then signed the acceptance form for the tax deed.

The Board then acted upon a series of cemetery deeds purchased by residents and prepared by the Clerk's Office on behalf of the Cemetery Committee.

The Board then discussed filling the vacancy that exists on the Public Works Commission. Mr. Copeland moved to appoint Dave Canada to the Public Works Commission to fill that vacancy with the understanding that his term would coincide with the annual review of committee assignments by the Board members. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:53 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:15 pm, Mr. Copeland moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the personnel matters discussed. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

At 10:15 pm, Mr. Copeland moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant

Paul Deschaine  
Town Administrator