

## **MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 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 7:07 pm by moving to go into non-public session with Joyce Charbonneau to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:31 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the personnel matters discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:35 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that he had \$6,749,995.38 in the general checking account.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Fire Department:** Chief Stan Walker was present to give his report. Mr. Walker reported that the fencing at the ballpark is down now for the duration of the Fair, but the posts are still in place as they should be. Mr. Canada noted that they do want the fence put back in a professional manner and asked about the timeline of replacing the fence. Mr. Walker stated that the Fair will be using the same company Dan Crow uses for fence work, so it will be done by a professional fence company. Mr. Walker states as soon as the rides are out of the area, they plan to replace the fence within the next two days and it should be completed within a week of the conclusion of the Fair.

Mr. Canada asked Mr. Walker about some concerns he had about a ride. Mr. Walker said he called Primex, the Town's property and liability insurer, due to this concern. Mr. Walker said they have had quite a bit of communication with Primex and got them information such as certificates of insurances that Primex was looking for and resolved any issues that Primex had.

Mr. Walker reported on the mishap with Tanker 8 during a recent structure fire. He stated there is an air tank on the Tanker that specifically holds the air that throws the piston that then engages the pump. He stated according to Lakes Region Fire Equipment, the air pressure was not up to where it was needed to be to engage the pump, however, the indicator light showed it was engaged. Mr. Walker has not received their final report yet, but understands there may have been some leaks in that line, which diminished the air pressure. They rebuilt the air system so it can't happen again. The Tanker has been fixed and the truck is back in service. This unique problem went undetected before now. Mr. Copeland thanked Mr. Walker for doing such a complete investigation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Joyce Charbonneau was present and reported on the Dog Warrant for Civil Forfeitures. All residents will receive a Civil Forfeiture Notice at the same time. They must receive this notice before a \$25.00 penalty fee can be assessed. For the residents that don't respond, Ms. Charbonneau will give Police Chief Scippa the list along with a copy of the letter, and he will send an officer out to make contact. Ms. Charbonneau also stated they did make some calls as well and they are down to 85 notices. However, not all 85 people will come in to pay due to circumstances such as the dog has died or the owner has moved. Mr. Copeland stated he is very confident that between Ms. Charbonneau's and Chief Scippa's efforts, that this will be 100% better than last year. Mr. Copeland suggested making the Town Clerk office payment location a larger font so it really stands out as he is concerned people will go to the Police Department to make payment. The letters will go out this week once the warrant is signed. Mr. Copeland commended Ms. Charbonneau on a job well done. Mr. Deschaine presented the warrant to the Board for their signature, which they did sign.

**Police Department:** Chief John Scippa was present to give his monthly report. Mr. Scippa stated he just came back from a week off and he is still catching up with things. Mr. Scippa did have an opportunity to conduct a final interview with a very strong candidate for the 10<sup>th</sup> position. He has an interview scheduled for later in the week with another strong candidate.

Mr. Scippa had received information from the COPS office relative to the grant application and there are some adjustments that need to be made. Mr. Scippa will call them in the morning and figure out what the issues are and get them resolved. Mr. Canada asked if Mr. Scippa looked into needing approval through a special Town Meeting. Mr. Scippa does not know, but will look into it with the Local Government Center (LGC).

Mr. Federico stated he received a very complimentary note on Sgt. David Pierce's activities on a specific case. Chief Scippa received the letter as well and has given a copy to Sgt. Pierce.

Mr. Copeland asked Mr. Scippa if he knew what the policy was at the County Attorney's Office on people that falsely report crimes. Mr. Copeland's concern was all the time and effort that goes into a case. If the Police Department can completely disprove the allegation, are they investigating charging those people? Mr. Scippa stated he is wholly in agreement with charging people for such an offense.

Mr. Canada asked about the maintenance of the Fire Tower. Mr. Scippa had a conversation with NH State Police who said they weren't using it at this time, but they want to maintain the asset. Mr. Scippa will follow up with NH State Police to determine if they are willing to provide some equipment and/or contribute towards painting and repairs to the Fire Tower in return for their continued use.

Mr. Deschaine noted that we are in our final year with the Town of Newmarket for contracting dispatching services and efforts need to be started to look at those options. Mr. Scippa will assess the needs and look at the benefits of continuing with Newmarket versus going with the

County. Mr. Scippa suggested bringing in the Highway and Fire Departments into these discussions. The Board agreed.

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

At 8:24 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into a non-public session to discuss a matter that could affect the reputation of another who is not a member of the Board. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 8:36 pm, Mr. Federico moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the matters discussed that could affect the reputation of another. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

### **PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:**

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

Sean Kotkowski requested the use of the Park for a birthday party on August 20, 2010. The request was approved.

Walker International Events has requested the use of the Park August 14 & 15, 2010 for a small family circus under the big top with no exotic animals. Mr. Copeland asked if this was a commercial venture. Mr. Deschaine said it was unclear from the application. It was noted they are requesting use right after the Fair when the ground are trying to recover. Mr. Canada moved to deny request. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Administration:** Mr. Deschaine reported the Secretary of State's Office has done another mailing asking the Board to please sign up for their training on the new Election Laws.

The State has contacted Peregrine Energy Group, who is going to establish a comparative database of municipal energy uses. Because of our involvement in the Municipal Energy Assistance Program (MEAP), most, if not all, of that information is in a separate database. MEAP is requesting our authorization to work with the Peregrine Energy Group to transfer the information from the MEAP database to this other effort. They would like the Board to sign a letter to designate a liaison. Mr. Canada moved to allow the use of the data they have already collected and name Lincoln Daley as our liaison. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented an invitation from the Town of Newmarket regarding a discussion of a Seacoast Buying Group where the Towns of Newmarket, Stratham and Newfields would join together in an energy buying group in order to save money on electricity, gasoline and diesel. Newmarket is hoping to host a presentation on July 14<sup>th</sup> or the 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Canada said he would attend on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Canada asked about the single stream recycling. Mr. Deschaine, who is the Chair of the Lamprey Regional Cooperative, reported the Cooperative Agreement is in the Lamprey attorney's hands for review of the final contract.

Mr. Deschaine stated there has been a request to use Stevens Field from the Exeter Youth Soccer Association (EYSA). The Chairs for the Recreation Commission recommend the request in that this is a legitimate use that benefits Stratham children. The Recreation Commission noted that Exeter Youth Soccer has placed two goals down there, which have been left for our use, and has also paid out of their budget to line the fields. The Recreation Commission recommends that we should continue the relationship we had last year for the U-12 and up categories, which was they were able to use the field, when able to be scheduled, and that the fee be waived. Mr. Canada expressed concerns that there seems to be very poor coordination and cooperation from this group in using the fields in the way we want them used. The Recreation Commission is looking at alternate ways to better use the fields and better distribute the use. The Board expressed support for this request since it gives Stratham children a place to play, but agreed to table this issue for now until they receive further information on the EYSA program, such as how many Stratham children take advantage of this program, and if this is for one field or two fields.

Mr. Deschaine brought up the subsidy issue for early retirees. Mr. Deschaine sent out an analysis of the proposal under the Federal Health Care Plan. The number of retirees this might affect was only two. Any subsidy we were to get would benefit the retirees indirectly but never directly because both of them have the health insurance subsidy through the State Retirement System, so if we lowered the cost of health insurance to them, it would only be the subsidy pool that would benefit. The State subsidy covers the entire cost to his knowledge so if the cost of health insurance is reduced, this proposal only reduces how much the State insurance subsidy fund pays. The Board agreed to table this item indefinitely.

Mr. Deschaine talked about a possible lawn watering restriction ordinance. The State changed the law in 2007, and under this changed law, towns and cities can adopt an ordinance to regulate the private use of irrigation to water lawns during a declared drought. Mr. Canada would only agree to ordinance if it could be used selectively where there was a problem. Mr. Deschaine reports that the statute doesn't specify if it can be used selectively. Mr. Canada suggested letting the Public Works Commission investigate it a little bit more in order to get more information.

Mr. Deschaine mentioned they got the State bid for salt and the price per ton is \$55.92 for this District. Last year's price was \$54.75. Mr. Hutton will explore other avenues to in the hopes of a lower price.

Mr. Deschaine updated the Board on the status of hiring a Parks & Recreation Director. The application deadline was today and about 45 resumes have been submitted. Mr. Canada asked if we are doing any pre-qualification. Mr. Deschaine stated there was a suggestion that at least some pre-qualification be done by at least two individuals. Mr. Deschaine would be one and either Stephanie Ilberg-Lamm or Tracey-Lynn Abbott from the Recreation Commission would be the second individual. Mr. Canada requested that the Board review all of the resumes and all Board members agreed.

Mr. Deschaine updated the Board on the current status of the minutes that have yet to be transcribed. He states he has dictated through May, which just leaves June and tonight's meeting. Mr. Canada asked about rotating the tapes through various personnel. Mr. Deschaine said it became problematic as employees had heavy workloads. Mr. Deschaine has one quote from a staffing agency, but needs to talk with them for further information, and the hiring process is still ongoing for the Executive Assistant position.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Deschaine received information from Town Planner Lincoln Daley that the Planning Board met on July 7<sup>th</sup> to nominate the following individuals to be on the Gateway Review Committee: Lincoln Daley, Jeff Hyland, Lucy Cushman and Tom House (there is a fifth position still available and they are working on finding a candidate to fill that), and also two alternates, Robert Baskerville and Joe Johnson. Mr. Federico moved to approve the nominations for the Gateway Review Committee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated he got a price from Hillside Landscaping to do the re-seeding at the field at Stevens Park. That price was brought down to \$5,225 from approximately \$10,000. They are going to use herbicide to kill the weeds, rock-hound it, aerate it and then seed, fertilize and lime the field. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Hillside Landscaping to do the work at the Stevens Park for \$5,225. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada also got a price to re-do the Historical Society and the Fire Department lawns. The proposal includes putting down 5 yards of loam and then they will seed, fertilize and lime using the same process. The price is \$825. Mr. Canada moved to approve the \$825 and the money to come out of the Bond Fund. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Copeland asked why there were no man gates in the fence newly installed at the Babe Ruth field. There being no clear answer, he stated that he would look into the matter.

Mr. Canada stated that resident Kim Pierce has requested a sign on Union Road in an effort to have traffic lower their speeds. Mr. Canada moved to buy two signs reading "Strictly Enforced" from the NH Prison Sign Shop for \$18 each plus shipping and to give them to Fred Hutton to have them installed on the Speed Limit signs. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada also brought up a request by a Winding Brook resident for better enforcement of traffic control signs in that neighborhood. Mr. Copeland reported that he had visited the resident and felt they were comfortable with his assurance of police monitoring.

Mr. Canada mentioned that on the Appendix I to the Emergency Manual, the roster of personnel and staff appears to be out of date. Mr. Canada requested the Office of Emergency Management to go through the manual and make sure it is up to date as it is a beneficial thing to have. Mr. Copeland will follow up on this item.

At 9:49 pm, Mr. Federico moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:32 pm, Mr. Canada 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 passed unanimously.

At 10:33 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant

Paul Deschaine  
Town Administrator