

## **MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2010 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

At 7:34 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that he had \$5,144,086.31 in the general checking account.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from March 8<sup>th</sup>, March 15<sup>th</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> of 2010. Mr. Canada moved to approve the minutes as previously amended. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

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

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

Webster at Great Bay requested the use of the Municipal Center on August 19<sup>th</sup> for a public information meeting. Mr. Canada moved to permit the use of the room and to waive the fee due to the fact that it's a public service meeting. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Christyn Surprenant requested the use of the Park for a birthday party on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The request was approved.

Eileen Herrington requested the use of the Park for a family gathering on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The request was approved.

Joshua Tymann was present to report that he had completed the Eagle Scout Service Project of creating Flag Day Collection Boxes. He explained that he needed a signature on the paperwork saying the project has been completed and a letter from the Town Administrator indicating such. The Board thanked Mr. Tymann for his service and signed the paperwork. A letter from the Town Administrator will be forthcoming.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Administration:** Mr. Deschaine stated he and Mr. Copeland met with the fence company at the Babe Ruth Field to talk about some of the deficiencies and concerns they had. The fence company explained that not all of the poles are cemented in, which was part of the design. Sometimes there are problems when each pole is cemented due to the frost catching the base and moving it. The fence company mentioned that putting a tension wire across the bottom may improve the situation and provided a quote for \$250.00 for the wire and \$485.00 for labor to

install the wire. The fence company provided an additional quote for putting additional rails in the eight foot sections of fence for \$482.00 for materials and \$450.00 for labor. He also stated that due to some misunderstanding with the fence company in reference to the gates and the angle of the fence towards the outfield, the fence company will come in and refill around all the posts, level them off and cut in man gates into the eight foot sections on either side of the dugouts at no charge. Timberland Servapalooza volunteers could take the fence at the Voc Tech apart to reuse a lot of that material on the Babe Ruth Field fence. Mr. Copeland will coordinate this and check with Timberland to see what their thoughts are about the use of materials at the Voc Tech. Mr. Deschaine will follow up with the fence company and ask about possibly substituting the tension wire with rails and determine what the coupling costs would be. Mr. Deschaine stated the cost of buying the couplings that would be needed for the posts on the bottom would most likely be more expensive than just the tension wire at the bottom.

Mr. Deschaine stated he received a letter from the Rockingham Planning Commission outlining an effort that is being accomplished by a consortium of planning commissions in the entire state. They are applying for a Sustainability Communities Regional Planning Grant and they are requesting a letter of support from the Town and their active participation if they are awarded the grant. Bob Goodrich, a Stratham resident and one of Stratham's representatives to the Rockingham Planning Commission, was present and stated they are looking for input from all the towns that are interested in supporting it primarily to advise the Town of developing regional goals, policies, and project priorities regarding housing, land use, transportation, and economic development. Mr. Copeland moved to endorse the Rockingham Planning Commission grant application. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine gave the Board an update on the computer server issues. Hewlett Packard was in the office today and conducted some diagnostics. At this time, they ordered a new controller board.

Mr. Deschaine reported that Park Ranger Kim Woods is replacing the flags that were missing from the Park that were stolen. Ms. Woods was going to notify the Police Department of this matter.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Canada stated that Joyce Charbonneau has resigned from the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee creating a vacancy. Cathy Kenny has stepped forward and would like to be appointed to that Committee. Mr. Canada moved to appoint Cathy Kenny to the open position on the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There was continued discussion from last week on the use of the Stevens Park soccer field. Mr. Copeland stated he and Mr. Deschaine were looking at the field and the soccer goalie area was highly used and damaged. Mr. Deschaine suggested shifting the fields down a few feet on a rotating basis. Mr. Deschaine stated that subsequent to the Board's decision to give the Exeter Youth Soccer Association three weekdays and one weekend day use of the soccer fields, it came to light that there were more U13 and U14 teams that were more heavily weighted with Stratham

children who would need the field. The Recreation Commission decided to recommend opening the field up for one additional night of practice for those kids and close it to anyone under the U13 category. Mr. Copeland moved to grant the additional one day use for the U13 and U14 practice for during the week, as the Recreation Commission had endorsed. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board then reviewed a \$1,000 donation from Exeter Lumber to put against the cost of materials for the Stevens Park Babe Ruth Field project. Mr. Canada moved to accept the \$1,000 donation with thanks from Exeter Lumber to be used towards materials at Stevens Park Babe Ruth Field. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board then reviewed a \$4,200 donation from K.G. Blood and Sons, LLC as the value of services provided for the construction at the Stevens Park Babe Ruth Field. Mr. Canada moved to accept the donation of \$4,200 with thanks from K.G. Blood and Sons, LLC for services provided for construction at the Stevens Park Babe Ruth Field. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated he spoke with Dave Short about the soccer fields and he stated they have improved and are responding well to treatment. Mr. Short suggested that a little circle of grass around some of the trees be killed and mulched since those trees are suffering from mowing damage. If there are no objections, Mr. Canada will ask Kim Woods to take care of that. There were no objections. Mr. Canada reported on adjustments to the irrigation system which should dry the fields out. Some areas have become soggy. Mr. Goodrich stated that on Portsmouth Ave. towards Lovell Road, the Park could use some Round-Up treatment from Ms. Woods to alleviate the purple loosestrife. Mr. Canada will see if Ms. Woods has the time to take care of that. The Board had no objections.

Mr. Federico stated that over the last several weeks, he has noticed that the plantings in front of the Fire House are looking like they are dying. The bush that was placed in front of the culvert under the walkway has also lost all its leaves and appears to be dead. Mr. Federico was wondering if there was any sort of guarantee from the vendor. Mr. Canada will look into the matter; however, those trees are nearly two years old.

Mr. Copeland commended the Stratham Police Department for solving a hit and run accident on Mr. Copeland's vehicle within 24 hours.

Mr. Canada brought up reserving the Stratham Memorial School for Town Meeting on March 11, 2011 with an alternate date from March 18<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Deschaine will make the reservation.

At 8:40 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:29 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 9:30 Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which also passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant

Paul Deschaine  
Town Administrator