

## **MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2010 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

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

Mr. Canada stated they received a request from Christina Winslow, who represents the Stratham Cub Scouts, to sell popcorn at the bake sale tomorrow for Election Day and wanted to discuss that first so he could get an answer to them right away. There will be no cooking as the popcorn has already been popped and packaged. Mr. Canada moved to allow the Stratham Cub Scouts to sell pre-packaged popcorn at the Town Offices tomorrow. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada left the room briefly to inform Ms. Winslow of their decision.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that he had \$665,752.56 in the general checking account.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Highway Department:** Highway Agent Fred Hutton was present to report on his Department's activities. He stated they are going to start getting the big trucks ready for winter.

Mr. Hutton stated the softball field has a nice tinge of green across it from the new grass seed.

Mr. Hutton stated they will be finishing up the last of the road side mowing and then will be mulching the leaves before the snow comes. He stated there are a few bushes around Town his crews have been maintaining.

Mr. Hutton stated they have done some work for Park Ranger Kim Woods at the Stratham Hill Park at the Gifford House. He stated that Highway and Ms. Woods work pretty closely together and he stated it is nice to work like that and help each other whenever possible.

Mr. Hutton stated on Stratham Heights Road where a water survey is going to be conducted, two pathways have been cut so access can be gained any time. He stated the clearing was all done by hand since the hill was too steep; using machines was not an option.

Mr. Hutton stated once the use of the soccer fields is done for the season, then they will shim out the low spots by using a small tractor and bring up half buckets of loam so it is light enough not to do any damage to the fields. They will then spread out the loam and rake and seed it in the spring. Mr. Deschaine asked if it would be better to wait until the spring due to water run off, but Mr. Hutton said the fields are often too wet to get any machinery on them in the spring.

Mr. Hutton stated that the beaver dams at the Union Road culvert have been causing problems. Highway spent a day and a half there with three workers shoving through two 35' telephone poles to unplug the culvert. He stated every couple of days they will clean the screen out and

stack some of the mud, which is then hauled out about once a week. Mr. Hutton stated he has been looking for a trapper for the beavers, but has not had any success. Mr. Canada suggested contacting Abundant Wildlife, however, that would be a very expensive option. Mr. Hutton stated some companies charge \$300 or \$400 per beaver. Mr. Hutton stated they have removed four beavers from the area, each weighing approximately 70-80 pounds. Mr. Deschaine stated that he was approached about why the spoils were being left out on the road because it draws attention to the whole process and during the next rain storm, it would have a tendency to go right back into the stream. Mr. Hutton stated they have had as much as eight or nine yards piled up there before, but it was hauled off in a timely manner.

Mr. Hutton stated he has the salt piles in place and is expecting two more loads of sand soon.

Mr. Federico asked about the maintenance at the Route 108/101 intersection; is this something we can contact the State about? Mr. Hutton stated he was not sure, but will look into it.

Mr. Hutton stated the drainage was installed at the cemetery by Bell & Flynn. Mr. Hutton put some of the old seed and eight loads of loam down. They will finish in the spring or summer; that will be up to the Cemetery Committee.

Mr. Hutton stated the dump will be going to an every other week schedule at the end of November. There will be signs posted on the gate.

Mr. Federico asked about winter parking ban signs. In the past, this was discussed, but signs were never actually ordered. Mr. Hutton stated in the past, any winter parking violations have usually been repeat offenders and they are not on a road that would be posted. Mr. Canada stated it was decided last year that the offender would be warned once and then further enforcement would ensue for further offenses. Mr. Federico suggested placing an ad in the newspaper announcing the winter parking ban. Mr. Canada mentioned inserting the announcement in the outgoing tax bills.

Mr. Federico asked Mr. Hutton if he was aware of a decision at last week's meeting in regards to the removal of a tree limb on the Moriarty property on River Road. It was decided that the next time the Town has a bucket truck, they will take care of the removal of the limb and Mr. Moriarty will pay \$200 towards the cost. Mr. Hutton replied that he had been told. Mr. Hutton acknowledged receipt of a set of N.H. laws regarding responsibility for trees on highway Right of Ways. He expressed some concern over the reliability of the source cited (LGC's "A Hard Road To Travel"). He was told to bring any perceived discrepancies to the Board's attention.

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

**Administration:** Mr. Deschaine stated he had information on the Deferred Compensation Plan. He stated that in 1995, the Town contracted with the Public Employee's Benefits Services Corporation (PEBSC) to provide a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. PEBSC has since been acquired by Nationwide Retirement Solutions, who has had their plan document in place since 2005. In 2005, significant changes had occurred with the federal government requirements

allowing certain new programs and that is why the plan needs to be discussed. There were a number of options in that plan and the IRS said it was up to the plan sponsor to provide. At that time, Nationwide did not elect to allow participants to borrow against their account. They have now since changed that policy and if we, as the plan sponsor, wish to allow our employees who are participants to borrow against their 457 accounts, we would need to execute this plan amendment. Meetings with Nationwide are scheduled for next week to speak with Town employees about the plan. Since the Town is the plan sponsor and the previous plan was accepted by the Board of Selectmen, it is necessary to have a Board of Selectmen action to accept this amendment. Mr. Canada stated the Board will review the plan before making a final decision.

Mr. Deschaine stated he has received the renewal notice regarding the Primex health insurance program. This would be for next year's health insurance policies at an overall guaranteed increase of 3.9% for health and 4.5% for dental. Mr. Canada moved to accept Primex's proposal for health insurance for the year 2011 with a rate increase of 3.9% for health and 4.5% for dental, and to execute the necessary documents. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated that the Town had previously signed a multi-year contract with Primex through 2015 for property liability, worker's compensation and unemployment. Since the current signed contract goes through January 1, 2015, Primex has offered to extend the contract for an additional year at the same 7.5% multi-year discount that was offered last year. Mr. Federico moved to accept the offer from the NH Public Risk Management Exchange to enter into its property liability 7.5% multi-year discount program as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, and to be contractually bound to all the terms and conditions of the Primex risk pool membership during the term of the public property 7.5% multi-year discount program. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated every year the Rockingham Economic Development Committee, as the maintainer of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), approaches towns to find out whether they have specific projects they would like funded from various sources in terms of making economic development improvements. From the submissions that are brought to the corporation, they have a committee that evaluates and prioritizes them and then brings them before the Board for adoption. In doing so, if specific projects are shown on the CEDS document, there is a greater likelihood of obtaining federal funding should a grant opportunity present itself. Mr. Deschaine stated it would be a good idea to be a little more specific this year about the water, sewer and storm water topics that have been discussed in the past year. Mr. Deschaine suggested we do this as an individual Town and also submit a request jointly with the Town of Exeter if they are willing to do so. The deadline is towards the end of the month so there is no need to make a decision tonight. This discussion is more to bring it to the Board's attention for consideration at a future meeting.

Mr. Deschaine stated that he received an update from East Coast Signal stating they will be starting the installation of the pre-emption light at the Fire House this Thursday.

The group agreed to table discussion on the Stevens Park Dog Ordinance until next week.

Mr. Deschaine stated he has received some Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests from Department heads, but is waiting on a few more. He will present them to the Board once finalized.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Canada moved to approve the amended minutes for 10/25/10. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada brought up the Department head attendance rotation on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen meetings. He stated Mr. Hutton is the only one that has to come twice a month and doesn't feel that's necessary. Mr. Canada stated that anyone can come to the meeting if there is something pressing, but once a month should be sufficient for all departments. There were no objections from the Board. Mr. Canada stated the schedule is as follows: the first Monday is Highway, the second Monday is Police, Fire and Emergency Management, the third Monday is Planning and Building Inspection, and the fourth Monday is Assessing and Recreation.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Canada opened the public hearing stating the purpose of this public hearing is to accept a contribution from the Tony & Renee Marlon Charitable Foundation of \$25,000 for the purposes of supporting the construction of the baseball field at Stevens Park. Mr. Deschaine then read the official public hearing notice and the cover letter that came with the check (see attached). Resident and Baseball Board Member Jon Tymann was present at the meeting and stated this contribution was due to a Stratham parent who sits on their Board. They requested to remain anonymous and are asking nothing in return for the donation. Their only requirement was that the donation went through an IRC Section 501(c) 3 (non-profit) corporation or a municipality. Mr. Tymann stated he asked if the donor(s) wanted any naming opportunity in exchange for the donation and they declined. Mr. Canada then closed the public hearing. Mr. Tymann stated he will send a notice of thanks on behalf of the Baseball Board. One requirement of the Town is to send a report on how the money was spent. Mr. Canada stated he will also mail a letter of thanks from the Town. Mr. Copeland moved to accept the \$25,000 donation from the Tony and Renee Marlon Charitable Foundation with great thanks. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada added his thanks to the donor(s).

At 8:24 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss negotiations. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:40 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the discussion. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:42 pm, Mr. Copeland moved to adjourn. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant

Reviewed By,

Paul R. Deschaine  
Town Administrator