

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2011 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:33 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$4,751,521.26 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department: Chief Stan Walker was present to discuss some items with the Board. Mr. Walker stated that there seems to be some problems in a lot of areas where radio transmissions are not getting through to Rockingham Dispatch. He stated Skip Christenbury, the radio technician from Rockingham, checked the radios and everything was programmed correctly. Mr. Walker stated they could communicate with Rockingham within the Fire Station, which is difficult to do, so it was working. They are currently receiving signals from Saddleback, Kingston, and Brentwood. Mr. Walker stated that within two months, the Rye tower should be up and running. They are going to set up a voting system down the road so the strongest receiver will receive the message and Rockingham will not have the ability to change it; right now they can switch from tower to tower, which may be part of the problem. He also stated that Newington received a grant to install a tower at the Schiller plant. Overall, Mr. Walker feels that although it is not as fast as he would like, the bugs are being worked out. Police Chief John Scippa was present at the meeting and joined the discussion. He stated that overall, there have been some slight bumps in the road on the police side, but generally speaking, it is just making sure radio protocol fits with Rockingham. One mandate from Mr. Christenbury was that we really needed to change all of the batteries for the portable radios (both police and fire) and replace them every two or three years. Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Matt Hunt was present at the meeting to address a delay in call response with the Board. Mr. Hunt stated there is a delay in Rockingham dispatching the call to Stratham because Rockingham is not toning out the call until they have all of the information on the call. Mr. Scippa will call Rockingham tomorrow and get the exact protocol. Mr. Copeland stated we should explore installing an additional antenna at Stratham Hill Park. Mr. Walker stated that that is supposedly in the works. Mr. Walker will look into what it would cost to have repeaters installed in the ambulances.

Mr. Scippa stated he received information from Rockingham Dispatch that Chief Cresta from the Greenland Fire Department had approached his Town to request funding to pay for repairing the Rye antenna. He basically told his Board that Greenland was having some problems for quite some time and it is a life safety issue. The Chief said that for \$17,000, he would like the Rye tower to be repaired. The Board granted that funding and the work orders have been placed by Greenland to Two-Way Communications to do the work. The Rye antenna would improve service to Greenland, New Castle, Stratham, and Rye. Mr. Scippa stated that there would eventually be three points of contact; there will be the Newington antenna, the Rye antenna, and possibly the Stratham antenna for Seacoast Fire. It looks like the one that will be fully

operational first is the Rye antenna. Mr. Scippa asked if we would be willing to contribute to the Rye repairs. Mr. Canada expressed the opinion that Greenland should not have to bear the cost of the Rye antenna alone and moved to appropriate up to \$4,250 to pay for a portion of the Rye Tower repair; looking for three other communities to pay a like amount. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Walker presented the existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) to the Board. The Board agreed there was a lot of information to review, so they will look it over and get back to Mr. Walker with comments. Mr. Walker stated that his intent, regarding the election of officers, is that in order to be eligible to vote on operations, you would have to attend 50% of the meetings and 50% of the training sessions. Mr. Copeland stated he sees a big conflict of interest to have an officer running for office sitting on a nomination committee that is going to be nominating themselves and interviewing themselves. Mr. Walker stated that it is something that has been done in the department a number of times and he took an excerpt directly from Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Copeland stated this hinders the complete nominating process and makes it extremely biased in its assessment of people. Mr. Walker stated that this is not a public office where there is a difference of opinion in how things are run.

Police Department: Mr. Scippa then discussed his department's activities with the Board. He stated that he was away at training last week. Sgt. Pierce was the Officer-In-Charge during his absence, and it was a busy week with minor arrests and minor accidents.

He stated the officers are working through minor glitches with Rockingham and learning the rhythm of working with the new dispatch center. There are no radio or telephone issues to speak of.

At 8:26 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:48 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the matters discussed. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Planning: Town Planner Lincoln Daley was present to discuss his department's activities with the Board.

At 8:50 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session with Mr. Daley to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:11 pm, Mr. Federico moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the matters discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MEETINGS: 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:

Joshua Jennings requested the use of the Municipal Center on March 18, 2011 for the annual meeting of the Seacoast Grower's Association. The request was approved.

Heidi Roy requested the use of the Park on August 13, 2011 for the MS Society Bike Ride. The Board had previously reviewed this request and needed more information before making a decision. The Police Chief is okay with the event and they will be renting a dumpster. The Board asked that the group coordinate the location of the dumpster with the Park Ranger. The request was approved.

Administration:

Mr. Deschaine stated he had intended to discuss more about the Soft Draw mediation; however, in talking with Atty. Peter Loughlin and Town Assessor Andrea Lewy, the contributions that Soft Draw has provided leave us in a quandary of what to ask for settlement authority. It was collectively decided that we would just attend and respond.

Mr. Deschaine presented a request to renew the lease by the New Life Baptist Church of the Municipal Center. Mr. Canada moved to renew the lease for a year subject to the same conditions as last year, namely the paid \$25.00 per Sunday, they mop the floor, and they otherwise stay cooperative with the Town. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated the Golter/Daigle appeal to the ZBA decision came from Superior Court and basically, the settlement agreement between the Daigles and the Town was upheld by the Superior Court. The Golters have 30 days to appeal the decision.

Mr. Deschaine presented the MS-6 report, which is the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) form that needs to accompany the warrant before it is posted, to the Board. It is basically all of the proposed appropriations and any special warrant articles, plus the revenue estimates. The Board signed the form.

The group took a short break at 9:35 pm.

Mr. Copeland asked why the Town is paying \$187 for synthetic salt from Scamman's for several Town buildings as opposed to going to the salt shed for salt. Mr. Deschaine explained that the synthetic is used on the walkways and concrete aprons because there have been issues with corroding using the regular salt before. He stated that Town Custodian Charlie Browne has met with a new vendor who is interested in our business and we can get a pretty good deal if we buy it by the pallet. It would be approximately half the cost of what the cost is per bag at Scamman's.

Mr. Canada stated that they received a report from the sign company regarding the sign at the Fire Department. They reported that the sign was installed too tightly and when it swells up in the summer, it makes the sign bow. He stated he feels the sign should be removed, have an inch or so cut off of it, put a piece of channel iron on the bottom and re-install it. He feels this is something that the Highway Department should be able to do, possibly with the help of Park Ranger Kim Woods. The Board agreed.

Mr. Deschaine stated the Town Report draft has been sent to the printer. They will send us a proof back some time this week, but would like to hold off on posting it on the website in case there are any issues with the layout.

Mr. Canada stated that employee spreadsheets are due on March 1st.

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

At 10:06 pm, Mr. Federico moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the matters discussed. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:07 pm, Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant

Paul Deschaine
Town Administrator