

## **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2011 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

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

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Highway Department:** Fred Hutton was present at the meeting to report on his department's activities. He stated the transmission on the one-ton truck had to be rebuilt. He stated that during the last snowstorm, they experienced more breakdowns than they have all winter. Several hydraulic hoses on different trucks needed to be replaced and one of the trucks had to have a tire replaced. Mr. Hutton is looking into pricing for new cab mounts on the 2003 Dodge.

Mr. Hutton stated the CO detectors in the Highway Garage are still not working properly and he is not sure what it would cost to have them repaired. They are supposed to be serviced every three years, but in order to have them serviced, they need to be removed and packed up and shipped out. Mr. Hutton will be following up with a couple of companies this week.

Mr. Hutton stated his department received a complaint from the Gallagher residence on Stratham Heights Road about a drainage problem and presented photos to the Board. The resident's claim is that ever since the Town resurfaced the road they are now getting flooded with water from the road. Mr. Canada stated the contractor who did the original site work at the home did not grade it correctly. He stated when the road was resurfaced, it may have added to the problem, but that was done many years ago. He stated the entire west side of Stratham Heights Road is on a long slope and that water flows downhill. Mr. Hutton suggested that when the Town rebuilds the road, we might be able to do something to somewhat alleviate the problem, but this would not be in the near future. Mr. Canada will report to Selectman Copeland who received the initial inquiry from the Gallagher's and ask him to get back to the Gallagher's on this matter.

Mr. Canada brought up the repair of the sign at the Fire Department and stated to Mr. Hutton that the Board previously agreed that the Highway Department could handle this type of repair. It involves trimming an inch off the sign and reinforcing the sign with a steel bar to prevent bowing. The sign has apparently swelled during damp weather and is pinched between the posts, causing it to bow.

Mr. Canada brought up the possibility of having cross signs at major intersections such as coming from Greenland from Willowbrook onto High Street. Mr. Canada asked Mr. Hutton to give this some thought and suggest major intersections that could benefit from a cross sign.

Mr. Canada inquired as to the salt budget. Mr. Hutton reported that the salt budget is good so far. Mr. Canada stated that if we shorted it too much, there is still an opportunity to amend the budget at Town Meeting if necessary. He asked Mr. Hutton to look at what is left in the budget and in inventory this week and make sure he is comfortable with it.

**Parks & Recreation:** Director Seth Hickey was present to discuss his department's activities with the Board. He reported on the softball facility needs for 2011. He stated he spoke with softball representatives earlier today and they decided they do not need to pursue using the Community College property for this upcoming season. They have been able to work with surrounding towns and schools to secure other playing locations at either no cost or very little cost. Mr. Deschaine stated he had a conversation with representatives from the college and there was still a question of liability. Counsel for the college needed to speak with Town counsel and Mr. Deschaine authorized them to do that. Mr. Hickey stated that if we start looking at the expense that would be incurred to maintain the fields, it would be very costly for us to go with that option. The new softball field in Town will be up and running by next year. Mr. Canada asked about possibly using the college field for practices so the Babe Ruth field is not over-used. Mr. Hickey stated he does not know what the soil condition or root base is going to be, or how it is going to drain with the amount of snow that we have had. The group agreed to wait and see how the Babe Ruth field looks when the snow is gone.

Mr. Hickey stated he was approached by a professor at the University of New Hampshire about a partnership with the Kinesiology 682 Leadership Course. He then introduced two guests that were present at the meeting. Calen Golas and Jessica LaPorte are both students at UNH and stated that their program is a two day overnight at the Stratham Hill Park for eighth graders. This is a wilderness-based program where the focus is on camping in the wilderness, navigation, general guidelines on how to set up camp and the proper ways to conduct yourself at camp. There is also going to be a portion of service so they have looked into trailblazing for the Stratham Hill Park. There are many trails that are not marked and they would take the kids through and mark them both ways. They are also open to having another "chaperone" if the Town would like that. They presented a time control plan to the Board. The kids would come from Stratham and all other surrounding towns. There will be a small fee from each child primarily just for food since they have access to equipment through UNH. Mr. Canada moved to allow the Recreation Department to use Stratham Hill Park on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> for the Overnight Leadership Course. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated he met with representatives from Timberland regarding an upcoming Earth Day project at Stevens Park. It was decided to hold off on the construction of dugouts and other infrastructure improvements at the new softball field being developed given the snowfall that we have had. They will pursue this in the fall as a "Servapalooza" project instead, which will give them a better idea on how the layout will work. Mr. Hickey will present quotes for the installation of irrigation and a backstop and have a full plan in place for the next meeting. Mr. Hickey stated that regarding the maintenance plan at Stevens Park, he has spoken with Gary Cowan from Hillside Landscaping. They are still trying to figure out what the pricing would be for fertilizer and other prices. Mr. Hickey is very confident in Hillside's ability to maintain the fields to the highest standard at a reasonable price.

Mr. Hickey stated that when they looked at the corporate sponsorship policy at the ball fields at a previous meeting there were some changes that needed to be made. Mr. Canada requested to amend the wording on #6 from "...to solicit and accrue corporate naming..." to "...to solicit and recommend corporate naming...". The group also agreed to eliminate #8-c due to some conflicting wording. The group then discussed a naming process and if this policy is attempting

to establish that; is it an honorarium or is it selling advertising. Mr. Canada stated that Mr. Hickey should be able to set it up and then the Board would maintain control and address any concerns down the road. Mr. Deschaine suggested having clearer guidelines so there is no opportunity for a misunderstanding and perhaps hard feelings if a certain proposal is brought forward and the Board objects to it. Mr. Federico feels that if you sell the naming rights, it should only be for a specified period of time versus naming a field after a benefactor. Mr. Hickey stated that he is not actively looking for any naming and before he went down that road, he would come before the Board first.

Mr. Hickey reported that two donations have been received so far for the dog clean up kiosks at the Stratham Hill Park. Stratham-Newfields Veterinary practice has purchased all four of the Gold Level sponsorships at \$500 each. They also bought a Silver Level sponsorship for \$375, which is an actual advertising spot on the bags themselves. My Dog's Mind purchased a Silver Level sponsorship for \$375 as well. Mr. Canada moved to accept the \$2750 raised to date by Stratham-Newfields Veterinary practice and My Dog's Mind towards the Stratham Hill Park dog clean up kiosks. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated he met with all sports boards except for softball on February 13<sup>th</sup>. He stated it was a very productive and welcomed meeting. Discussion included how to make things better and how things are functioning currently. They all agreed they would like to meet on a quarterly basis. Mr. Hickey stated that the feedback that he has received so far from residents is that they are very happy with youth sports in Stratham. He also stated that the volunteers are doing a fantastic job and he looks at these meetings as an opportunity to provide some support to them. A few action items that came out of the meeting included evaluating the volunteer screening policy more closely, and a "Friends Of..." group forming as an entity of Stratham Recreation to help with fundraising.

Mr. Hickey then requested to set up some informational materials in the foyer on Election Day for an upcoming Organic Lawn Care presentation on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Board did not object.

Mr. Hickey reported on the Recreation Revolving Fund. He stated there were no up-to-date breakdowns, but the account balance is \$92,000 through the month of January 2011. Once the account is reconciled officially, Mr. Hickey will email it to the Board. The group discussed a line item for Summer Camp that did not look like it was correct. Mr. Deschaine and Mr. Hickey will look into this matter.

Mr. Canada wanted to discuss a concern Mr. Hickey had about cleaning the floors for some of the recreation programs. He feels that these instructors needed to pitch in a little bit themselves. Mr. Hickey stated that he and Mr. Deschaine have discussed some sort of contract or set of expectations between the Town and Recreation contractors.

Mr. Hickey stated the contract with Active Network was signed for the new online registration software. He has an appointment this week to go through some initial questions, information, etc.

Mr. Hickey stated the Dog Ordinance at Stevens Park is being handed out through the Town Clerk's office with dog licenses.

Mr. Hickey stated that coming up in March, we are looking at the purchase of a new mower and vacuum system. At this time, he has two quotes. Mr. Canada stated they would like to see three.

Mr. Hickey requested a part-time seasonal maintenance person. He stated he would like to place an ad towards the middle of next month, then conduct interviews, and propose a hiring request once a candidate is found. Mr. Canada and Mr. Federico both agreed that they did not want to be involved with the interviews. Mr. Canada stated that Mr. Copeland might want to be involved in those interviews and that the decision was up to him.

Mr. Hickey stated that uniforms are in his budget for next year and he has reached out to the owner of Earth Tec, who lives in Town, and who is offering a 50% discount off their web price listing.

**Assessing:** Assessor Andrea Lewy was present to report to the Board on her recommendations for actions on various abatement applications (see attached). After review and comment by the Board, Mr. Canada moved to approve the abatement requests for Edward Caporello, Ken & Deborah Clark, Lee & Bridget Gardinier, Edward Patenaude, and to deny requests for John & Patricia Cummings, Ralph & Jean Pynn and Karen Wheeler as recommended. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada moved to deny the request from Patricia Knox for retroactive payment of a Veteran's credit. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy then presented two Veteran Credit applications (see attached). After review and comment by the Board, Mr. Canada moved to approve the Veteran Credit applications for Janet McDonald and Kelly Philbrick, as recommended by Ms. Lewy. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:40 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session with to discuss an item regarding court action. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 11:04 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.

**Administration:** The group then discussed the organization for Town Meeting presentations. They also discussed some modifications that were done to the spreadsheet for the Tri-Town Legislative meeting regarding retirement.

Mr. Deschaine stated he received a notice from Primex saying they are outlining a new program called the Contribution Assurance Program (CAP) for long-term members of the property liability and the worker's compensation program. Basically, this guarantees the Town that for the length of time already committed to them and the 5% multi-year discount, that whatever changes occur, regardless of the discount, the increases will never exceed 7%. Primex would like us to acknowledge an amendment to our current agreement representing the CAP program as

it applies to the remainder of our 3-year agreement. Mr. Federico moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the amendment to the current Primex agreement. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated that the Local Government Center (LGC) allows insurance to be extended to Board of Selectmen members, but the Board has to approve it. Mr. Canada moved to authorize the Selectmen to get insurance through the Town's plan at the Selectmen's entire expense. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Canada moved to accept the amended minutes for 2/7/11 and 2/14/11. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada reminded Mr. Deschaine that the Board requires that minutes be posted on the Town's website by the Wednesday following the date of approval, as discussed on November 15, 2010.

**PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:**

The following Park permits and Municipal Center rentals were discussed and acted upon:

Kranthi Kantipudi requested the use of the Municipal Center on March 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2011 for a cultural event. The requests were approved.

Peter Masterson requested the use of Park for the NH Eastern Star Family Picnic on June 18, 2011. The request was approved.

Michael Maher requested the use of the Park for a birthday party on August 20, 1011. The request was approved.

Jodie McGowen requested the use of the Park for a wedding on August 27, 2011. The request was approved.

At 11:34 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

***NOTE: There will be no meeting next week due to Stratham School District Meeting***

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant

Paul R. Deschaine  
Town Administrator