

MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 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 \$620,506.07 in the general checking account.

NEW BUSINESS: Library Trustee Bruce Cotter was present at the meeting to request the Board reappoint two alternate Trustees and appoint a new third alternate Trustee. Mr. Copeland moved to reappoint Lee Beauregard and Vicky Marbacher to one-year alternate positions, and to appoint Connie Aubin-Adams to a one-year alternate position. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Canada moved to accept the amended minutes for 4/18/11. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada moved to accept the amended minutes for 5/2/11. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Canada stated the Transfer Station has returned to their weekly schedule, which is every Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Mr. Canada announced that there is some information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act posted on the Town website. This is information regarding residential grant opportunities. There are three grants that homeowners can apply for.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department: Assistant Chief Matt Larrabee was present at the meeting and presented the Board with several SOP's they have completed for their review. The process is still ongoing.

Mr. Larrabee stated they are looking into getting the hydraulic cutting tools ("Jaws of Life") either repaired or replaced. The cost to have them repaired by replacing the whole cutting arm would be \$2,275. During his research, Mr. Larrabee found that they are starting to use different metals in vehicles and newer cutting tools have a much higher yield strength now. Mr. Larrabee stated the Fire Department is recommending that instead of repairing the existing set for \$2,275, to replace them with a new set at a cost of \$5,600. This was not a budgeted item for 2011; however, he thinks that cuts could be made out of the new equipment budget. Mr. Copeland mentioned approaching the insurance company of the vehicle that was being worked on when the cutting tool was damaged to have them pay for repair or replacement. He asked that Mr. Larrabee submit a price for the entire new set of cutters and Mr. Copeland will get in touch with the insurance company and look into that possibility. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the Fire Department to purchase a new hydraulic cutting tool at a cost of \$5,600. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Police Department: Police Chief John Scippa was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. Before Mr. Larrabee left the meeting, there was a brief discussion on the

dispatching through Rockingham County. Mr. Scippa stated they had a pretty serious Fire/EMS call today at the Vineyards and the response time was excellent.

Mr. Scippa stated that he had an invoice for \$7,149.83 from the Town of Newmarket for January 2011 dispatch service. This is the last month of service from Newmarket and was budgeted for. Mr. Copeland moved to pay the invoice. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scippa stated that regarding Marco's obtaining a liquor license, he did contact NH Liquor Enforcement and they will have a liquor investigator check that location for seating capacity.

Mr. Scippa stated they just received their first Highway Safety Grant that was developed by the Highway Safety Committee. This grant is a 100% grant for \$2,250 to allow for six 6-hour patrols. This is referred to as the "DWI Hunter Patrol", which will take place on June 10th and 11th, July 22nd and 23rd, and August 19th and 20th. Mr. Copeland moved to accept the grant. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scippa stated he sent the Board an email regarding the COPS grant. There is some question as to whether Stratham would be a qualifying agency for that. It may be that this particular grant is for supplanting purposes only with regard to any layoffs that occurred in the last fiscal year. Mr. Scippa is meeting with other area Chiefs this week and will try to get more information.

Mr. Scippa asked what the Board's position was on him signing annual contracts for service. He would rather not sign them. For example, the impoundment contract with the SPCA and the irrigation contract where they perform a start up and winterization of the system at the Police Station. Mr. Deschaine stated that in the past, the Board has signed the impoundment contract because there are terms and conditions that need to be agreed to beforehand. Mr. Canada stated that we have been opening the irrigation systems up ourselves and Park Ranger Kim Woods has been closing them. Mr. Deschaine stated it should be a consistent policy throughout the Town and will look into this matter with Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey. The Board will review the SPCA impoundment agreement and discuss it next week.

Mr. Scippa stated he received information regarding fire alarm systems for the Town Hall and the Highway Garage. He passed that information along to Mr. Deschaine to follow up with the Department heads.

Mr. Scippa stated he would like to move forward with the police officer vacancy.

At 8:05 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a contractual matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:19 pm, Mr. Canada 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.

Mr. Copeland moved to move forward with filling the tenth police position. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Roger Stephenson was present at the meeting and stated he has property at 22 Stephen Drive and there is a 14 or 16 inch diameter birch tree that is dead and the limbs are falling off. He wanted to speak with the Selectmen to see if it was okay if they took the tree down at no expense to the Town. Mr. Deschaine stated he would have to go back to the tax maps to be sure if it is Town property or not. Mr. Canada stated that no one on the Board objects as long as the Highway Department does not object. Mr. Stephenson will contact the Highway Department.

At 8:29 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a matter of possible acquisition of land with Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Chair Roger Stephenson. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:49 pm, Mr. Canada 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.

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

At 9:16 pm, Mr. Canada 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.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

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

Elena Pomroy requested the use of the Park on June 11, 2011 for the Stratham Cub Scout Crossover Ceremony, which includes a dinner and sleep over. The concern is that there is a very large event scheduled at the Park early the next morning. Mr. Federico moved to approve the request as long as the group vacates the Park no later than 8:00 am on June 12, 2011, and to waive the fee. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Brenda Gallagher requested the use of the Park on June 25, 2011 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Cathy Boardman requested the use of the Park on August 6, 2011 for a family birthday party. The request was approved.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated he received two letters of interest from labor attorneys to represent the Town on the police union petition. Both firms charge \$175.00 per hour and both are highly regarded in labor law in the State of New Hampshire. After some discussion, the group decided to go with the Jackson Lewis firm out of Portsmouth. Mr. Deschaine will attempt to negotiate the travel time into the cost.

Mr. Deschaine presented the potential Tax Deeding List to the Board for their review. Deeding will occur on June 8, 2011 if payment is not received. The Board will be presented on June 13, 2011

with the decision to either accept or not accept any such deeds. There was no objection from the Board to move forward with a courtesy notice to all ten on the list.

Mr. Deschaine stated the Town had previously signed paperwork from Primex to cap the increases in property liability. Mr. Deschaine presented a similar plan for worker's compensation to the Board. Mr. Canada moved to accept the proposal from Primex for worker's compensation and to authorize Mr. Deschaine to sign and execute it. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented a proposal for the purchase of a new copy machine to the Board. This proposal is for a Toshiba 455 Solution at a price of \$5,600. Mr. Canada moved to accept the proposal, including accepting the \$500 trade-in price for the old machine, with the understanding that they reformat the hard drive on the old machine to clean its memory. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then discussed the Performance Bond relative to Crockett Farm. Mr. Deschaine has confirmed with Town counsel and bank counsel that the money the Town holds in escrow, approximately \$120,000, is free and clear from anyone else expecting payment from, or having a claim to, it. Although there is Planning Board approval of a trail system, there were no specifications provided to indicate design standards of the system. Mr. Deschaine presented a proposal/estimate from the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) for landscaping work as it meets their trail standards. The price proposed for the Phase One development, which includes all the public trails and one non-public trail, is \$58,791. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Mr. Deschaine to contract with the AMC for the trail system as described. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting to discuss fertilizing and broad leaf control treatment at Stratham Hill Park. He stated he received a price/quote from Bio-Spray of \$2,305. Mr. Hickey talked with both Lawn Dawg and Hillside Landscaping and those quotes will be available tomorrow. Mr. Federico moved to authorize no more than \$2,305 for the fertilizing and broad leaf control treatment at the Stratham Hill Park. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated that he would like to get the seeding at the Stevens Park softball field done as soon as the irrigation system is in, which should be within the next two weeks. Mr. Copeland moved to spend up to \$1,085 for the second seeding of the new softball field at Stevens Park. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

The group discussed the 2011 Paving Program and went over a list of streets that need either top coating or full paving/grounding and the costs involved. The total cost for the proposed work is \$292,950. The total amount in the budget is \$324,360. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Highway Agent Fred Hutton to hire Bell & Flynn to do Dumbarton Oaks for \$70,575, Smith Farm Road for \$41,175, and Union Road (from Greenland town line to Winnicutt Road) for \$110,250, for a total cost of \$222,000, and then to report back on his priorities for the balance of the paving budget. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then discussed the nomination by the Planning Board of Janet Johnson to the Rockingham Planning Commission, replacing Marty Wool. Mr. Copeland moved to accept the nomination of Janet Johnson to the Rockingham Planning Commission. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Deschaine presented the newly revised Warrant for the first tax bills for \$11,144,983.00, and three cemetery deeds, to the Board for their signatures.

Mr. Deschaine read the Public Hearing Notice (attached) regarding the acceptance of a proposed donation from the Stratham Police Association of various weapons. At 10:30 pm, Mr. Canada opened the public meeting for comment. There being no comments, Mr. Canada closed the public hearing immediately thereafter. Mr. Copeland moved to accept the Police Association weaponry donation in the amount of approximately \$38,155. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated that the Boy Scouts would like to arrange for the National Guard to do a helicopter water drop at their fire training at the Stratham Hill Park. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the National Guard to come in, if they choose, with a helicopter to do a water drop demonstration at Stratham Hill Park. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:33 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 11:38 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.

Mr. Federico moved to appoint Lucy Cushman to the Gateway Review Committee. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to appoint Chris Brett to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as an alternate. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 11:39 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant

Paul R. Deschaine
Town Administrator