

## **MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2011 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

At 7:29 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that he had \$7,712,147.23 in the general checking account.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jim Presher, who is the Director of the Concord Regional Solid Waste Resource Recovery Cooperative, was present at the meeting to discuss the recycling agreement with the Town. Mr. Deschaine stated the Town was authorized to enter into this agreement at Town Meeting. Mr. Presher stated that if the Board agrees to move forward, he hopes to have this in operation within a year or so. Mr. Canada moved to accept the contract as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Deschaine stated that he has been authorized by the Lamprey Regional Cooperative, as its Chair, to sign in a public setting an agreement between both cooperatives that would afford Lamprey Cooperative members five more years to enter into this type of an agreement as recognition of the effort that both cooperatives put into this matter.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Highway Department: Road Agent Fred Hutton stated that Hersey Lane and Smith Farm Road have been paved. He stated they patched a small area on Union Road near the Transfer Station to level out the road in that area. Mr. Hutton stated the paving contractor would be determining when they are going to do the lower part of Union Road and Guinea Road tomorrow.

Mr. Canada called attention to the recent re-paving of Bunker Hill Avenue by the State. He asked Mr. Hutton why the Town grinds roads when the state simply shims and paves. Mr. Hutton replied that he does sometimes shim and pave when roads are not in bad shape. Mr. Canada used Stratham Heights Road as a comparison to Bunker Hill Avenue. Mr. Hutton stated that Stratham Heights Road is in worse shape and that if we simply shimmed and paved we would need to redo the job within 5 years.

Mr. Hutton reported they have started painting stop bars. He also stated that the parking lines at the Stevens Park lot have been completed, and they are planning on doing the parking lots at the Municipal Center and the Firehouse soon.

The group discussed a resident's request for a "Blind Driveway" sign on Frying Pan Lane. The cost of the sign would be approximately \$100. Mr. Federico will communicate this to the resident and report back to Mr. Hutton on any action to take. Mr. Canada moved that the Town not replace warning type signs such as "Children at Play", "Slow Children," and "Blind Driveway," having found that they are ineffectual, and that the cost is the responsibility of those that want the signs put up. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Deschaine commented that the signs need to be standard DOT signs—not custom signs.

Mr. Hutton stated there was an incident at the Stratham Hill Park where someone took rolls of paper towels, slid them under the rear tire of the backhoe, and lit them on fire. A report was filed with the Police Department.

The group discussed the mowing and trimming at various fields and the time that is involved to complete that work.

Mr. Canada asked if Mr. Hutton would be able to pick up some sod at the Historical Society building. Mr. Hutton stated he would put it on his agenda and get to it as time allows.

Police Department: Chief John Scippa was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. He stated he received an application for a permit for the fireworks display at the Stratham Fair. Fire Chief Rob Cook has already looked at the intended display and his recommendation is to issue the permit. Mr. Canada moved to allow Chief Scippa to sign the permit after conferring with Mr. Deschaine to make sure everything is satisfactory. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scippa stated that he has tasked Sgt. David Pierce with working with the Fair Committee to make sure security and traffic issues are addressed at the upcoming Fair. He stated everything has been scheduled and they are using the same plan as last year, which was very successful.

Mr. Scippa stated that the U.S. Dept. of Justice/FBI sponsors an annual event, America's Night Out Against Crime. This is a nationwide effort for local police departments to work with their communities to put together an event with regard to crime prevention and child safety. Mr. Scippa hoped to participate in this event and would bring additional information to the Board as it was received.

Mr. Scippa stated that with the help of Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey, the Police Department's irrigation system is up and running. Mr. Scippa stated he and Mr. Hickey have been working together on getting some landscaping work done to the front of the Police Department. They have talked about possibly using Rockingham inmates to do that work.

Mr. Scippa stated they are noticing that since school is out, there has been a lot more unsupervised youth activity at Stratham Hill Park and at the old college. The police are aware and would be keeping an eye on it.

Mr. Scippa stated he contacted School Superintendent, Mike Morgan, regarding budgeting for the School Resource Officer position, and is waiting to hear back. He will follow up on this matter.

Mr. Canada asked Mr. Scippa if he has had a chance to make sure the officers are remembering to bring their police issued cell phones in their cars with them so other Town employees can get in touch with them if the need arises. Mr. Scippa stated he has not had the opportunity as of yet, but will address that in the near future.

Mr. Scippa stated he had contacted Lt. Kevin Walsh from the Rockingham Sheriff's Department regarding the problems with the Rye tower. Lt. Walsh explained that when they have a problem, they take care of it, but when the tower stops working, he is not aware that he needs to reach out to Two-Way Communications to have it repaired. They also discussed possibly implementing a secondary system by sending tones out twice—one to the Rye tower and one to the Blue Job tower.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Federico moved to accept the amended minutes for 6/27/11. Mr. Canada 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:

Lisa Calandra from Womenade requested the use of the Park on 9/10/11 for a yard sale fundraiser. Mr. Federico moved to allow the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chris Rowe requested the use of the Firehouse on 11/19/11 for a birthday party. Mr. Federico moved to allow the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Michelle Fugere from the Rockingham County Law Enforcement Officer's Association requested the use of the Park on 8/12/11 for a picnic. Mr. Canada moved to allow the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Julie Martin requested the use of the Park on 8/21/11 for a baby shower. The request was approved.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Mr. Deschaine stated that regarding the Doe Run paper street status, he attempted to contact the property owners, but they were on vacation. The next step is to work on the pre-conditions that the Town had relative to the Board's continued consideration of the request. Mr. Deschaine noted that if the Town were asking for a plot plan that includes a potential offset for a pump station, it would probably need some level of survey to occur at an unknown cost.

Mr. Deschaine stated that regarding the retirement benefit issue which had been discussed in nonpublic session on June 13, he has spoken with that individual and the person in question stated that he would be taking care of it.

Mr. Deschaine stated that the Board had received an IRS memo regarding the Town's use of 1099 tax forms. The memo stated that 1099 forms are typically issued for abatements if in an

amount exceeding \$600. This was a concern because that has not been the Town's practice. The IRS stated it is not a specific IRS requirement, but they strongly encourage towns to adhere to that practice. The reason the IRS is looking for this type of information is if a resident paid their taxes in 2010 and itemized and deducted those property taxes, and then in the subsequent year received an abatement, they are supposed to report that to offset the deduction made in the prior year. The Board agreed that the Town would not adopt this practice because it is not a common occurrence.

The group then discussed changes in the NH Retirement System and the expected impact on the Town. If the Town were aware of the new rates when the regular budget was done, it would have budgeted an additional \$27,732. This is only a preliminary certification. The real certification is expected in one to three months.

Mr. Deschaine reminded the Board that legislation passed designating the Squamscott River to the Rivers Management Protection Program, and the Town is now entitled to three representatives to the Exeter River Advisory Committee (ERAC). Recommendations must be submitted by August 1, 2011. Mr. Canada will speak with Michael Perfit and Nate Merrill to gauge their interest. Mr. Copeland had stated that he would speak with the Conservation Commission to see if they have any recommendations as well.

The group then discussed the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) licensing agreement to provide music during public events. After reviewing the details, Mr. Federico moved to accept the licensing agreement from ASCAP for \$309, require vendors to acknowledge that they are licensed to play ASCAP licensed material, and communicate same to Department Heads, effective 07/18/11. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Federico then moved to authorized Mr. Deschaine to sign the ASCAP contract on behalf of the Town. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to grant the Stratham Hill Park Association a raffle permit for the "Cow Flop Raffle" to be held at the Fair. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to grant the Stratham Volunteer Fire Department Association a Red Sox raffle permit to be held at the Fair. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated that Grant Mauer has requested to put up duck boxes by the Gifford House as an Eagle Project to provide nesting areas for wood ducks. This has been referred to the Conservation Commission since the boxes will likely be set within Town Forest land, which is controlled by the Commission. Mr. Canada moved to authorize the Conservation Commission to allow these to be placed on non-Town Forest land owned by the Town at their discretion as well. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated it is time to test the empty underground fuel tank at the Municipal Center. The Board asked Mr. Deschaine to contact the Department of Environmental Services to see if they will give the Town a waiver on the testing for this year and we will remove the tank next

year. Mr. Deschaine suggested having the tank removed this year so it will allow all of the gravel to settle versus taking it out next year when the parking lot is going to be newly paved.

At 9:17 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a litigation issue. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:42 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. Deschaine stated that John Scippa and Greg Jordan would like to be the Police Department representatives for the Health Benefits Study Committee. Mr. Canada moved to appoint John Scippa and Greg Jordan to the Health Benefits Study Committee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:43 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant

Paul R. Deschaine  
Town Administrator