

MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2011 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:34 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$7,788,302.09 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Building/Code Enforcement: Building Inspector Terry Barnes was present at the meeting and updated the Board on the current status of ongoing building inspections/issues.

Mr. Barnes stated the Town's Ford Explorer has a lot of rust on it and would like to get an estimate to see if it was worth repairing. The Board agreed it would make sense to get an estimate.

Mr. Barnes then presented the Board with an updated fee schedule. Town Planner Lincoln Daley was present at the meeting and stated that the increase in fees is to reflect the true cost of what Mr. Barnes provides during site inspections, and the cost of actually providing a service to the community. Mr. Daley stated these increases were looked at carefully and compared with other communities. Mr. Federico moved to accept the proposed Stratham Building Code Inspection and related fees update. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed 2-1.

Fire Department: Chief Rob Cook was present at the meeting to discuss the ongoing issue of not receiving tones for fire calls. He stated the Rye tower was down two days last week. Police Chief John Scippa was present at the meeting and stated that the only time anyone knows when the Rye tower goes down is when someone tries to use it and then the word gets back to Rockingham Dispatch that they did not get the message. The dangerous assumption is that the tower is working correctly until someone hears otherwise. Mr. Cook stated that last week three calls were delayed due to this issue. Deputy Chief Matt Larrabee was present and stated that even if the tone can go off of another tower, the portable radio does not transmit properly when the Rye tower goes down. The long-term solution is the grant for a tower at Stratham Hill. Mr. Scippa suggested possibly talking to Newmarket about a per diem situation until there is more reliability with Rockingham. Another solution is the Newington tower that is supposed to be going up by the end of this summer. Mr. Scippa will look into ascertaining details on the County Finance Committee meeting as far as the status of the grant for a tower at Stratham Hill and update the Board. He will also make sure that Rockingham does not discontinue the double tone. Mr. Larrabee suggested possibly hiring a radio communications engineer to look at the situation and possibly make recommendations to the Town. Mr. Scippa will reach out to Two-Way Communication and explain that the Town spent \$4,000 in an effort to make this right and it is still not right, and to what degree do they owe the Town to keep this operating correctly.

Planning: Mr. Daley reviewed current applications and projects going before the Planning Board on July 20th.

Mr. Daley has been working with Mr. Deschaine and the Planning Board to consider the possibility of revising our current process for bonding site plans for the Town. Further discussion on this matter will take place at the July 20th meeting.

There will be a hearing on August 3rd for Makris Real Estate to continue discussions on the final number of lots to be constructed as part of the subdivision plan at 32 Bunker Hill Ave.

On August 17th, there will be a public meeting involving Crockett Hill Farms Phase II. There was recently a site visit with the Planning Board, the developer and some of the abutters to better understand the improvements being done. Mr. Deschaine stated there had been some inconsistencies with the approved plans and some of the conditions on the approval. Since some of the field changes have changed so much, it was felt the Planning Board should give guidance as to whether or not the changes represent a true change to the plan or to the design intent. As a courtesy to the abutters, they were invited to the last public meeting, and that is when many abutters expressed their concerns and necessitated the site walk. Mr. Daley stated it is acrimonious to a certain degree, but the hope is to provide a middle ground that satisfies everyone involved. Mr. Daley stated that part of the possible improvements is the relocation of one of the access points on the public trails. He stated that David Short, who is an abutting property owner, has been working with the developer to try and connect the existing trail system to create a more viable trail network through the development.

There will be a planning workshop involving the Planning Board and Gateway Review Committee on August 17th to discuss the process for reviewing Gateway applications. Mr. Daley has been working with the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) to devise a plan to present to the Planning Board for review to better understand the process.

Mr. Daley discussed the scope of work developed by the RPC involving the Exeter-Stratham Regional Water and Wastewater Planning Study. The RPC was denied the \$30,000 in grant money from the Coastal Program. This study would cost approximately \$70,000 or \$80,000. Both towns had appropriated \$20,000 each and the hope was to receive the remainder of the funds through the grant process. With the disappointing result, the subgroup comprised of Town staff, RPC members and various consultants took a step back to better understand what the towns could accomplish with the remaining \$40,000. Mr. Daley presented the Board with the revised scope of work, which addresses questions such as is it worthwhile for the towns to move forward with the legal, economical and engineering analysis at this point. Mr. Deschaine stated that in order to get a usable product out of this in terms of budgeting for next year, a report is needed by the end of October. Because of the delays caused by the lack of the grant, we are now up against a timeline and a decision needs to be made now to move forward or not. He also mentioned that there might be an additional \$5,000 total needed for contingencies (\$2,500 from each town) or other unforeseen elements. They will still be looking for other grant money, but that is not guaranteed at this point. Mr. Canada moved to move forward with the study. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Daley's next item is the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant process (replacement of windows and insulation at Municipal Center). He stated the requests for proposals had been put out for bid and the walk through occurred last week to identify any issues or concerns by the various bidders. The responses are due by July 25th and the hope is to have the project completed by September of this year.

Mr. Daley stated that Tracey Cutler, who is the new Land Use Assistant, is working out wonderfully and both he and Mr. Barnes are very happy with her performance.

Mr. Daley reported that regarding the Land Use Municipal Software (Avitar system), Mr. Barnes has the building module update up and running. Mr. Daley is now waiting on the installation of the customized planning module to take place later this month.

Mr. Daley stated that he is in the process of coordinating with representatives of the Plan NH Charette program. The tentative dates for the Charette program will be either October 28th and 29th or November 4th and 5th. This program focuses on the revitalization of the Town Center area. Plan NH is a non-profit group that enlists the help of architects, engineers, and planners to poll the public to present ideas and concepts. The overall product from this is a report they will supply the Town outlining their recommendations.

At 8:31 pm, Mr. Copeland moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:55 pm, Mr. Copeland moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the matters discussed. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Canada moved to accept the amended minutes for 7/11/11. Mr. Federico 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:

Jon Tymann requested the use of the Municipal Center on August 7, 2011 for an Eagle Scout event. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request and to waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine reported that he has nothing new to report on the Doe Run paper street status, but should have something within the next week or two.

Mr. Deschaine stated the Town received a letter from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) stating we were overdue for our test on the underground fuel tank at the Municipal Center. He stated he contacted DES and it is possible to obtain a temporary closure certificate if certain conditions are met. One of the conditions is there can be no more than one inch of residue in the tank, and there is currently three inches of liquid in the tank. Mr. Deschaine stated it may be in the Town's best interest to remove the tank this year for several reasons: we would be in compliance with DES, there would be time after the tank being removed for better soil compaction before paving, we would have better information on what the cost of paving the parking lot would be, and we would not have to pump out the tank a second time. Mr. Canada moved to have Mr. Deschaine look into pricing for having the tank removed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group agreed to meet next Thursday, July 28th, at 9:00 am to discuss the cemetery regulations and the Board's priority list.

Mr. Canada reviewed his current list of projects with the group. He inquired as to the status of the automated phone system at the Town Offices. Mr. Deschaine stated he is working with the phone company and it should be done shortly. Regarding the tax kiosk implementation, Mr. Deschaine stated they are just waiting for him to review the contract.

OLD BUSINESS:

The group discussed the appointments to the Exeter/Squamscott Rivers Local Advisory Committee. The Board nominates potential members to the Department of Environmental Services who in turn will appoint a seven member advisory panel from subject communities. The Conservation Commission recommended William Grace from 27 Dumbarton Oaks, whom they feel is highly qualified to serve on this committee. Mr. Canada spoke with Nate Merrill and Michael Perfit, who are also interested. The Planning Board recommended Jamie Payne to serve on the committee as well. Mr. Canada moved to ask all four candidates to fill out an application to forward to DES. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated Robert Harbeson has expressed an interest to be on the Board of Adjustment. There are currently no openings on that Board, but Mr. Daley was going to see if Mr. Harbeson had any interest serving on the Planning Board since there is a vacant alternate's position. If Mr. Harbeson is interested in the Planning Board position, Mr. Deschaine will contact him to come in and meet with the Selectmen.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Rockingham County 4-H Foundation has requested a raffle permit for a Quilt Raffle that will occur during the Stratham Fair. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request for the raffle permit. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION CONT.:

Mr. Canada asked the group if there was any interest in creating an ordinance regarding residents owning roosters and chickens. Currently, it is not a zoning violation and there is no state law. The Board did not want to take any action at this time.

The Board agreed to move Parks and Recreation Director Seth Hickey to the first Monday night for meeting appearances instead of the fourth Monday.

Back in 2009, the Board had agreed that they would like an RFP for the landfill monitoring contract to be developed. The group will discuss this in further detail at their meeting on July 28th.

Mr. Deschaine presented Chief Scippa's contract and the Tax Warrant to the Board for their signatures.

At 9:43 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss contract negotiations. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:45 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.

At 9:45 pm, Mr. Federico 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