

## **MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2011 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

At 7:00 pm, Mr. Canada opened the meeting and then moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue and a contractual issue. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:30 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to nature of the matters discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:38 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that he had \$1,341,694.35 in the general checking account.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

John Sapienza was present at the meeting and stated that he is at a standstill of installing the new sub-floor in the basement of the Historical Society building because the framing in that area was removed. He stated he will purchase the framing and install it and then complete the floor installation, but will need \$100 to purchase the lumber. Mr. Canada moved to provide a budget of \$100 so Mr. Sapienza can finish the floor work. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Sapienza also requested to be reimbursed for a beam that he purchased for \$51.89. Mr. Canada moved to reimburse Mr. Sapienza the \$51.89. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Fire Department: Chief Rob Cook was present at the meeting to clarify a bill for the pumping of the septic tank and the decon tank at the Firehouse. The bill was only \$625; not the original \$800 that was quoted previously.

Highway Department: Fred Hutton and Tim Slager were present at the meeting to update the Board on various projects and issues around Town. They discussed how to handle situations where residents cannot trim their brush and/or trees and they start to obstruct the roadway. Specifically, there was a complaint from a bus company. Mr. Hutton stated there is not too much the Town or State can do when the brush is on private property. The Board agreed that if they received a letter from the bus company regarding a visibility problem that is endangering the school bus, then they would be able to take action.

Mr. Hutton presented photos to the Board regarding a complaint from a resident saying the snowplow knocked over their mailbox. After some discussion, Mr. Copeland moved not to take any further action on this matter. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hutton stated they have the newly purchased pick up truck. There was a problem with the plow and it had to be brought in for a new pump assembly.

The group then discussed selling the old pick up truck. Mr. Canada moved to put it out to bid with the qualifier that all bids can be rejected. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hutton stated there has been a lot of brush at the Transfer Station. He would like to have it hauled away, which would cost approximately \$150-\$175 per load and there are approximately 5-6 loads. Mr. Federico moved to allow Mr. Hutton to have 6 loads of brush hauled away from the Transfer Station. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hutton stated there are still two drums of hazardous materials at the Highway Garage. It would cost \$723 for Enpro to come and take it away. Mr. Canada moved to allow Mr. Hutton to spend \$723 to have two drums of hazardous material removed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hutton announced that on his physician's advice, he will be retiring in July and presented a letter to the Board. Mr. Canada moved to accept Mr. Hutton's resignation as of July 1, 2012 with deep gratitude for his 28 plus years of service to the Town. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hutton stated that he would not be able to remove all of the stumps from behind the Municipal Center. He stated he has been working with Bell & Flynn on pricing out the parking lot replacement project and would get a price for that work as well.

The group discussed a misunderstanding on paving the area where the underground tank was removed from the Municipal lot. Mr. Deschaine stated that from a previous discussion, it was stated that the Town would be responsible for the paving, which meant to contact Bell & Flynn.

Mr. Hutton stated they have several large branches hanging over roads, at the Park and at the Historical Society. They would like to bring in a bucket truck to remove them. Mr. Canada moved to allow Mr. Hutton to hire a bucket truck for a day's worth of work. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hutton has not had time to put together the report on any incidents during the last three years involving vehicle or property damage, but will have something at his next meeting with the Board. The Board agreed that it should be a standard procedure when someone hits a mailbox during snowplow operations that they need to report it.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes for the 10/31/11 meeting. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The Board congratulated Bruce Cotter for being named NH Library Trustee of the Year.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the Fire Association's plans to have a Tree Lighting Ceremony to be held on Sunday, December 4th, at 4:30 pm. 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.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Mr. Canada stated he was approached by someone looking to rent the Municipal Center for a political event. Mr. Canada moved that the Town of Stratham adopt a policy to rent Town facilities in the normal manner, and being a political organization or function is not a prohibiting factor. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented the latest draft of the codification of the Town ordinances for their final posting to the Town website. There are just two items left to be researched for the project to be completed. The Board will review the draft and discuss further next week before posting.

At 9:01pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a contractual issue. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:19 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.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED:**

Parks & Recreation: Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities and started by updating the Board on field issues. He stated that the water has been shut off at Stevens Park. The soccer fields are still in need of overseeding and aeration. Mr. Hickey presented a proposal from Hillside Landscaping. Hillside will also repair one of the irrigation lines at the Babe Ruth Field. Mr. Hickey explained that he plans to fund this work with fees collected from Exeter Youth Soccer for use of the soccer fields this fall. Mr. Federico moved to allow Mr. Hickey to provide the overseeding of the soccer fields for the four pounds, one per 1,000 square foot, at \$1,490 out of the Recreation Revolving Account and then be reimbursed through the payment of fees by Exeter Youth Soccer. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Federico moved to allow Mr. Hickey to spend \$750 on the core aeration. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated that due to cracks and holes on the tennis court, it needed to be resurfaced. As a temporary solution, Mr. Hickey sealed the cracks with silicone caulking. He met with a contractor from Vermont Tennis Court Surfacing, who is the same company that installed that court. Mr. Hickey made the Board aware that he will be putting that into his budget for next year. The cost would be approximately \$5,000. Mr. Canada requested a second proposal.

Mr. Hickey informed the Board that he has received a number of complaints about loose dogs at the Stratham Hill Park. He advised the complainants to file police reports, which they did. The group will discuss this further when they meet to review the Park ordinance.

Mr. Hickey stated that there have been some incidents of minor vandalism recently at Stratham Hill Park.

Mr. Hickey reported they have done some clean up of tree branches at the Park after the storm last weekend. There was one treetop that needed to be addressed, but Highway has been made aware and would take care of it.

The group briefly discussed the possible purchase of a trail groomer for the Park.

Mr. Hickey reported that the Fire Tower has been painted. He made the Board aware of an incident where a Park patron climbed the Fire Tower when the paint was still wet. There were "wet paint" signs posted. Mr. Hickey will follow up on this matter.

Mr. Hickey stated he would like to hire the same Ski Program Coordinator from last year, Lisa Rohr, at a cost of \$1,750. Mr. Copeland moved to allow Mr. Hickey to pay Lisa Rohr a stipend as Ski Coordinator for \$1,750 to be paid out of the Revolving Fund. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey also presented a proposal for fertilizing at Stratham Hill Park for \$1,762. He does not have the money in his budget to cover it this year. He will look internally to see how he could get this done.

Mr. Hickey reported that soccer is done for the season and basketball is starting this week. He also stated that discussion has started about creating the skating rink at the Park this winter.

Mr. Hickey presented his report on activity enrollment to the Board for their review.

At 10:00 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