

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2011 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:04 pm, Mr. Canada opened the meeting and then moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:28 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 7:35 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Federico moved to approve the minutes as presented for the 11/07/11 meeting. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Federico then moved to approve the amended minutes from the special meeting on 11/08/11. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$1,337,159.57 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Assessing: Town Assessor Andrea Lewy was present at the meeting to report on the amendments to the previous MS-1. There was an \$870,100 increase. Mr. Deschaine stated there would be further work on this next year due to the telephone pole licensing agreements and adding those assessments. Mr. Canada moved to accept the amended MS-1 from Ms. Lewy and sign the documents. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy showed a pamphlet to the Board on a presentation they are doing on Elderly and Veteran exemptions.

Ms. Lewy also presented some information on House Bill 514 to the Board, which relates to the Town needing written permission/documentation from the property owner to do assessments.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief John Scippa did a presentation for the Board on behalf of the Health Insurance Study Committee. He started by thanking everyone that served on the Committee and then went into detail on their findings. Currently the Town uses Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Comp 100 health insurance for all eligible employees. The total cost for health care this fiscal year was \$542,209 with the total cost to the Town being \$427,462 and the employee \$114,744. If the Town stays with LGC and the Comp 100 plan for insurance, there would be a 19% cost increase. The Committee recommends transitioning to a more cost effective health insurance plan of Blue Cross/Blue Shield Blue Choice New Hampshire 3-tier plan while maintaining the same prescription rider. There is no change in the basic benefits and the cost reduction the Town

would see is due to the plan being more tightly managed by BC/BS. The total overall cost is \$552,415 for 2012, with the total cost to the Town being \$447,968 and the employee \$104,447. These figures are based on adjusting to an 80/20 split in the cost of the health care, which would bring the Town's compensation package more in line with other communities. The Board commended the Committee on their work and will review the information presented before making a final decision next week.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED:

Police Department: Mr. Scippa presented an updated draft of the Hawkers and Peddlers ordinance to the Board for their review. After some discussion, the Board suggested some additional amendments. Mr. Scippa will work with Mr. Deschaine on those amendments and resubmit the revised ordinance to the Board next week.

The group then discussed the updated version of the Memo of Understanding with the State Police for continued use of Stratham Hill. The Board is okay with the new MOU. Mr. Scippa will forward the final draft to the Board for their signatures. Regarding the MOU through the County, the Board is okay with that as well. Mr. Scippa will forward it to the Sheriff.

Mr. Scippa stated he requested a quote from Graham Tire for the purchase of snow tires for the police vehicles, but has not heard anything back. The Board agreed to go with Sullivan Tire.

Mr. Scippa stated he just recently received a letter from the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Forfeiture Asset Division, stating that the Stratham Police Department is entitled to a sum of money with regard to an investigation that they assisted the DEA with last year. The Town will receive 10% of the total take. Mr. Scippa completed all the required paperwork and he will report back to the Board once he finds out what the actual amount is.

Mr. Scippa reported they did collect one and a half boxes of prescription medications at the last Drug Take Back event. It is a very effective program.

The group discussed some recent dog problems at the Stratham Hill Park that were reported to the Police Department. Mr. Scippa stated that he did just today investigate a case where a cyclist was bitten by a loose dog in the area of the Gifford House. He made contact with the owner and advised her that she would be receiving a summons. Mr. Scippa will work directly with Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey and Park Ranger Kim Woods on this issue.

Mr. Scippa suggested that we adopt the fine structure for all Town ordinances adopted with recent changes in the parking and snow ban ordinances.

Mr. Canada moved to have Mr. Deschaine work with the Health Insurance Study Committee to look into long term and short term disability options. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Canada announced that the Tree Lighting Ceremony would be held on Sunday, December 4, 2011, at 4:30 pm. Parking will be available at Piper's Landing at 142 Portsmouth Ave.

MEETINGS: The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reviewed the meetings held this past week.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine updated the Board on the window installation project at the Municipal Center. It has been moving along very slowly. Mr. Deschaine presented a revised contract from A Touch of Glass for the Board's review.

The Board reviewed the codification (not the content) of the Town ordinances that will be posted to the website. Mr. Federico moved to place the newly revised Town ordinances on the Town website. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated he is still working on the Town audit and should have it completed tomorrow.

Mr. Deschaine stated the Ad Hoc Subcommittee is actively appraising and evaluating three properties and are in various stages of negotiation. They will follow up on this matter on December 19th.

Mr. Deschaine reported the removal of the underground storage tank at the Municipal Center has been completed. There was no contamination found and it is all paved, and the sludge from the tank was picked up today.

Mr. Deschaine stated the hydraulic pump on the Highway Department's 2003 mower failed and needs to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$700. Mr. Canada moved to authorize the Highway Department to spend \$700 to repair the 2003 mower. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine reported that the Highway Department has an applicant for an on-call driver. Her background was checked by the Police Department and everything seems okay. Mr. Canada moved to approve the hiring of Kelly Kern as an on-call driver for snowplow operations. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada inquired as to the status of making the Fair part of the Fire Department and Town audit. Mr. Deschaine has spoken with the auditor and there does not seem to be any major problems as long as the materials are submitted appropriately. He stated there is a pending document that Town counsel has regarding setting up a trust for the Fair and this will most likely be moving forward for the Attorney General's approval on that. The group will follow up on this matter on November 21st.

Mr. Canada stated that Mr. Hickey would be putting in a proposal to refinish the tennis courts, which will be in this year's budget proposal. He asked that Mr. Copeland and Mr. Federico look at the courts.

Mr. Canada shared with the Board a tax bill stuffer soliciting email addresses from residents. He will speak with the Town Clerk as to the printing specifications required.

Mr. Canada stated that Dan Crow from the Park Association expressed a concern on the timeline of the Stratham Hill Park regulations. The Association would like a chance to discuss the regulations at one of their regular meetings. Mr. Deschaine will bring the regulations back to the Board on December 12th for their approval, and then the Association can review them at their next meeting at the end of January. A public hearing could then be scheduled for the first week of February. The group then discussed how to handle people making reservations early next year and they would not be aware of the new regulations. It was agreed that for the limited amount of reservations at that time of year, each person would be contacted directly to inform them of the possible upcoming changes.

Mr. Deschaine stated the plaques for the Police and Fire Departments have been completed. Mr. Canada stated that Dan Crow would install the plaques at no charge to the Town, except for any material costs.

The group agreed to charge Town Planner Lincoln Daley with bringing something to the Board next week on the Town Center Committee, such as who should be appointed to that Committee, their charge, etc. Mr. Deschaine will discuss this with Mr. Daley.

At 9:40 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a contractual issue. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:04 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 10:04 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