

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2012 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:30 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$7,151,782.34 in the general checking account.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes from the regular meeting on 12/19/11 and the special meeting on 12/27/11. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Department: Fire Chief Rob Cook was present at the meeting and stated that the Fire Department handled 550 calls last year and presented the report to the Board.

Mr. Cook stated that there is a member who would like to attend an EMT class in Epping at a cost of \$800. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the Fire Department to spend up to \$800 for the EMT course in Epping. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Cook stated that two members would like to attend State Certification Fire Level I in Deerfield at a total cost of \$1,400. Mr. Copeland moved to allocate up to \$1,400 for two Firefighter I courses. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Assistant Chief Matt Larrabee presented information on the new proposed tanker. Glenn Davis, who is the dealer for the apparatus, was also present at the meeting to field any questions the Board may have. Mr. Larrabee stated they contacted five different manufacturers for pricing and the Department voted for the HME truck from Lakes Region Fire Apparatus, Inc. This is a demo truck with 1,500 miles on it and a 2007 emissions standard engine, which saves quite a bit of money. All the warranties are in place. The cost of the truck will be paid for with \$180,000 out of the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund, \$80,000 from the Fire Department Association, \$40,000 from a donation from a resident, and \$136,500 from the ambulance billing account for a total of \$436,500. The Board agreed that they would support this proposition when it goes to Town Meeting.

Mr. Cook stated that a non-refundable deposit of \$10,000 to hold the new tanker truck is required. The Fire Association will contribute \$5,000 if the Town contributes the other \$5,000 from the CRF fund. Mr. Copeland moved to allocate up to \$5,000 towards the \$10,000 deposit required for this tanker truck. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed 2-1.

The group discussed the purchase of portable radios for the Fire and Police Departments at a cost of anywhere from \$1,500 to \$3,500 per radio. The Board agreed that they would support

spending \$15,000 from the Radio Communications Capital Reserve Fund to purchase portable radios when it goes to Town Meeting.

Mr. Larrabee stated that since the FD CRF has an additional \$25,000 in it than they realized, they would like to add that to the \$180,000 from the CRF for the tanker truck and reduce the ambulance billing account by that amount. Since the Board was not in agreement, it will stay as originally presented.

The group then discussed the problems the Fire Department has had communicating with Exeter Hospital on the Zoll AEDs. Mr. Cook stated the system is not set up to telecommute information to Exeter Hospital at this point, which means the hospital cannot read what is presented on the Zoll simultaneously. The Board expressed their disappointment in this since that was one of the major selling points in purchasing the Zolls. Mr. Cook stated this is also due to Exeter Hospital not upgrading their equipment.

Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract, after review, for the tanker on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, with an exit clause in the contract should the Town voters not agree to it. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Police Department: Chief Scippa reported to the Board that after speaking with Lt. Walsh from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, that Two-Way Communications will begin the radio work this Thursday at the Stratham Hill Park Fire Tower.

Mr. Scippa stated he has spoken with the Highway Department and the Tax Collector and they are prepared to address any parking/traffic issues at the Municipal Center during tomorrow's election. He stated he has hired an extra officer to be posted at the Municipal Center. The Board agreed to post a sign on the barricades informing poll standers of the Town rules while they are standing in front of the Municipal Center.

Mr. Scippa stated there is some old equipment at the Highway shed, which he is working on having inventoried. He will present that inventory to the Board and then, with the Board's permission, will have the items posted for sale on propertyroom.com.

Mr. Scippa stated that he spoke with Lt. Walsh at the Sheriff's Office regarding the Memo of Understanding (MOU) from the County for the use of Stratham Hill. Lt. Walsh told him they are going to have the County Attorney review the MOU prior to signing.

The group discussed traffic surveillance cameras that have been installed in the area by the NH DOT.

Mr. Deschaine reported that he is working on getting the final draft of the Hawkers & Peddlers ordinance prepared. He stated it should be completed by January 23rd.

The group then discussed the Police Department leasing three new vehicles and other options available. The Board requested that Mr. Scippa put some pricing together for their review, including the cost of the Town buying the vehicles outright.

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:

Deb Chasse requested the use of the Park on June 9, 2012 for the annual Collie Rescue Picnic. Mr. Federico moved to approve the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Copeland seconded the request, which passed unanimously.

Roy Hume from the GE NH Association of Retirees requested the use of the Park on July 12, 2012 for their annual lobster bake. The request was approved.

Gloria Fichter requested the use of the Park on July 7, 2012 for a family reunion. The request was approved.

Emily Forgy requested the use of the Municipal Center on February 11, 2012 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Mark Hamel requested the use of the Park on June 3, 2012 for the annual Exeter Area Lions Bike Tour. Mr. Federico moved to approve the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Kelly Lemos from the NHSPCA requested the use of the Park on June 10, 2012 for the annual Paws Walk. Mr. Federico moved to approve the use and to waive the fee providing they go with the same conditions imposed at last year's event. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Richard Rugg requested the use of the Park on September 9, 2012 for an annual lobster bake. The request was approved.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine updated the Board on the status of the window installation project at the Municipal Center. There are two windows that still need to be installed and a lot of caulking that still needs to be done.

Mr. Deschaine stated he has an appointment on January 20th to meet with a representative from Comcast regarding the franchise renewal. He will update the Board on March 5th.

The group then discussed a business card proposal submitted by Executive Assistant Stacey Grella. After reviewing the proposal in detail, Mr. Copeland moved to rescind the previous directive where business cards were to be made in-house with the provision that the Town buy prudently in the future. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated that the cell phone reimbursement rates need to be renewed. He stated that as established last year, the employee would be reimbursed for half the cost. Because the IRS no longer considers these types of reimbursements as taxable income, Mr. Deschaine removed the taxable factoring that was included in the original calculation. Mr. Deschaine pointed out that it is an added burden for employees to submit their entire bill which will be subject to scrutiny for all their family members to determine what the per person cost is and then cap that at a rate that is half of that. Mr. Canada moved to adopt the rates as presented by Mr. Deschaine, but to ask each employee to turn in their cell phone bill once to be analyzed and assessed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

The group then reviewed the addendum to the Employee Manual regarding leave accruals for 2012 only. Mr. Canada moved to adopt the addendum to the Employee Manual as presented by Mr. Deschaine. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then discussed the members for the Town Center Committee. Resident Bob Goodrich, who was present at the meeting, said he was interested in serving on the Committee as an alternate. Mr. Federico moved to have the members serve one year terms for the first year. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada then moved to appoint David Canada (Selectmen's representative), David Short (business within the district representative), Rachel Ela (business outside the district representative), Colleen Lake (resident within the district representative), Tim Roache (resident outside the district representative), and Bob Goodrich as one of the three alternates to be appointed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board agreed to appoint Stacey Grella as the overseer of the Town's website to ensure all information is up to date.

At 9:59 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss contractual issues. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:11 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.

At 10:12 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There will no meeting on January 16th due to the Martin Luther King Day holiday.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant

Paul R. Deschaine
Town Administrator