

## **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2012 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

At 7:33 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Travis Thompson, Chairman of the Stratham School Board, and Melissa Mastin, representative from the Stratham Teacher's Association, were present at the meeting to discuss the proposed teacher's contract with the Board. Mr. Thompson credited the teachers with understanding that things needed to change from last year and being willing to make those changes. Mr. Thompson went over some of the highlights of the Warrant Articles for the Board. He stated the tentative contract with the teachers is unanimously supported by the School Board. The Board was happy with what was presented and also commended the teachers and the School Board for compromising on both sides and coming up with a good contract. Mr. Thompson then gave a brief overview of the budget and stated the total tax impact would be an increase of \$.34 cents.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Federico moved to approve the minutes as amended from the regular meeting on 1/30/12. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that he had \$5,749,112.26 in the general checking account.

### **OLD BUSINESS/PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mr. Canada opened the public hearing and third reading of proposed amendments to Ordinance 1-2005a regarding Stratham Hill Park Regulations. The Board agreed to waive the reading of the ordinance. Several members of the public were present, including those who spoke regarding Section 15(e) of the proposed ordinance: Kim Woods, Jordon Ambargis, Donna Jensen, Allison Knab, Anne Kimball, Howard Altschiller, Travis Thompson, Blake Palmer, Pat Kelley, and Dan Crow. After many public comments, Mr. Canada closed the public hearing at 8:44 pm. After some discussion among the Board, Mr. Canada moved to have this issue be made into a Warrant Article and brought to Town Meeting next month to have the voters decide if they want to allow hunting at the Park or not. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

Mark Hamel was present at the meeting to discuss the logistics of the previously approved Exeter Area Lions Club Bike Tour event scheduled for June 3, 2012 at the Park. The Board advised Mr. Hamel that he will need to check with the Park Ranger and the Parks Director as far as the placement of a sign or banner in front of the Park.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Highway: Fred Hutton was present at the meeting to update the Board on his Department's activities. He stated they are very happy with the new lights that have been installed in the shop, and is looking forward to seeing future bills to compare the costs to last year.

Mr. Hutton stated that since there has not been a lot of snow, they have been doing a lot of road patching and cutting road side brush. Next month, they will be doing the inspections on the Town vehicles.

Mr. Hutton stated they are looking into purchasing some pallet racks so they can store recreation and police items in the pole barn to free up some floor space. Recreation Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting and stated that the Gifford Barn is fairly empty, however, it is much easier to store the items at the Highway barn since most of the items are used at Stevens Field. Mr. Hutton will update the Board with pricing information for the racks.

Mr. Federico stated he has noticed some areas where the road shoulders are all rutted out and inquired as to having the State come in to repair them. Mr. Hutton stated he called them a couple weeks ago and they stated as soon as they got the frost out of the gravel pile, they could do that. He will follow up on this matter with the State.

Mr. Federico then inquired as to the status of installing the signs at the major intersections of streets leading into Town. Mr. Hutton stated he has ordered some of the signs already.

Mr. Canada stated that several residents on Stratham Heights Road have expressed concerns regarding the poor drainage going east to west on that road. He requested that Mr. Hutton talk with Bell and Flynn to see what, if anything, could be done. Mr. Hutton and Mr. Canada will meet to take a look at it.

Mr. Deschaine expressed a concern that someone at Highway is yet to be certified to operate underground storage tanks and the deadline is in August. Mr. Hutton said they are on the list for training, but was told that the State is not going to make the August deadline to have certified operators for all tanks.

Parks & Recreation: Mr. Hickey updated the Board on his Department's activities. Stevens Park has been closed for the season. They are working on getting some fertilizing pricing for 2012 and should have that information available for the Board next month. The pricing will include Stratham Hill Park, Stevens Park, Police Department, Firehouse, cemeteries, and Historical Society.

Mr. Hickey stated they started the construction of the building at the Babe Ruth Field, which will be a concession/storage facility. They are making good progress and Mr. Hickey will ask the Highway Department to smooth over the ruts in the road that were made during the delivering of the materials for the building.

Mr. Hickey stated he has been talking with the Softball Board as far as what the plans are to make the softball field a usable space, but he is waiting for a definitive reply from them on what their intentions are.

Mr. Hickey stated he has spoken to the Building Inspector about doing an inspection of the newly installed kick wall. He is waiting to hear back on that.

Mr. Hickey reported that skating, skiing and snowshoeing have not been happening this year due to the lack of snow. The Winter Whiteout event had to be postponed indefinitely.

He stated he had been approached by the Baseball Board about the Fair's usage of the fields. Baseball had an opportunity to host a tournament, but it would have conflicted with the current fair schedule and they are going to hold off on the tournament. He expressed concerns as far as the Fair set up hindering the baseball season. Mr. Hickey will be attending the next Fair Committee meeting to discuss this matter.

Mr. Hickey updated the Board on current programming, upcoming events, and youth sports.

Mr. Federico requested that the sign at the Firehouse be changed/updated.

The group discussed repairs that need to be done to the Gifford Barn flooring because it is unsafe and needs to be repaired. Mr. Hickey will take care of this matter.

**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:

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

Stephen York requested the use of the Park on June 16, 2012 for a wedding. The request was approved.

Sandy Rowe requested the use of the Municipal Center on March 10, 2012 for a birthday party, along with an alcohol waiver. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the use and the alcohol waiver. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Billy-Jo Rawson requested the use of the Park on May 5, 2012 for a birthday party and requested to erect a tent next to the Pavilion. Mr. Federico moved to approve the request, but to deny the request for the tent due to it being near the leach field. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Mr. Deschaine stated the only update he had on the window installation is that Town Planner, Lincoln Daley learned that, as part of the grant requirements, the project is supposed to be completed by March. Mr. Copeland moved to have Mr. Deschaine send the contractor a demand letter stating that the Town will terminate the contract within the next two weeks if he doesn't perform. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group discussed the Town's position on House Bill 1561 regarding disbanding all of the regional planning commissions. The Planning Board took position regarding this matter and noted that perhaps the Selectmen would like to as well. Mr. Federico moved to have Mr. Deschaine draft a letter on behalf of the Selectmen opposing HB 1561. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine reported that the Health Insurance Study Committee has been meeting regularly and researching life and short/long term disability insurance programs. The Committee is close to making a proposal and will update the Board on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

The group then reviewed and updated the Board's priority list.

The group then discussed drafting a Warrant Article regarding the Stratham Hill Park Regulations, specifically Section 15(e) regarding hunting. The Board agreed with the wording, "To see if the Town will direct the Board of Selectmen to prohibit hunting in Stratham Hill Park and adjacent Town owned lands" for the Warrant Article. Mr. Canada then moved to adopt Ordinance 1-2005a, Stratham Hill Park and Adjacent Town-Owned Property Facility Reservation and Use Ordinance as amended over the last three public hearings. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then reviewed and discussed the adoption of the Welfare Guidelines. Mr. Copeland moved to adopt the Welfare Guidelines as amended. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board then signed the document.

At 10:09 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss land acquisition items. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 11:03 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 11:04 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