

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2012 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:31 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Canada started the meeting by acknowledging the tragic events in Greenland and expressed condolences to the Greenland community and to the Maloney family on behalf of the Board. There was then a moment of silence. The Board also wanted to thank every police officer who is protecting our lives and property day and night.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$2,747,613.87 in the general checking account.

NEW BUSINESS:

Simon Thomson from Senator Kelly Ayotte's office was present at the meeting to discuss federal government issues. Mr. Thomson introduced himself to the Board as a point of contact for Senator Ayotte and said he would take back any concerns that the Town may or may not have to the Senator's office. Mr. Copeland asked if Senator Ayotte's office would be reaching out to Chief Maloney's family with regards to the federal law enforcement program for officers killed in the line of duty. Mr. Thomson responded that yes, the former Goffstown Chief of Police and a former U.S. Marshal are on Senator Ayotte's staff and they are doing everything they can for the Maloney family on behalf of the Senator.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PLANNING: Town Planner Lincoln Daley updated the Board on current and future Planning Board applications.

Mr. Daley reported that the RPC Exeter/Stratham Regional Water and Wastewater study is continuing and they will be holding a workshop on April 19th. This workshop is to further discuss the scope and the progress to date for the combined study. The study should be completed by June or July of this year.

Mr. Daley then updated the Board on the completion of the As-Built Plan for Phase I of the Crockett Hill Farms subdivision. A contract has been signed with Cammett Engineering and they are scheduled to complete the project in May of this year.

Mr. Daley reported that they are in the final stages of completing the punch list on the window replacement project at the Municipal Center. There are two minor items that are still remaining. The final payment has been issued for the project.

Mr. Daley updated the Board on the progress of the Nissan Auto Fair project on Portsmouth Ave. He stated he conducted a site visit and they are good with all of their construction efforts.

Mr. Daley stated that regarding the tracking of offsite improvement funds and performance bonds, he just needs to coordinate time with Mr. Deschaine to clarify some of the information. They have identified all of the accounts, but they just need to add the historical background so it would be understood for what purpose the bond was created.

Mr. Daley also stated that although the Town did not receive the grant money to complete the inventory of Town storm water infrastructure, there is an opportunity to work with UNH college students to conduct a similar project at no cost to the Town. He will be pursuing this and follow up with the Board.

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 he is going to bring his Town car back to the garage to have them look at it again because of an issue with the recent brake replacement.

Mr. Barnes stated that the Town will be taking enforcement on action on removing a shed/barn at 132 Union Road if they do not submit an application to the ZBA by this Wednesday. Mr. Daley stated this has been an ongoing issue where the applicant opened up a horse riding facility and also boards horses without a special exception from the Town. They also built three permanent stalls within the wetlands area on the property without review or a building permit. They need to provide the Town with a survey plan of the property, apply to the ZBA for a special exception for the business, and apply for a building permit. Mr. Barnes stated they have received complaints from neighbors about the smell.

Mr. Daley updated the Board on the Daigle property situation. They conducted a site visit and were made aware that the home occupation has been moved to a different town. They will continue to monitor the activity on the property. Mr. Deschaine stated the owner and his counsel promised to submit a letter to the Town indicating which pieces of equipment were on site and for what purpose and for what duration.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jamie Payne, Bill Grace, Michael Perfit and Nate Merrill, Stratham members of the Exeter Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee, were present at the meeting to discuss some of the Town's concerns with a letter that has been drafted regarding the policy position of the Committee in regards to nitrogen levels permitted in new EPA approvals. Mr. Deschaine stated that due to the letter being edited by so many different people, it was evident that the position was unclear to the Committee members and continued email discussion in that fashion was a clear violation of RSA 91:A. Mr. Canada expressed his concern that the Committee is turning into an advocacy group supporting the Conservation Law Foundation contrary to the good of various area towns including Stratham. The Town does not agree that this issue has been properly vetted. Mr. Merrill stated he agreed with the Board and refused to sign the letter. He stated they will discuss this at their next meeting, so the email chain has ceased. Mr. Perfit stated he agreed with Mr. Merrill. He stated it is important to get information out about the river, but

the information needs to be factual. Mr. Grace apologized for the series of emails and reiterated that they have stopped and they will discuss this at their next meeting. Mr. Payne explained the intention of the letter. After some further discussion, the Board thanked the members for their time.

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:

Jodi MacBride from the Swazey School requested the use of the Park on June 7, 2012 for a school picnic. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated he was contacted by the Municipal Bond Bank regarding their June bond sale. He stated it would be possible, but extremely difficult to dedicate the time to get an impending bond proposal prepared in time. There will be another bond sale this fall. The Board agreed that it would be very difficult and there was no immediate need at this time.

Mr. Deschaine stated the new computers for the Police Department and the Executive Assistant have been purchased and IT is working on configuring them. He stated that while configuring the new accounting software, it was found that the Treasurer's computer would not meet the specifications required to use it. He also stated that Mr. Hickey's computer would be next in line for replacement because his system runs extremely slow. Since Mr. Hickey's computer is compliant with the new accounting system, the idea is to purchase a new computer for Mr. Hickey and then have the Treasurer use Mr. Hickey's computer. Mr. Deschaine also stated that IT would also need a new separate work station in order to test configurations rather than doing it on the server. Mr. Deschaine then presented a proposal to purchase two new computers. Mr. Canada moved to allow the purchase of two new computers at a cost of up to \$1,400 out of the CIP. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then discussed paving projects for 2012. Mr. Deschaine presented materials to the Board for their review. Bell & Flynn has offered to hold all paving expenses to last year's rates with the exception of the materials, which are based on the State bid. Bell & Flynn recommended paving Williams Circle, Pinewood Drive, Apple Way, and Orchard Hill immediately to take advantage of the current price index before it goes up on May 15th. The concern is that Stratham Heights Road is more of a priority. Mr. Deschaine reported that \$15,000 was originally estimated for the drainage work on Stratham Heights Road. Mr. Hutton already has a lot of materials in stock that would lower the cost possibly by half. With the paving estimates totaling \$345,000, Mr. Hutton had stated that he will be about \$5,000 to \$8,000 under the total paving and reconstruction budgets. There was concern with further increases impacting the Stratham Heights Road work. Each dollar increase in the price of material adds

about \$4000 to the total job. After further discussion, it was concluded that, if paving money runs short, there are flex points which can be utilized to compensate. Mr. Canada moved to proceed immediately with the re-paving project of Williams Circle, Pinewood Drive, Apple Way, and Orchard Hill. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then discussed the Highway Agent recruitment process. Mr. Deschaine presented a couple of job description examples for the Board's review. The Board agreed to wait two weeks to discuss the details further. Mr. Deschaine will have a draft ready for their review at that time.

The group discussed the changes to the Employee Manual, specifically to the accrued time. Mr. Deschaine stated they do not need to schedule public hearings for that. The Board will enact the changes to the Employee Manual on April 30th.

The Board then discussed and updated their priority list.

Mr. Canada stated he received an email from Mel McGrail that she received a \$200 grant to fix up the gardens next to the stage at the Park. Mr. Canada moved to allow Ms. McGrail to rework the gardens as outlined with the exception of taking the flag pole down. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:22 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a matter that could affect the reputation of another, not a member of the Board. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:03 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 10:04 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant

Reviewed by,

Paul R. Deschaine
Town Administrator