

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2012 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 6:40 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 7:32 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$1,290,523.50 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Asst. Chief Matt Larrabee was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. He stated that one of the active members, John Nichols, has requested to attend Firefighter I training at a cost of \$550. Mr. Federico moved to allow Mr. Nichols to attend Firefighter I training. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Larrabee then stated that Exeter Hospital ALS (Advanced Life Support) is going to be changing how they are billing services as of July 1st. They intend to bill the Town \$25 for any call which does not result in a transport, thereby recouping the cost of their call. Previously, they billed the patient directly. The Board was extremely skeptical of this plan and questioned if Stratham should participate in this program. Mr. Larrabee will be attending a meeting regarding this matter this Thursday to get further information.

Mr. Larrabee stated they are attending a meeting regarding the upcoming golf tournament at the Golf Club of New England this week. They require ambulance coverage, which may be provided by a split between Greenland and Stratham on a fee basis.

Mr. Larrabee stated there are 8-10 active EMTs who are interested in attending the EMS conference this year. Mr. Copeland expressed a concern about sending people to a conference who have not justified the expense by being active in the Department this year. Mr. Larrabee stated that activity level is a factor in approving attendance and that all the applicants are justified in attending the conference. The method of payment for hotel rooms was also discussed. After some review of the billing process from last year and the concerns the Board had with that process, Mr. Canada moved to allow the Fire Department to coordinate with Bookkeeper Valerie Kemp to reserve the hotel rooms using the Town's credit card and in confirming correct billing and attendance. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board reminded Mr. Larrabee that they are waiting for the specs on the current tanker and also a list of people interested in purchasing the tanker from Chief Cook.

NEW BUSINESS:

Amanda Phelps was present at the meeting to discuss her concern regarding the continued rental of the Park Ranger house. She stated she is moving out on September 1st and would like to keep her rent at the current rate until that time. She stated this gives the Board plenty of time to find another tenant who would sign a lease for a year, and she actually has someone already interested. The interested party was present at the meeting and could give the Board a definite answer within the week. The Board agreed to have Ms. Phelps pay the \$800 for the next two months.

Jon Tymann was present at the meeting to request a raffle permit to raise funds to finish the Babe Ruth snack shack. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the raffle permit application. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Town Clerk Joyce Charbonneau was present at the meeting to discuss the issuance of the 2012 Dog Warrant for unlicensed dogs. Currently, there are 174 dogs that have not been licensed out of 1,400 dogs. She stated she has forwarded the list to the Police Chief and they will be sending out the Civil Forfeitures on July 1st.

The Wiggin Memorial Library requested a raffle permit be issued. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the raffle permit application. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED:

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief John Scippa was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. He stated that five portable radios through the grant that the Board reviewed at their last meeting have been ordered, at a total value of \$16,161.20. Mr. Deschaine will post the public hearing required to accept a grant over \$5000.

Mr. Scippa stated one of the air conditioning units has not been working at the Police Station. He is working with Dowling now to see if the unit is still under warranty and/or what costs are involved to repair it.

Mr. Scippa stated that two officers will be attending a Mountain Bike Operator school in Hampton in the next couple of weeks. The Police Department already has two mountain bikes outfitted and ready to go. He intends to deploy these officers on the bicycles through Stratham Hill Park and the shopping districts during their regular shifts when there is double coverage.

Mr. Scippa reported that republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney will be at the Scamman Farm on Friday. He is working with Mr. Romney's office and the Secret Service to make sure there is proper police coverage for both the event and the rest of the Town during the event. They are estimating that more than 2,000 people may be attending.

Mr. Scippa stated they experienced a major computer crash last Friday and was informed that the server needs to be replaced soon. There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow to discuss these issues in further detail.

Mr. Scippa then requested to use vacation time from June 25th through the 30th and July 30th to August 4th. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the request. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then discussed the proposed trail agreement between the Town and various local land owners. The Board would like to be able to enforce a no motorized vehicle provision in the draft agreement. Mr. Scippa stated he spoke with Police Prosecutor Bill Hart regarding this and they both felt that if the property owner allows the Town to allow public access, that there is some degree of inference that the property owner can also allow the Town to create and enforce an ordinance on that property. He stated that the question remains on whether or not a property owner can allow the Town to enforce an ordinance on private property. Town Planner Lincoln Daley was also present at the meeting and stated an agreement that would include an easement may be necessary. This would allow the Town to access and maintain that trail as defined by the Memo of Understanding (MOU). The group will continue to work on this matter.

The group discussed Stratham Police patrolling Route 101. Mr. Scippa is in agreement with the Board that the police should not be routinely patrolling or conducting traffic surveillance on Route 101. Stratham will respond if there is any kind of call in the Route 101 area, such as looking for and intercepting a stolen vehicle. Mr. Scippa will relay to his Department that Route 101 is not a primary function and to concentrate efforts within the neighborhoods, the Parks and the business district.

At 8:27 pm, Mr. Copeland moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue with Mr. Scippa. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:45 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.

Resident Colleen Lake stepped into the meeting briefly to express her gratitude to the Board for supporting the designation of the Town Center area and signage.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED:

PLANNING: Mr. Daley presented the cost breakdown from Sign of the Times for the four signs for the Town Center District. He stated each sign will be a 26" x 44" hanging sign and will cost \$1,250. The sign will be affixed to a 10' tall granite column with a hanging bracket. The brackets are \$250 each and the granite columns are \$100 each. The total cost, including the actual sign, is \$8,000. Mr. Canada expressed a concern with the expense of using gold leaf on the sign lettering as opposed to brass or some other alternative. Mr. Daley stated the signs will be installed by the Highway Department. The Board agreed they would like to change the date on the sign to 1716, which is when the Town was incorporated. Mr. Canada moved to reduce the amount authorized to \$6,400 by dropping the hanging sign cost to \$3,400, reflecting the cost

with carved and painted letters as opposed to gold leaf letters, and to move forward with paying the 50% deposit required. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Daley stated he will also be looking into what kind of warranty is offered with the signs.

Mr. Daley then presented a planning grant application for the NH Community Planning Program. He stated the grant provides matching funds to foster sustainable community development and implement more statewide research. The deadline to apply for the grant is this Friday. Mr. Daley has been working with the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) to apply for a grant that would build upon the Planning Board's and Town Center Committee's initiative to examine form-based code for the Town Center District. He stated that the project would be for approximately \$22,000. With the grant, the Town would be responsible for 25% of that \$22,000. Of that 25%, the Town is responsible for a cash contribution of 25% of that 25%, which equals no more than \$2,000 ($\$22,000 \times 25\% = \$5,500 \times 25\% = \$1,375$ cash contribution from Town). The balance could be from "in kind" expenditures. Mr. Daley requested the Board's support to submit this grant application to the State and to sign the letter of support. Mr. Copeland moved to have Mr. Daley apply for the grant with a cash contribution of up to \$2,000 if the grant is awarded, and to authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then discussed the lot at 17 Doe Run Lane, which the Town now owns due to a tax deeding, and whether or not there is any value in development potential. Mr. Daley will research the property to see if it is a buildable lot and report back to the Board next month.

The Board decided to not hold their weekly meeting on July 2nd due to the holiday that week.

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:

Alicia Day requested the use of the Park on July 7, 2012 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Tom Haslam requested the use of the Park on June 15, 2012 for a Troop 185 campout. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine presented a price quote from the Rehrig Pacific Company to purchase 403 recycling bins for the Town at a total cost of \$3,995.25. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Mr. Deschaine to purchase the bins at a cost not to exceed \$4,000. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented an invoice from the 300th Anniversary Committee for additional embroidered items for a total of \$761. There has been a bit of confusion about coming to the Board prior to expending anything over \$500. Since the 300th Committee is using the Historic Commission's revolving fund as an operating account, the Board agreed to allow the Heritage Commission, as the fund's agents, to have oversight over purchases made by the 300th Anniversary Committee from this account. Mr. Canada will mention this at the next Heritage Commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board reviewed an application from April Mason to be appointed to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the application for Ms. Mason to serve as an alternate member on the Recreation Commission for a three year term. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then reviewed and discussed the addendum to the Employee Manual regarding sick leave and insurances. Mr. Federico moved to approve Addendum B to the Employee Manual dated December 19, 2011. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Board then signed the amended document.

The group briefly discussed repairs that need to be made at the Foss property at 28 Bunker Hill Ave.

The group discussed the possibility of implementing a gainsharing system where Town employees can receive a bonus/incentive through their involvement and participation with projects or ideas that save the Town money. Mr. Deschaine will look into this further and report back to the Board next month.

Mr. Canada inquired as to planning some sort of gathering for Mr. Hutton, who is retiring at the end of this month. The Board agreed to get him a clock and have the event at Jade Palace and have the employees pay for their own meals.

At 9:52 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