

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

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

At 7:05 pm, Mr. Canada opened the meeting and then moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:38 pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the matters discussed. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Federico moved to approve the minutes as amended from the regular meeting on 06/25/12. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$10,104,744.87 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HIGHWAY: Foreman Al Williams was present at the meeting to update the Board on his Department's activities. He stated that the paving of Stratham Heights Road has been completed, except for the line striping. He stated that Bell & Flynn will be paving around the school off Guinea Road. They will make a cut at the entrance to The Vineyards and then go around the school, which will leave a 400 foot section from the Vineyards entrance to Guinea Road. The estimated cost for paving this section, with the shoulders being done, would be between \$10,800 to \$11,800. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize Mr. Canada to make a decision based on his findings when he visits the area with Mr. Williams tomorrow morning. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Williams stated he received a quote from Markings, Inc. for painting all the yellow lines in Town. Mr. Canada moved to approve the expenditure to have all the yellow lines done in Town by Markings, Inc. at a cost of \$5,048. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Williams stated his Department continues to work on the cemeteries and road side mowing. Regarding stop bars at intersections, Mr. Williams stated there are a few in Town that need to be done. He stated that there is a new product out by 3M that is "plow friendly", really sticks to the road, and has reflectivity in it. The company installed two, at no charge to the Town, for a trial. The Town currently uses latex bars and they need to be repainted every year. 3M indicates a life expectancy of 5-8 years and has quoted a price of \$300 for an eight inch by thirty yard roll. The Board agreed to have the newly hired Highway Agent research this further and put together a cost and durability analysis.

Mr. Federico inquired about directional/street signs at all the major intersections in Town. The Board stated that money was set aside in the budget, so it does need to be done this year. Mr. Williams will look into this matter further.

Mr. Williams stated that he will discuss the stump removal project behind the Municipal Center with the new Highway Agent.

The Board requested that Mr. Williams get a list of people involved with the Fair who are authorized and qualified to use Town heavy equipment such as the Highway Department's loader..

The group discussed some trees by 39 and 41 High Street that need to come down due to being a hazard to the electrical system. Mr. Williams is familiar with the trees and stated they need to be addressed with a bucket truck. The Board was in agreement that the trees were not the Town's responsibility, and to have Mr. Deschaine contact Unutil to take the trees down.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Dold was present to discuss the status of the newly formed Energy Commission and to present the Committee's mission statement to the Board. Mr. Federico will serve on the Committee as a non-voting, occasional member. Mr. Dold stated he would like to see someone from the School District serve as well. Mr. Copeland moved to appoint residents John Dold (3 year term), James Schlough (2 year term), Michael Welty (3 year term), Michael Gorman (1 year term), and Matt O'Keefe (2 year term) to the Energy Commission, and to also appoint John Dold as the Chair of the Commission. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Copeland then moved to accept the mission statement as presented. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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:

Heather Prouty requested the use of the Park on July 25, 2012 for a Comcast Summer Outing. The request was approved.

Seth Hickey requested the use of the Municipal Center on July 28, 2012 for a birthday party. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Geri Denton requested the use of the Park on October 20, 2012 for a Cub Scout camp out. Mr. Federico moved to approve the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Sharon Anderson requested to use the Park on August 25, 2012 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

ADMINISTRATION:

The group discussed the disposal of the old fire tanker and reviewed sample bid specifications presented by Mr. Deschaine. The Board agreed to add that the bidders contact Executive Assistant Stacey Grella to set up an appointment to view the tanker. The group agreed to allow two weeks for people to view the tanker, and then an additional two weeks for them to respond with a sealed bid, which will be opened on August 13th.

The group then discussed a draft proposal outlining Fire Department detail charges to be \$17 per hour for personnel, plus \$7 for an administrative fee, plus a \$10 charge if a vehicle is used. Chief Cook had requested to waive the \$10 vehicle fee for the upcoming golf club event. The Board agreed that a policy needs to be developed. Mr. Canada moved to waive the \$10 ambulance portion of the fee and set the detail pay at \$24 for this one event at the Golf Club of New England. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated that regarding the lawsuit challenging the Planning Board's approval for the 70 Winnicutt Road subdivision, the Town has not been formally served with the lawsuit. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize Mr. Deschaine to discuss this matter with Town Counsel, Abby Sykas. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented a letter to DOT regarding Town Center signs that was drafted by Town Planner Lincoln Daley. The letter explains why the Town is putting the signs up, and where they are going, along with accepting liability for their placement and maintenance. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize Mr. Deschaine to notify the DOT that the Town accepts liability for the placement and maintenance of the signs via this letter. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine updated the Board on the landowner Memo of Understanding for trails at the Park. He stated he met with Seth Hickey, John Scippa, Bill Hart, and Lincoln Daley today to try to determine how to approach motor vehicle access to the trails. The best option seemed to be to treat the agreement as a lease agreement and within the lease reference an ordinance related to Stratham Hill Park and its trails. However, this is a tricky option because we do not necessarily want those same prohibitions applied to the trail system, and it would be very difficult to not prohibit the landowner's own use of an ATV on the trails. Mr. Deschaine stated the group would like to meet with the Board next week to discuss this matter more thoroughly.

Mr. Deschaine stated that Chief Cook wanted to make the Board's aware that they are having 2-Way Communications review/repair the radios that they currently have to make sure they are FFC compliant by the end of the year. Mr. Cook anticipates the expenditure to be over \$500, but does not have an exact amount at this time. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the expenditure to 2-Way Communications. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated he has not had time to work on the landfill closure monitoring RFP due to other priorities and requested to report back on August 6th.

Mr. Deschaine stated that also due to recent priorities, he has not had time to review the redraft of the Comcast franchise agreement, and will report back to the Board on July 30th.

Mr. Deschaine then presented a raffle permit request from the Library. Since they are raffling off wine, Mr. Copeland had asked the responsible party to contact the Liquor Commission, which they did. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented a fireworks permit request from the Stratham Fair. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated that resident Joanne Lyons wrote to the Board regarding not qualifying for the elderly tax exemption. He then presented a letter that he drafted for the other Board members to review.

The group then discussed two potential tenants for the Gifford House. Each prospective tenant has proposed a multi-year lease. The lease agreement will reflect that the lease may be terminated at the end of each year to comply with the Board's limitation of leasing authority. The Board agreed that it would ask Town Meeting voters to grant authority to lease for terms up to 5 years, pursuant to State Law. Without voters' approval, the limit of authority is currently 1 year. Mr. Copeland moved to rent the Gifford House to Kelly Downs for \$2,100 per month. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed 2-1.

The Board then discussed the Ranger residence, which will be vacant as of September. Mr. Copeland moved to allow real estate agent May Youngclaus to show the property. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board had no objection to Mr. Canada taking wood chips and compost/grass clippings from the Town's supply at the landfill.

At 9:32 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a contractual issue. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:13pm, Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the matters discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Lastly, Mr. Canada moved to allow the Selectmen and the Town Administrator to park in the front parking lot during the Stratham Fair. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:15 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