

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2012 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:10 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 7:31 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. Copeland 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. Copeland moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on 9/17/12 as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$4,176,020.94 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HIGHWAY: Road Agent Colin Laverty was present at the meeting to discuss the sale of the old sander. He stated one option would be to try and sell it privately, another would be to take it to auction, and another would be to take it to H.P. Fairfield where they would take it on consignment and sell it for the Town. Mr. Copeland moved to approve Mr. Laverty's request to sell the old sander privately. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Laverty stated that he met with John Law regarding removing the boulders from the Gifford hayfields. He stated he does not think that removing the stones with the Town's backhoe would be plausible because it would take a lot of time and put a lot of stress on the machine. He stated to rent a 40,000-pound machine to do the work would cost \$400 per day. Mr. Laverty stated he would like to finish the water line work at the ice rink as well, and believes he would need the machine for two or three days. He also stated once the boulders are removed, he will place them around the main parking lot at the Stratham Hill Park after the lot is redone next year. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the expenditure of \$1,200 for the three-day use of the excavator to do both projects, the funds to be used from the administrative fees collected for Park use. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Canada stated the Town received a check from the Stevens family to cover the cost to repair the memorial bench at the Park that they had donated in their son's memory. The Board agreed that they had accepted the family's original donation of the bench and further accepted the Town's responsibility to maintain the bench. Mr. Canada will contact the family and gently decline their generous offer.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED:

ASSESSING: Assessor Andrea Lewy was present at the meeting and presented a Veteran Credit application. Mr. Canada moved to approve the Veteran Credit application for Brian Novak as recommended by Ms. Lewy. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy then presented the MS-1 report for the Board's signature. She stated the total gross valuation before exemptions is \$1,215,308,856, and the net valuation on which the tax rate is set is \$1,211,745,056. Mr. Canada moved that the Board approve and sign the MS-1 report as presented by Ms. Lewy. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy then updated the Board on current cases before the Board of Land and Tax Appeals (BTLA).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Canada announced the Household Hazardous Waste Collection is scheduled for Saturday, October 6th, from 8:30 am to 10:30 am, at the Exeter Public Works facility on Newfields Road.

Mr. Canada then stated that there has been a public health threat declaration for West Nile Virus.

MEETINGS: The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reviewed the meetings held this past week.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated that the Conservation Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) was in place and the Town had the funds as of last week to pay the amounts associated with the Jones easement closing. Mr. Deschaine stated he reached out to the NH Bond Bank and learned that the next bond sale will now be happening in January and the application date is potentially extended to October 12th. He stated that when both outstanding BANs come due at the end of this year, there will be an interest cost of \$29,393.61 and there is only \$26,876.00 remaining in the interest line item. Mr. Deschaine spoke with Citizen's Bank regarding changing the terms of the BAN and extending it. Citizen's Bank has no problem with rolling the BAN's over the extra month. He stated the other alternative is for the Town to find a fiscal agent to create the notice of sale and manage the sale on the bond markets. The Board agreed to have Mr. Deschaine do further research on the Bond Bank option.

Mr. Deschaine stated he does not have an update on the Comcast franchise agreement for the Board at this time due to other priorities. He will report on this again on November 5th.

The group then discussed a better location for the Stevens memorial bench since it has been damaged several times due to vandalism at the Park. Mr. Copeland will talk with the Library and the Historical Society and see what their thoughts are.

Mr. Deschaine stated the lease on the current postal machine is expiring at the end of this month and presented several proposals for the Board's review. After some discussion, Mr. Canada

moved to have Mr. Deschaine budget for a new machine and bring before the Budget Committee for next year, and in the interim, continue to use the current machine with a service contract not to exceed one year. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated that volunteers are needed to participate in the Household Hazardous Waste program on October 6th. If anyone is able to volunteer, please contact Cliff Sinnott at the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Mr. Canada moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Jones easement extension. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated he has reviewed the draft audit. It appears as though the unencumbered fund balance will be in the vicinity of \$1.6 million. He will bring the MS-4 for the Board's review next week.

Mr. Copeland stated that three police officers took part in a promotional process at the Police Department. He stated that Officer Greg Jordan will be promoted to the rank of Corporal effective October 1st.

At 8:56 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