

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2012 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$3,719,334.63 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Agent Colin Lavery was present at the meeting to present a list of candidates to assist with snow plowing this winter. Mr. Copeland moved to accept Mr. Lavery's recommendations as presented. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Federico moved to approve the amended minutes from the regular meeting on 10/1/12, and the minutes from the regular meeting on 10/15/12 as presented. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED:

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

Mr. Daley stated the Town Center Revitalization Committee is currently working on the installation of the four historic signs delineating the boundaries of the Town Center District. He stated that three of the four signs will be installed this Thursday. At this time, they are still working with one property owner to approve the location of the fourth sign.

Mr. Daley stated the Economic Development Committee has gone before the Planning Board with the amendments to the sign ordinance for the Gateway District and the Town Center area. It has been reviewed and is still in draft form at this time. Mr. Daley stated that the EDC will be working with the Town Center Committee to reach out to property owners in the Town Center area to better understand their concerns.

Mr. Daley stated the Planning Board Stormwater Subcommittee continues to review the Town's Land Use Regulations and Zoning Ordinance for possible amendments for the 2013 Town Meeting.

Mr. Daley stated his report on Offsite Improvement Funds and Performance Bonds is still ongoing. Accounting has completed inputting the accounts into the new accounting software. Mr. Daley will update the Board at next month's meeting.

Mr. Daley stated that test pits will be dug and examined at the Town-owned property at 17 Doe Run Lane on October 25th. The results are expected to be in some time in November and will be used to help determine the possible uses of the property.

Mr. Daley stated that developers have been working with Bell & Flynn to complete the roadways of Heron Way and Chisholm Farms. Heron Way will be completed this week and Chisholm Farms will be completed by the end of this month.

Mr. Daley stated that the trail maps have been completed for Stratham Hill Park and the privately owned properties that surround the Park and the Town Forest. The areas will be posted next week.

The group discussed a matter before the Planning Board where a property owner is seeking to rezone a small piece of property on Emery Lane from residential/agricultural to professional/residential. The Planning Board has endorsed the proposal and will submit an ordinance change to the voters next March.

Mr. Deschaine stated that he spoke with Tim Mason and the new road that is being built off of High Street needs a name so they can start the numbering. Mr. Mason is proposing the new name of Alex Way. The Board would like to see a written request before making a decision.

BUILDING/CODE ENFORCEMENT: Building Inspector Terry Barnes was present at the meeting. The group discussed Michael Moreau's concerns from two weeks ago about various invoices he has received for engineering and inspections on a renovation job at 62 Portsmouth Ave. he is working on. Mr. Barnes stated they did go to the property and pointed out some issues that needed to be corrected, and also told them that they needed to have a Town engineer come in for an inspection and plan review, which they agreed to at that time. He also stated he tells permit applicants that the plans are going out for review and it's their responsibility to pay those fees. After a lengthy discussion, the Board suggested having something in writing on the actual permit form outlining the requirements, and also agreed to have Mr. Barnes look into what other towns are doing.

Mr. Barnes presented a proposal to contract with a third party mechanical and plumbing inspector from Pinnacle Professional Consultants out of New Durham for the Board's review. No action was taken at this time.

Mr. Barnes then updated the Board on the current status of ongoing building inspections/issues and applications before the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Roger Stephenson from the Ad-Hoc Subcommittee was present at the meeting to express his appreciation to the Board and Mr. Deschaine for the recent work on several easements in Town. He also stated he would like to go through the easements and put a detailed report in the next Town Report.

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

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine presented a proposal from Crow Construction for the replacement of windows at the Gifford House. The Board felt the proposal was high and requested a second proposal be submitted from Window World.

Mr. Deschaine presented quotes for all of the Town's insurance renewals to the Board. He stated the Primex renewal for the property liability went up 7%, or \$3,632, the worker's compensation went up 8%, or \$2,120, and unemployment went up .1%, or \$14 from last year. Mr. Deschaine stated he recently received the renewal information from the LGC and has not reviewed it in detail yet, but stated the Blue Choice Plan for health is going up 6.7% and the dental is going up 1.2%. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the quotes from Primex for the property liability, worker's compensation and unemployment. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine updated the Board on the tax rate status. He stated that Stratham has yet to be put in the State's queue to set the rate, but that should be happening shortly.

Mr. Canada moved to accept Chelsea Bailey's resignation from the 300th Anniversary Committee with gratitude for her service. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated that he had mistakenly budgeted \$1,000 for the renovations to the Historical Society; \$1200 had been approved. He received an invoice today for \$1,200. He stated he will need to find the \$1,000 somewhere since he does not have that money in their budget. The Historical Society would like the Town to pay the extra \$200 since they have already contributed so much to the renovations already. The Board agreed to have Mr. Deschaine find the \$1,200 in the budget somewhere. Mr. Canada stated that he will speak with the Historical Society about getting Board approval for any expenditures over \$500 and also inform them that the Town will pay the \$1,200 invoice.

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

The group then discussed the content for the Selectmen's upcoming newsletter to residents.

At 9:20 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