

## **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2015 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**MEMBER'S PRESENT:** Chairman David Canada, Selectmen Tim Copeland and Bruno Federico, and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes of the regular meeting on February 9, 2015. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Bronson reported that there is \$5,164,232.55 in the general checking account.

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

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

#### RECREATION:

Seth Hickey, Recreation Department Director, stated there was a request from the Exeter Youth Lacrosse Association to use the field at Stevens Park every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from April 7 through mid-June for practice. He continued that they were requesting that the fee of \$50 per use be waived. Mr. Canada stated he was concerned about waiving the fee. Andy Gove, resident of Stratham, indicated they were asking that the fee be waived because the cost of playing lacrosse was high and about 40% of the kids were from Stratham. Chris Geier, board member, stated they were looking at using Stevens Park because of safety concerns of overusing other fields. He continued they were trying to keep the cost down for the players and that he did not think they would be doing much damage to the field. Mr. Federico indicated he was concerned that waiving the fee would be setting a bad precedent and that he was more than willing to let them use the field but they would have to pay the fee.

Mr. Canada moved to allow Exeter Youth Lacrosse Association to use the field at Stevens Park on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from April 7 through mid-June at a cost of \$50 per use. They would also be allowed one game day per week as the field scheduling permitted, also at \$50 per use. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey indicated there was another request, from Aiden Barry, to use the field from April 18<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>, for one practice per week and four home games for a competitive soccer traveling team he was organizing..

Mr. Copeland moved to allow Mr. Barry's team to use the field at a cost of \$50 per use. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated relative to the grooming of the trails that everything was fantastic and the sled and trail groomer had worked out extremely well.

Mr. Hickey noted relative to the Forest Management Group, they had met with Charlie Moreno, a local forester, and had given him their goals and objectives for the project. He continued that Mr. Moreno would be giving them a proposal for forestry management work by the end of the month and he would have a specific figure for Mr. Moreno's work by the next meeting. Mr. Hickey noted he hoped that they would be able to move forward using Mr. Moreno and that he seemed to be the best fit.

Mr. Hickey stated they had wrapped up the Fat Bike event and that it had gone very well.

Mr. Hickey went over the water testing requirements at Stevens Park and recommended that the Town use Absolute Resources out of Portsmouth.

Mr. Hickey discussed the field lining proposal. He continued they were looking to do the lining in-house and that the Town would see a significant cost savings over the next few years.

Mr. Copeland moved to accept the field lining proposal in the amount of \$5,150 with the money coming from the revolving fund. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated relative to the youth sports program, that basketball was wrapping up and baseball and soccer were gearing up.

Mr. Hickey stated that he had emailed the Board the contracts for the 2015 summer camps and briefly discussed the programs they were offering. The Board members had not had a chance to review them.

Mr. Canada moved to accept the summer camp contracts, unless there are any questions from the Board by Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Mr. Federico, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated the ski programs had ended and they had been successful. He continued that the Coyote Club had ended and was also successful.

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Colin Lavery, Highway Director, stated he would have a report by May 4<sup>th</sup> on the winter maintenance overhead for the '14/'15 winter. He continued it was up slightly because of the amount of snow and fuel consumption but they had not tapped into the salt reserve.

Mr. Lavery noted that vehicle inspections were due by the end of the month and that all vehicles had passed inspection. He went over the repairs that had been needed.

Mr. Lavery stated that all roof-top snow removal that was going to be needed had been completed.

Mr. Lavery indicated that tree removal and sightline pruning had been put on hold due to the amount of snow and would resume as soon as the snow melted.

Mr. Lavery noted he would be attending a local public agency certification with NHDOT on March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup> relative to the Town Center project.

Mr. Lavery stated he was working with the Cemetery Trustees on drainage issues from the Stratham Community Church to the Maple Lane Cemetery. He continued they were looking at ways to mitigate the drainage issues and would have a proposal for the Board on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lavery noted they were taking car #5 out of police service.

Mr. Lavery requested a vacation from April 27<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Copeland moved to approve a vacation for Mr. Lavery from April 27<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>, seconded by Mr. Canada, which passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

David Emmanuel, Office of Emergency Management, stated that they completed another round of Seabrook Power Plant drills and exercises and did not have any corrective action items for the Town. He continued they were looking at appointing a Deputy Director and had been having ongoing discussions with David Barr to replace Cathy Flagg. He continued that Mr. Barr had participated with the Office before and had a lot of experience and hoped he would be appointed to that position.

Mr. Canada moved to nominate David Barr as the Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Management, seconded by Mr. Federico, which passed unanimously.

## **PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:**

The following Park permits and Municipal Center rentals were discussed and acted upon:

Joanne Schottler requested use of the Front Pavilion on September 27, 2015 for the Pease Greeters and requested the fee be waived. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request and waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jay Diener requested use of the Front Pavilion on October 24, 2015 for the Great Bay 5K Race and requested the fee be waived. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request and waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Easter Seals requested use of the Municipal Center on March 18, 2015 & March 25, 2015 for the Easter Seals Art Class and requested the fee be waived. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request and waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Susan EH Bendroth requested use of the Scamman Pavilion on April 20, 2015 for the Acorn School Annual Earth Day Celebration and requested the fee be waived. Mr. Federico moved to approve the request and waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Mr. Deschaine stated that SafeWise had named Stratham the 18<sup>th</sup> safest city in New Hampshire. He continued we could use the badge provided by SafeWise on our website if the Board wished. The Board indicated they had no interest.

Mr. Deschaine indicated the town reports were running a day late and are expected tomorrow.

Mr. Canada moved to go into a non-public session at 9:02 P.M. to discuss contract negotiations, seconded by Mr. Canada, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to come out of non-public session at 9:09 P.M., seconded by Mr. Copeland, which passed unanimously.

At 9:10 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier  
Recording Secretary