

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2015 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

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

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes of the regular meetings of June 1 and June 8, 2015. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, with Mr. Federico abstaining.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Deb Bronson reported there was \$2,140,054.68 in the general checking account.

Mr. Canada indicated that the Heritage Commission was looking to hire a grant writer for an LCHIP preservation easement grant, which would be a 50/50 grant.

Mr. Canada moved to hire a grant writer for the preservation easement, with the funds coming from the Heritage Preservation Fund. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Charbonneau noted that she had drafted the tax deed for the property that the town was acquiring but that it needed to be accepted in public.

Mr. Copeland moved to accept the tax collector's deed to the property at Map 1, Lot 11, located off of Route 111, and to authorize the tax collector to send the deed to the Registry of Deeds to be recorded and once the deed is recorded, authorize the town administrator to send a letter to the former property owner to notify them that the town is now the owner. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Charbonneau stated that she had drawn up the warrant for unlicensed dogs. The list had started out with 1370 dogs but it was down to 94 dogs and she would continue to follow up on that issue.

Ms. Charbonneau indicated that she had a request from a customer who had bounced a check to the town. She continued the customer was upset because the check was written on May 31st but had not cleared until June 9th and he was upset that it did not clear earlier. Ms. Charbonneau noted that the customer was looking to have the \$25 return check fee waived. The Board indicated they did not want to take any action on this matter.

PUBLIC HEARING:

At 7:44 P.M. Mr. Copeland opened the public hearing on the acquisition of the Short property conservation easement. The Conservation Commission was in attendance, including Donna Jensen, Bill McCarthy, Brad Jones, Bob Keating, Bill Kenny, Pat Elwell, and Selectmen's representative Tim Copeland. Duane Hyde from the Southeast Land Trust noted he had been

working on this for a while and it would be a cost of \$175,000 from general appropriations and the Commission would be contributing the remainder of the funds necessary. Mr. Hyde noted this easement would guarantee public access to the property along with many other benefits. He continued they had done their due diligence and hoped to close the following week. Mr. Copeland asked if there were any public comments, which there were none. Mr. Federico stated he would like to thank the Shorts as they were doing a great favor to the town. Mr. Copeland then closed the public hearing. Mr. Deschaine noted that the Conservation Commission had already voted in public session to move forward and the Board now needed to ratify that decision.

Mr. Copeland moved to ratify the decision of the Conservation Commission to move forward with the purchase of the conservation easement. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to authorize the expenditure of \$175,000 from the general fund for the purchase of the conservation easement. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Jensen moved that the Conservation Commission authorize withdrawal from the conservation fund for the remaining funds in an amount not to exceed \$449,000.00. Mr. McCarthy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine indicated that the Board could attend the closing, or they could authorize a representative to attend and sign the documents on their behalf.

Mr. Copeland moved to allow Mr. Deschaine to attend the closing on the Short easement and to sign any necessary documents. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Cook noted that they had responded to 287 calls that year. He continued that they were moving forward with the part time staffing plan starting July 1st and that they had a rough draft of the job descriptions.

Chief Cook stated they had budgeted \$4000 for new pagers and Motorola was offering a \$25 rebate for each pager purchased. He continued that he was looking for authorization to spend up to \$4000 to purchase 8 new pagers.

Mr. Copeland moved to allow Chief Cook to spend up to \$4000 to purchase 8 new pagers. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Cook indicated that he was working with other Seacoast chiefs to complete the yearly ladder testing.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Scippa noted that the Stratham Hill Park tree trimming project was beginning the next day.

Chief Scippa stated they were reinstating the police mountain bike program. Mr. Deschaine asked how many officers were trained to be a part of that program. Chief Scippa responded there are two currently.

Chief Scippa indicated that they had started working with the New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security to assess the school safety and draft response plan. He continued they were working to put together a training and evaluation plan.

Chief Scippa noted there was a mishap where an officer drove a cruiser without properly latching the hood. He continued there was some cosmetic damage to the hood which was estimated at \$1500 and would come back with a full quote. Mr. Deschaine noted that it might be covered under the casualty insurance policy.

Chief Scippa wanted to remind the public that the hands free driving law was going to be going into effect on July 1st.

Chief Scippa stated they were working with federal agencies looking into the hoax that took place at the Irving Station. He continued there were similar incidents in surrounding towns and they were all going to meet to discuss what had happened. Chief Scippa stated that the response went well and hope they catch whomever was responsible as it had a major impact to the town.

John Sapienza stated that he had just come from a 300th Committee meeting and they had been discussing the Powwow Event scheduled for the weekend of August 14th. He continued that it had come to his attention that the police chief had not been notified of this event. Chief Scippa responded that he would get in touch with the Chair of the committee.

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 approved:

Ashley Parkin requested use of the Front Pavilion Center on July 12th for an event.

Lorna Pond requested use of the 4H Pavilion Center on June 27th for a party.

Anna Modee requested use of the 4H Pavilion Center on September 12th for a family cookout.

Jillian Harrison requested use of the Front Pavilion Center on July 31st for the DTC Company outing.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated that Town Assessor Andrea Lewy had drafted the timber warrant for the timber cut at Lindt. He continued it was a total of 64 tons of whole tree chips and the warrant was in the amount of \$8.43.

Mr. Deschaine noted he had received the renewal of the maintenance contract from CAI Technologies for maintaining the tax maps. He continued the price had not changed from the previous year and it was for \$3500.

Mr. Copeland moved to reauthorize the maintenance contract. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine noted that the original municipal sidewalk agreement had somehow gone missing and no one seemed to have the original. He continued they had put together a new agreement which included some additions and asked that the Board sign it. Mr. Canada expressed his dismay with the situation. The Board signed the agreement.

Mr. Deschaine indicated that the Board had approved an agreement with the Rockingham Planning Commission for engineering support services in the amount of \$7500 to participate in the PTAP program. He continued that he was seeking authorization to enter into the contract with Horsley & Witten Group to finalize the stormwater regulations for site plan review and educational programs.

Mr. Copeland moved to authorize the town to enter into a contract with Horsley & Witten. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated he had spoken with Russ Dean relative to the Exeter/Stratham water agreement. Mr. Dean had not committed to a timetable for talks but would be reviewing the agreement.

Mr. Canada moved to accept a \$200 donation from the Exeter Garden Club. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine noted relative to the Town Center Project, that it looked like the RFP was on track for approval by the DOT.

At 9:38 Mr. Copeland moved to go into nonpublic to discuss a contractual issue. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:45 Mr. Copeland moved to come out of nonpublic. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:46 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier
Recording Secretary