

## **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2013 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**MEMBERS 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.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that he had \$9,758,781.46 in the general checking account. The group discussed looking into other banks for Town business. Mr. Peck stated that we should work through the new accounting system for a while before switching banks. The Board agreed to have Mr. Peck look into other banks in early March.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes from the regular meeting on 1/7/13. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Canada read a letter announcing that the Board has reached an agreement with the Cushman family for the Town to acquire the property at the corner of Portsmouth Ave. and Bunker Hill Ave. This will be presented to the voters for approval in March. There are no building plans at this point, and how the land is used will depend on the needs of the Town over the years. The Town does not anticipate restoring the home, but would rather seek proposals from others to restore it.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Bob Ducharme, owner of Stratham Plaza, and Eric Weinrieb from Altus Engineering, were present at the meeting to continue discussion on the septic system easement on Town property. Mr. Weinrieb presented a copy of the survey that was conducted to the Board. Parks and Recreation Director Seth Hickey was also present at the meeting to participate in the discussion since any proposed changes could affect the playground/ballfield area behind the Municipal Center. An irrigation system would not be a problem as long as it is a separate system with backflow preventers so there is no cross contamination. Once the project is completed, the Town will have a flat, seeded field area. Mr. Deschaine stated there may need to be a performance standard for more than the normal septic system failure because if there are kids playing out there and there is a problem, it needs to be rectified very quickly. Highway Agent Colin Laverty was also present at the meeting and presented pricing from Four Seasons Fence to do the potential ballfield fencing, in addition to pricing for benches, the wood frame dugouts, removing the berm, and irrigation. Mr. Canada moved to have Stratham Plaza move forward with this project and provide Mr. Deschaine the necessary items to draw up an agreement. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Rob Cook was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. He stated the Town is 120 days overdue on a bill from Exeter Hospital for ALS services, which we are paying a 1.5% late fee on. There is an option in the agreement that if the Town pays the bill within 45 days, we would receive a 2% discount. Mr. Deschaine stated the

understanding was when the Town gets paid, Exeter Hospital gets paid, and that is what the Town has been adhering to. The Town just received the Medicare reimbursement on that. He stated this is a special revenue fund where the Town agreed to collect on behalf of Exeter Hospital. If the Town is now going to pay them regardless whether we get paid, we are assuming the true liability and an appropriation would be necessary in order to spend that money. The Board instructed Mr. Cook to request \$10,000 for the ambulance account for Town approval in March.

Mr. Cook requested an update from the Board on the policy for Fire Department details. Mr. Deschaine has been working on a redraft of the policy and the hope is to have something ready in the next couple of months.

Mr. Cook stated total calls for service for 2012 was 538.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief John Scippa was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. He stated that Officer Amanda Bibeau has completed her first week of the Police Academy.

Mr. Scippa stated the Department received an anonymous donation of \$50 worth of gift certificates for Marco's Pizza. He stated normally he would not have accepted the gift due to the monetary value. Since he does not know who the donor is, he is requesting to accept the gift certificates and he will use them to provide dinner for the next training at the Police Department. Mr. Federico moved to allow Mr. Scippa to keep the \$50 gift certificates to Marco's Pizza. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scippa recently received a request for the Police Department to meet with the Highway Safety Committee in an effort to forecast any grant applications. He requested that Highway Agent Colin Laverty assume Fred Hutton's open position on the Committee. Mr. Copeland moved to appoint Mr. Laverty to the Highway Safety Committee to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Hutton. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scippa stated that the Board had previously approved a request for IMC software modules at a cost of \$11,727.80. He stated that due to some unforeseen problems with the modules installed on the current system, he conducted some research into other applications. He found one in particular that costs about a third of what the Town would originally spend and would significantly enhance data access across the County. He stated the original expenditure was not made and they will be moving forward with the alternative.

BUILDING/CODE ENFORCEMENT: Building Inspector Terry Barnes was present at the meeting to update the Board on the current status of ongoing building inspections/issues and applications before the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The group then opened the bids for Landfill Closure monitoring services. Mr. Deschaine stated that each proposal should have two separate prices: one for the actual monitoring work and the

other for the lab work. CMA Engineers proposed monitoring for \$5,045.50, Geo Insight proposed monitoring for \$7,800, Pinetree Engineering proposed monitoring for \$7,100, Loureiro Engineering proposed monitoring for five years for \$28,616 (\$5,723 per year), Weston & Sampson Engineers proposed monitoring for \$4,900. Mr. Canada moved to have Mr. Deschaine review all the bids in detail and report back to the Board with a recommendation. The Board's inclination is to go with Weston & Sampson at \$4,900 per year, and Mr. Deschaine will also report back to the Board with a recommendation for the lab work. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

*At 9:02 pm, Mr. Canada left the meeting.*

**PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:**

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

Rachel Neild requested the use of the Park on August 3, 2013 for a barbecue. The request was approved.

**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 letter to the Board outlining EOC Director Dave Emanuel's request to contract with an entity to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Homeland Security has agreed to pay this entity for the services. Mr. Federico signed the letter on behalf of Mr. Canada.

Mr. Deschaine stated the Watershed Management Plan is in the process of applying for a grant and would like a letter of support to go along with it, however, Mr. Deschaine has not received a copy of the letter yet. Mr. Federico moved to allow Mr. Deschaine to sign the letter of support for the Stormwater Management Plan once he receives it. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board then signed five copies of the letter of agreement with Makris Development.

At 9:12 pm, Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

*There will be no meeting on January 21, 2013 due to the Martin Luther King holiday.*

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant