

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2013 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:00 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 7:30 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 7:37 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$8,903,434.94 in the general checking account.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes from the regular meeting on 2/4/13. Mr. Federico 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 they have had 61 calls for service to date, including mutual aid calls.

Mr. Cook stated Engine 3 has had a problem with the ladder rack. They will be looking into this matter further.

Mr. Cook asked why his request of \$8,000 for a new server was not included in the budget he received. Mr. Canada explained that they budgeted time for IT Administration to assess everything to determine exactly what is needed, and there is money available if the server is needed for this year. Fire Department member Derek Hall was present at the meeting and stated they assessed the server they moved to two years ago. He stated his concern is that they have a lot more items that will be stored on the current server, which will overload it.

NEW BUSINESS:

At 7:45pm, Mr. Canada opened the public hearing on the proposed 2013 Town Warrant as previously posted. The Board agreed to waive the actual reading of the notice of the hearing.

ARTICLE 9: Proposed bonding authority to fund the purchase of the Cushman property at 82 Portsmouth Ave. for \$500,000. This would occur over a five year period, which would cost \$31 for that five years. The Board stated there is not a specific need for the property right now, but it presents many opportunities in the future as the Town grows. Mr. Canada stated that they are not interested in renovating the structure and then renting it out, they would like to find another opportunity. Resident Steve Simonds pointed out that an advantage of bonding it is that future citizens that are not here now get a chance to pay for it and take advantage of it in the future. Several residents spoke in favor of purchasing the property.

ARTICLE 10: The proposed Operating Budget. Mr. Deschaine went through the budget in detail.

ARTICLE 11: The proposed Capital Improvements Program.

ARTICLE 12: If Article 9 should fail, this article would be to authorize the purchase of the Cushman property at 82 Portsmouth Ave. for \$500,000 to be paid in just this one year at a cost of \$142 to the average homeowner.

ARTICLE 13: To fund the "Town Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund" for the care and maintenance of Town buildings and grounds.

ARTICLE 14: Re-adoption of the Blind Exemption at \$15,000.

ARTICLE 15: To fund Fire Department training and Advanced Life Support services by authorizing the use of funds from the 'Stratham Fire Department EMS Fund'.

ARTICLE 16: To authorize the Board of Selectmen to rent or lease municipal property for a term of up to five years without further vote or ratification of the Town. Resident Lucy Cushman stated that she feels that this is too long of a commitment that should not be taken away from the Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 17: To fund contributions to the "Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund".

ARTICLE 18: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Resident Marty Wool commented that the Highway Department did a fantastic job with the recent snow storm.

At 9:25 pm, with no further comments or questions, Mr. Canada then closed the public hearing.

Mr. Federico moved to recommend Article 9. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Copeland moved to recommend Article 10. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to recommend Article 11. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to recommend Article 12. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to recommend Article 13. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Copeland moved to recommend Article 14. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Copeland moved to recommend Article 15. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to recommend Article 16. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Copeland moved to recommend Article 17. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

MEETINGS: Mr. Canada moved to waive the reading of meetings scheduled for this week. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The group then discussed meetings to report on.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

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

Nancy Elliott requested the use of the Firehouse on April 21, 2013 for a bridal shower. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the use and to waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated his office is working on finalizing the Town Report.

Mr. Canada requested written documentation to authorize him to proceed with small claims action against Sign of the Times.

The group discussed the Selectmen's Report for the Town Report and agreed on making several minor amendments to the current draft.

At 9:40 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a legal issue. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:14 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.

The group then discussed the ongoing negotiations with the principals of Stratham Plaza to allow them an easement on the land behind the Municipal Center. Although negotiations have not been completed, the Board would like to bring this matter to Town Meeting in March of 2013. Because of this, another public hearing will be posted. Mr. Canada moved to add a warrant article regarding the easement for the back of the Municipal Center to the Stratham Plaza to the 2013 Warrant and the Board reconvene at a public hearing on February 18, 2013 at 7:30pm. He also requested that Executive Assistant Stacey Grella send out an email blast informing residents

of same, and Mr. Canada will contact the Exeter Newsletter reporter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:17 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant