

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2013 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:43 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Canada moved to approve the minutes as presented from the regular meeting on 2/11/13. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$7,383,169.83 in the general checking account.

NEW BUSINESS:

At 7:45 pm, Mr. Canada opened the second public hearing on the proposed 2013 Town Warrant as previously posted.

There were no comments or questions from the audience on the minor changes to Article 10 regarding the Town Budget.

The group then discussed the newly added Article 18, regarding granting an easement to the Stratham Plaza for the purpose of installing a septic system and leach field behind the Municipal Center and allowing the Selectmen to continue negotiations on this matter. The Board estimates the Plaza's contribution to be approximately \$100,000 for the project. Mr. Canada stated the Planning Board and Conservation Commission are both supportive of this. Many members of the public were present, including those who spoke regarding this article: Bruce Scamman, Lucy Cushman, Fred Emanuel, Marty Wool, Matt Gunn, and Becky Mitchell. A few of the concerns included devaluing the Town's property by incurring an easement because it will be encumbered by an outside entity, the fact that leach fields fail regularly in commercial properties, and nitrate setbacks. Another concern was that this would be a 5,000 gallon per day leach field, which is going to have a 250 foot nitrate setback, which does not fit within the plot of land. Eric Weinrieb from Altus Engineering was present at the meeting to address the concerns. Robert Ducharme, President of the Stratham Plaza Condo Association, was also present at the meeting. He stated this project would cost him approximately \$450,000. Mr. Federico commented that the Economic Development Committee is all for this project and feels it is a "win-win" for the Town. It has been difficult for the Plaza to keep tenants, so it would be nice to bring in new tenants and the Town would get a new ballfield. Mr. Copeland stated this would bring in more businesses, have more tax revenue out of that, and more employment for the Town and surrounding areas.

Mr. Canada stated that regarding Article 16 (allowing the Selectmen to rent or lease property for up to five years), he had previously made the statement that 50 residents could bring it to Town Meeting. That is not correct. If the Town gave the Board the authority to lease for five years and they did in fact lease for five years, that would stand without any further action.

Mr. Canada stated that regarding Article 18, if the septic system fails, the Board would have the authority to shut the flow off within seven days.

At 8:40 pm, with no further comments or questions, Mr. Canada then closed the public hearing.

Mr. Canada moved to go on record supporting Article 18. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated that Flossie Wiggin from the Heritage Commission would like to swap her position on the Commission with Janet Johnson, who is an alternate. Mr. Canada moved to accept Flossie Wiggin's resignation from the Heritage Commission as a regular member, and appoint Janet Johnson to fill her term, which will expire in 2015. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada then moved to appoint Flossie Wiggin to a three-year term on the Heritage Commission, which will expire in 2013, to fill Janet Johnson's alternate seat. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:54 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a negotiation issue. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:12 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 9:13 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant