

## **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2013 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman David Canada, Selectmen Bruno Federico and Tim Copeland, 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 \$5,874,276.43 in the general checking account.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Colleen Lake, who is a member and Chair of the Town Center Revitalization Committee, was present at the meeting to ask permission to either use a current bulletin board or purchase one to place in the hallway entrance to the Town Hall. This bulletin board would be specifically used for Town Center related items. The Board stated that the Planning Department already has two or three bulletin boards and the TCRC should be able to find space. The Board instructed Ms. Lake to talk with Town Planner Lincoln Daley to work out the details. Ms. Lake also requested to install the current wooden sign as well near the bulletin board. The Board instructed Ms. Lake to discuss this with Mr. Daley as well.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. He stated the trail groomer that they purchased through the Park Association a couple years ago has not been working out as they planned. It is very difficult to maneuver and they are looking into other options.

Mr. Hickey stated the kiosk installation deadline is the end of June. He submitted a request to Timberland for volunteers on Earth Day, but his request was declined. He then reached out to Liberty Mutual and they will come in some time during the middle of June.

Mr. Hickey stated he has been asked by the Coastal New England Baseball League to use Stevens Field throughout the month of September. He stated they have always done a great job with maintenance and the Babe Ruth season is over at that point. They are in a position to pay the Town \$100 for the use. Mr. Canada stated that the fields need a rest and \$100 is not enough money to cover costs associated with maintaining the fields. Mr. Canada moved to deny the request by the Coastal New England Baseball League to use Stevens Field. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey also received a request from Sean Day for a men's soccer league to use Stevens Field for a total of five dates. He stated last year there was an issue where they were running a program from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and there were some complaints from neighbors. Mr. Hickey stated they have introduced a curfew where they cannot start until after 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. He stated this league will pay \$750 for the five dates with two games on each date. Mr. Hickey also stated that the Town has worked with this group for the last three years

and they have been consistently in good standing. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated he will have other requests coming, but has nothing formal yet. The charge is typically \$50 per use of the field.

Mr. Hickey stated the basketball season wrapped up and it went really well. Mr. Hickey met with the SMS principal, Tom Fosher, who stated it was the best season they have had.

Mr. Hickey then updated the Board on various activities and registration/enrollment numbers.

Mr. Hickey then reported on expenditures from the Recreation Revolving fund for 2013.

Mr. Hickey stated that he had put in for an internship in his 2013 budget for both summer and fall. He has received a few responses and will keep the Board posted.

Mr. Hickey stated he has tentatively scheduled two senior trips for this spring. He stated the coach bus company only has 55-seat buses available and he is concerned that he would not have enough participants to fill it. He has spoken with surrounding towns as far as collaborating on trips. The group then discussed charging non-residents an extra fee for participating or just leave the cost the same since they are helping to fill up the bus. The Board agreed to charge non-residents an administrative fee directly towards the cost of the bus, which would calculate to an additional \$20.

Mr. Hickey will have a full list of the Summer Concert Series participants with contracts for the Board's review next month. He will also have a proposal for a field groomer and a few renovations at the baseball field.

Mr. Hickey announced the annual Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 16, 2013 and the first "Spring Thaw" road race is scheduled for March 30, 2013.

Mr. Canada inquired about the proposed water filtration system for Stevens Park and the need for such a system. Mr. Hickey stated he has not pursued the filtration system any further and he plans to set money aside to possibly install an unfiltered drinking fountain. Mr. Canada stated he believes there is no problem with the water there and requested Mr. Hickey to double check.

Mr. Canada stated that as far as Mr. Hickey having the authority to sign contracts, he would like the Board kept in the loop by Mr. Hickey emailing the Board a copy of the contract before it is signed. No objection from the rest of the Board.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Canada moved to approve the minutes as presented from the regular meeting on 2/25/13. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Road Agent Colin Lavery was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. Mr. Lavery presented updated information and costs regarding the easement conditions and agreements for the Stratham Plaza's proposed septic field and also the

estimated contribution to the Town. Mr. Lavery stated that he feels it is important to have the Plaza use the same contractor the developer of adjacent land uses when hauling materials from the back slope of the Municipal parking lot as this will take the liability off of the Town when hauling those materials over the new subdivision roadway on Bunker Hill Ave. The group discussed whether the Town would use another field if built with Mr. Hickey. Mr. Hickey stated there is a need for the field, and he has had discussions with Mr. Lavery as to possibly having it be a multi-purpose field as opposed to being strictly softball. Mr. Deschaine stated that he has forwarded the information on the Stratham Plaza easement to Town Counsel and has requested the Plaza's engineer to provide the unified construction plan by the middle of this week. Mr. Lavery recommended using 12" of loam to provide good water retention throughout the field.

Mr. Lavery stated that he has made some updates/improvements to the Highway Department page on the Town website.

Mr. Lavery reported the State has changed from two truck inspections per year to only one per year. He then updated the Board on the status of the fleet and some repairs that were needed. He stated that Truck #10 is in need of some repairs and he received an estimate from AI's Automotive for \$9,700. He will be taking the truck to Seabrook Truck to get a second quote.

Mr. Lavery stated the Transfer Station clearing on the slopes is about 50% done.

Mr. Lavery stated the cross signing throughout Town has been completed. The major road intersections now have the names of both intersecting streets.

Mr. Lavery stated there are some training sessions coming up, one of which is a flagger certification, which will minimize the need for police details when doing roadside projects.

Mr. Lavery stated plowing has been going well. He has been documenting salt usage, labor hours, and overhead expenses applicable to winter maintenance.

Mr. Lavery stated that Tim Slager was on light duty for the last eight weeks and will be back to full duty next week.

At 8:37 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:01 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.

**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 acted upon:

Paula Massara from Lifeline Screening out of Manchester requested the use of the Municipal Center on June 25, 2013 to conduct health screenings for the public. Mr. Copeland moved to deny the request due to the commercial use and not being a Town resident. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Susanne Delaney requested the use of the Park on August 4, 2013 for a wedding reception. The request was approved.

Richard Rugg requested the use of the Park on September 8, 2013 for a lobster bake. The request was approved.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Mr. Deschaine presented three proposals put together by Paul Wolf from IT for a new server for the Police Department. The police software is dependent on running SQL and SQL is not 2012 operating system certified, so it could not be guaranteed that it would actually run. Mr. Wolf will be able to configure the server to use the old system until SQL is tested and approved for the new system. After some discussion, Mr. Federico moved to allow the Police Department to replace their server with Proposal Option #1 at a total cost of \$9,654.71. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented an application from Brad Jones to be appointed to the Conservation Commission to the Board. Jim Cushman has also submitted an application to be appointed to the Public Works Commission. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the two applications. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented a request for a letter of support from the Board for submittals for Transportation Improvement Program projects. Mr. Copeland moved to sign the letter. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented the acceptance of the deed restrictions for the White property on Union Rd. for the Board's signature. Mr. White received multiple approvals from the ZBA and one of the conditions is that he put a deed restriction on his property. The documents fulfilled the conditions and Town Counsel is satisfied with the content.

The group then discussed preparations for Town Meeting on March 15, 2013 and reviewed the Warrant to decide who would present each article.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Deschaine reported on discussions with proposed members of the two shortly to be formed committees to continue discussions on a water/sewer agreement with the Town of Exeter. Mr. Canada moved to appoint John Boisvert, Bill Schoppmeyer, Mike Girard and Lincoln Daley as Stratham members to the Technical Committee to work with Exeter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Canada moved to appoint Paul Deschaine, himself,

John Boisvert, and Dave Short as Stratham Members to the Financial Committee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated if 2013 Warrant Article 9 passes, an additional 60 days would be needed to close on the Cushman property due to it being a bond issue. The Cushman family has asked for a tax abatement if it goes to a longer term because they do not want to pay taxes since they are giving the Town an extension over and above what was agreed upon. Mr. Canada moved to abate the taxes after April 1, 2013. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:56 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant