

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29, 2013 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:18 pm, Mr. Canada opened the meeting and then moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:35 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. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:40 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Canada noted the recent passing of Christopher Rowe, Sr. He was a member of the Fire Department for 55 years and will be greatly missed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Federico moved to approve the amended minutes from the regular meeting on 4/22/13. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that he had \$2,104,503.29 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PARKS & RECREATION: Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities.

Mr. Hickey updated the Board on the status of the ball fields at Stratham Hill Park and Stevens Park including pictures of the rebuilt infield at the Scamman field. The new infield has two sets of bases so play can be had at 60' or 70' base spacing.

Mr. Hickey stated they are looking into having all the bathroom floors at the Park painted this week at a cost of no more than \$500. Mr. Copeland moved to spend the money from the Park Pavilion Rental Fund. Mr. Federico seconded the motion. Mr. Canada objected to using capital funds for what he considered operational expenses. The motion passed 2-1.

Mr. Hickey stated that they were able to put a tee into the existing water line at Stevens Park. The next step is to run another tee and then run a bubbler off that right outside the pump house. He stated that he will be moving forward with completing the State application for a license that is necessary for non-community water systems. Mr. Copeland moved to proceed with the application process. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated he has received a few bids on the restoration of the tennis courts. He will present those to the Board in June.

Mr. Hickey stated he is looking into applying for a Land Water Conservation Fund grant. The Town has received these funds before for the ball fields at Stratham Hill Park. He will be submitting an application by the end of the month. These funds would be used for landscaping improvements around the softball field behind the Municipal Center.

Mr. Hickey stated that opening day for both softball and baseball is Saturday, May 4th.

Mr. Hickey stated his new intern is starting on May 28th.

Mr. Hickey then updated the Board on registration/participation numbers and various programs being offered through his Department.

Mr. Hickey stated he is still working on the information for installing the trophy case at the Municipal Center.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Prior to Highway Agent Colin Laverty's presentation to the Board, Mr. Canada read a letter from the Conservation Commission Chair recognizing the exemplary actions and tremendous effort of Colin Laverty during the 9th Annual Stratham Roadside Clean Up Day. Mr. Copeland moved to have the letter placed in Mr. Laverty's personnel file. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Laverty then presented a slide show and handouts to the Board regarding winter plowing overhead for 2012 - 2013 along with an analysis of the Town doing all plowing with its own employees and equipment versus contracting the work out. He also presented a vehicle replacement plan. Mr. Laverty requested to purchase a new 2014 International Terrastar and went over the benefits of purchasing this truck with the Board. Mr. Canada moved to allow Mr. Laverty to purchase the 2014 International Terrastar at a price of no more than \$84,000. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Laverty stated he received a request from some concerned residents to post Stratham Heights Road and High Street as "No Thru Trucks". The Board took it under advisement.

Mr. Laverty stated that his Department started ten-hour shifts today. He will keep the Board updated as far as monitoring production.

Mr. Canada stated that some residents on Country Farm Road expressed to him that they were dismayed that their road is not being paved this year because the road is in terrible shape. Mr. Laverty stated he has also been approached by residents on that road and he explained to them that due to budget constraints, the road is not going to be done this year, but it is on the schedule. Mr. Laverty stated it would cost \$160,000 to pave Country Farm Road because the base is so bad it requires grinding the existing pavement rather than just an overlay.

Mr. Canada stated he was contacted by Barbara Brockelman on behalf of the Hills at Crockett Farm regarding removing three "Right Turn Only" signs from the three-way circle. Mr. Deschaine stated there was nothing on the site plan regarding traffic control signs. The residents have requested a single "Circle" sign be installed instead. Mr. Canada moved to eliminate the

three "Right Turn Only" signs and install the "Circle" sign they are requesting if they are willing to pay for the sign. The Town will provide labor/installation. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Lavery will get a price for the sign to Ms. Brockelman.

Asplundh and Lucas Tree Service have been parking tree trucks at the Highway Garage. Mr. Lavery stated they are working within the area for Unitil and the Town does receive a lot of wood chips from them. Mr. Lavery also plans on using Asplundh to assist with removing some tree limbs at the Cushman property.

The group then briefly discussed the roof at the Historical Society. Mr. Lavery stated the project is on hold at this time. He stated he is looking at different options to replace the section of gutter that is missing. Once the gutter is taken care of, they will then look into fixing the roof.

The group discussed whether the Town or the State should be responsible for mowing the grass at the traffic circle. Mr. Canada moved to discontinue mowing at the traffic circle. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed 2-1.

The group discussed the timeline for the Municipal Center parking lot/Stratham Plaza project. Mr. Lavery stated June 10th is the start date.

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:

Cristin Zaimes requested the use of the Park on June 1, 2013 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Kelly Hochstetler requested the use of the Park on June 16, 2013 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Michael Jordan from ITLLC requested the use of the Park on September 22, 2013 for a company picnic. The Board would like to know what ITLLC stands for and where they are based out of before making a decision.

First Baptist Church requested to use the Park on June 23, 2013 for a picnic. The request was approved.

Lynne Bernier requested the use of the Park on August 31, 2013 for a family reunion. The request was approved.

Dan Crow requested the use of the Firehouse on May 2, 2013 for a funeral reception. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use, to allow alcohol, and to waive the fee. Mr. Canada

seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The group had a brief discussion regarding the approval of alcohol waivers for various events.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated he forwarded to the Board an inquiry from Town Counsel regarding their withdrawal from further involvement in the Fairpoint abatement suit, which would leave the Town with collective representation. The Board had no objection.

Mr. Deschaine presented the deeding list on behalf of the Town Tax Collector. This is a result of non-payment of 2010 property taxes. The Board signed a deeding waiver for one taxpayer on the list who had worked out a payment arrangement with the Tax Collector.

Mr. Deschaine then presented a letter for a premium holiday credit from Primex in the amount of \$28,091.02 requesting it to be in cash rather than credit for the Board's signature.

Mr. Deschaine stated that he has been approached to participate in the Leadership NH program. This program involves a series of five or six meetings where the class is introduced to different policy issues that affect leadership roles in New Hampshire. The tuition cost for the program is \$3,850. Mr. Canada moved to authorize the payment of the tuition in the amount of \$3,850 if Mr. Deschaine is accepted into the Leadership NH Program. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:38 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss negotiations, and a matter that may affect the reputation of another, not a member of the Board. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:06 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.

OLD BUSINESS/APPOINTMENTS:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Mr. Canada moved to reappoint Donna Jensen and Allison Knab as regular members, and Bill Grace as an alternate member. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Mr. Canada moved to appoint Gary Dolan as a regular member, which will leave two alternate positions available. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PLANNING BOARD: Mr. Canada moved to appoint Tom House as a regular member to replace Jeff Hyland, and appoint Steven Doyle as an alternate member for a three-year term, pending the receipt of his application. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RECREATION COMMISSION: Mr. Canada moved to reappoint Tim Copeland as the Selectmen's representative, which leaves one vacancy. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

HERITAGE COMMISSION: Mr. Canada moved to reappoint Rebecca Mitchell as a regular member and Flossie Wiggin as an alternate member. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Mr. Canada moved to reappoint Kelly Gerardot and William Howell as regular members, and Karl Scamman as an alternate member, pending receipt of his application. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION: Mr. Canada moved to reappoint John Boisvert and Michael Perfit as regular members, and Lissa Ham as an alternate member. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TOWN CENTER REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE: Mr. Canada moved to reappoint David Canada as the Selectmen's representative, and Rachael Ela, Colleen Lake, and Sean Norton as regular members, pending receipt of Mr. Norton's application. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ENERGY COMMISSION: Mr. Canada moved to reappoint Michael Gorman as a regular member to a three-year term. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:13 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant