

## **MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2013 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

At 7:33 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Peck reported that there is \$7,127,652.75 in the general checking account.

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

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dan Crow from the Stratham Park Association and Caren Gallagher from the Stratham Fair Committee were present at the meeting to discuss the replacement of a pair of gates at the second entrance to the Park on Jack Rabbit Lane. Mr. Crow stated the Fair would contribute one third of the cost, the Park Association would contribute one third of the cost, and asked for the Town to contribute the final third. Ms. Gallagher stated the lowest estimate they received was from Randy Claar not to exceed \$1,300. Mr. Copeland moved for the Town to spend up to \$433.33 as one third of the cost towards the replacement of the gates. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Kimberly Wolff and Lynn Girard, who live on Gifford Farm Road, were present at the meeting to discuss a traffic issue on their street. Ms. Wolff stated there was almost a serious accident recently on the corner by Long Hill Road due to the overgrown foliage, which she had photos of and presented to the Board. She stated she also went to the Police Department and the Code Enforcement Officer regarding this matter as well. Mr. Canada moved that the Board send a letter to the resident there and ask that he trim back the trees to a satisfactory position per the Town's Highway Agent's specifications. There being no second, Mr. Copeland moved to have Chief Scippa talk to the resident this week and if there is no action taken, then the Board follow up immediately with a letter that Mr. Deschaine will draft. Mr. Canada 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 it has been a busy month with 21 calls for service already.

Mr. Cook stated his SCBA's are due for maintenance and air flow tests. He received a quote of \$1,300. Mr. Federico moved to authorize Mr. Cook to spend up to \$1,300 for maintenance repairs to the SCBA's. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Cook stated two members recently passed Firefighter I training. He stated that one of these members needs a new set of gear, which would cost \$2,000. Mr. Copeland moved to authorize

Mr. Cook to spend \$2,000 out of the New Equipment budget for one new set of gear. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Cook stated they just noticed tonight that their office trailer at the Park has been severely vandalized. They are going to dispose of that trailer and rent an office trailer. Mr. Cook will file a police report tomorrow.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Scippa was present at the meeting to discuss his Department's activities. He stated the pleadings regarding the DARE account have been finalized and sent to the court.

Mr. Scippa requested to spend \$1,770 on the purchase of the IMC cross agency data share software for the Department. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the purchase of the IMC cross agency data share software at a cost of \$1,770. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scippa stated the Emergency Notification Committee continues to research options for reaching out to citizens in our community.

Mr. Scippa stated the new ID card making equipment has been set up and the training has been completed.

Mr. Scippa stated he has been working on compiling data regarding the Newfields police coverage that was previously discussed, however, at this time, the Town of Newfields has decided to discontinue looking into it further.

Mr. Scippa stated he attended a meeting regarding dispatching through Rockingham County. He stated there was no definitive answer that came out of the meeting, but it appeared that the proposed fees would not be supported by the County delegation.

Mr. Scippa stated that he would like to temporarily declare no parking on Jack Rabbit Lane during the Fair. The Board had no objection. Mr. Scippa stated he would also like to make Sandy Point Road one way coming off of Route 33 due to a significant amount of pedestrian traffic. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Mr. Scippa to make Sandy Point Road a temporary one way road during the Fair. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Federico requested that the residents on Sandy Point Road are made aware.

Mr. Scippa requested to use 40 hours of vacation time from July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board had no objection.

Mr. Scippa stated that Sgt. Chris Call has requested to use 40 hours of vacation time that he has not yet accrued at the end of July into August. He presently has 15.95 hours as of June 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Canada moved to allow Sgt. Call to borrow vacation time on the standard Town terms for 40 hours worth of time to be taken between July 30<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Scippa stated he and Colin Lavery attended a neighborhood meeting on Gifford Farm Road regarding a discussion on what the residents felt were pretty significant traffic issues, particularly during school hours. He stated he did conduct radar studies in the area and it is clear that it is school traffic. He also stated the Town could do a much better job with signs and road markings. He stated Mr. Lavery will be putting some numbers together for that signage and Mr. Scippa will approach the school to see if they have money available for signage as well.

The group discussed having extra night patrol shifts to monitor the Park while equipment for the Fair is being dropped off and/or set up. Mr. Scippa will look at the schedule when it gets a bit closer.

Mr. Deschaine stated that he has noticed that vehicles have been traveling fast down Stratham Heights Road, specifically at the Rollins Farm intersection. Mr. Scippa will keep it in mind.

**MEETINGS:** The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reviewed the meetings held this past week.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Mr. Deschaine stated the Health Trust made some revisions to their retiree coverage rules. As part of that, there is a requirement that municipalities allow retirees to the group policies that are offered to regular employees. He then presented a statement for the Board's review and signature. Mr. Canada moved to adopt the policy as presented. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to allow the Selectmen to park in the front parking lot during the Fair. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Deschaine will inform the Fair Committee.

Mr. Deschaine stated he received a check for \$150 from the Port City Amateur Radio Club as a donation to the Town to put towards a mower jack to use at the Park. Mr. Federico moved to accept the donation to purchase a mower jack from the Port City Amateur Radio Club with thanks. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Joyce Charbonneau was present at the meeting to discuss the Return Check Policy with the Board. Ms. Charbonneau stated she does not feel the current policy needs to be changed. The revised policy is pretty much what the Board decided on last week, which is not to ban someone for the first bad check written, allow a second time and then send a certified letter after five business days. Mr. Canada moved to adopt the policy. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada stated he received an email from Dena Stern requesting the use of porous pavement when the parking lot at the Park is redone. He suggested she approach the Conservation Commission and discuss it with them. The Board agreed.

The Board requested an update on the MS-4 legal coalition. Mr. Deschaine stated there have been no updates yet. He stated the group that was more involved in it had a draft contract, but then he was told that that contract was going to be redrafted and the amounts would change. Mr. Canada stated he would like to keep this active with the inclination to sign on with someone so the Town is participating in keeping our options open. The Board agreed. Mr. Deschaine will follow up on this matter.

At 8:48 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey J. Grella  
Executive Assistant