

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2013 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:38 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Federico moved to approve the amended minutes from the regular meeting on 8/12/13. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes from the regular meeting on 8/19/13. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kevin Peck reported that there is \$6,036,120.22 in the general checking account. Mr. Peck stated a draft RFP for the Town's banking business has been done and is being reviewed by the Finance Department and Mr. Deschaine.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR: Joyce Charbonneau was present at the meeting to ask the Board's approval on increasing the dog fees by \$1.00. After some discussion, the Board stated they would need more justification on raising the fees and agreed to have Ms. Charbonneau come back to them with how many hours her Department spends on the Dog Warrant process.

ASSESSING: Town Assessor Andrea Lewy was present at the meeting and stated that normally the MS-1 is due September 1st. In speaking with the Department of Revenue Administration, the utility values have not been established yet and the DRA recommended the Town file for an extension for October 1st. Mr. Copeland moved to file the extension for the MS-1. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then discussed a request from Senator Stiles on a Senate bill which would allow full property tax exemption for all totally disabled veterans. The Town currently extends credits of \$26,000 for disabled veterans plus an additional \$6,500 for veterans that meet the war criteria time. Mr. Copeland stated that the way this is being written is that the costs would be extremely high because the 100% disability would not have to be combat related and the other tax payers would have to make up that loss. Ms. Lewy stated it calculates out to a \$42,700 increase. Mr. Canada stated he will reply to Senator Stiles that the Town does not support Senate Bill 36.

The group then discussed the Bunker Hill Common Land Use Change Tax (LUCT). Ms. Lewy stated that all of the land no longer meets the criteria for current use status. Once removing areas that have been disturbed, in addition to the areas set aside for open space as required by the Planning Board, the remaining contiguous areas not yet disturbed total less than the required 10 acres. Ms. Lewy stated there has been some confusion on the exact acreage of the open land but that she does not have a problem with the Land Use Change Tax staying at \$140,000 based on the value she previously estimated for the value on the day the land no longer met current use standards. Mr. Canada moved to establish a total value for the project of \$1.4 million, generating a LUCT \$140,000. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief John Scippa was present at the meeting and presented a letter for a \$10,000 donation to the Board. Mr. Deschaine will post the notice for the public hearing required before the Board can accept the donation.

At 8:20 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter with Mr. Scippa. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:17 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.

Mr. Canada moved to accept the resignation from Custodian Charlie Browne with gratitude for his years of service. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine presented a job description for the Custodian position for the Board's review. Mr. Canada moved to approve the pay range and the job description for the Custodian position and to have Mr. Deschaine advertise the opening immediately. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to accept the resignation from Police Secretary Jaye Aither effective September 1st, with gratitude for her many years of service. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Canada reminded residents that EEE and West Nile Virus have been found in the area and to take all proper precautions.

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:

Melissa Vander Woude requested the use of the Park on August 30, 2013 for a teen celebration. The request was approved.

Jennifer Reeser requested the use of the Park on September 21, 2013 for a birthday party. The request was approved.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated he has only been able to do a brief review of the Firehouse boiler quotes that were received. He stated he needs to do a bit more research and get back to the two companies to discuss further.

Mr. Deschaine stated he has not been able to find a surplus of money to assist in the funding of the new traffic management plan on Gifford Farm Road. Mr. Canada suggested using the money set aside for the Town Center Signs that is no longer needed. Mr. Deschaine will look into that possibility.

The group discussed a minor change to the ordinance regarding the Use of Stratham Hill Park. The prohibition of rebound devices was omitted from the document during the last round of edits and final adoption. The Board had nothing further to add for amendments and Mr. Deschaine will schedule the required public hearings.

Mr. Copeland moved to appoint James Elliott to the ZBA as a regular member with a high recommendation. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

The group discussed a letter that was received from the Conservation Commission asking the Selectmen to consider using a low impact design to handle stormwater while repaving the parking lots at Stratham Hill Park and the Municipal Center. The Board was in agreement that because of the small size of the parking lot at the Park compared to the area in question, conventional treatment will be sufficient and will avoid the additional capital and operational expenses of porous pavement and other low impact design features. They note that the Municipal Center lot does include many low impact design elements.

Mr. Canada stated that during a meeting with Makris Development, they requested that the Town accept a letter of credit rather than a surety bond for the bonds that are required to be posted. The group agreed to discuss this further at the September 9th meeting once Mr. Deschaine has had more time to prepare.

At 9:52 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss employee hiring. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:01 pm, Mr. Federico moved to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the matters discussed. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:02 pm, Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen on August 28, 2013 at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Center

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey J. Grella
Executive Assistant