

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 3, 2014 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, Mr. Canada opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Federico moved to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014 meeting as amended. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed with Mr. Copeland abstaining because he was not present at the February 24, 2014 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Deb Bronson reported that there is \$5,169,629.47 in the general checking account.

NEW BUSINESS: Town Moderator David Emanuel, Town Clerk Joyce Charbonneau, Assistant Moderator Tracy McGrail, and Supervisor of the Checklist Melanie McGrail were present at the meeting to discuss logistics for the election and the Town Meeting. Mr. Emanuel mentioned that there is plenty of parking for the election but he wants to make sure there is enough lighting in the parking lot. Highway agent Colin Laverty will get a light tower for the darkest part of the parking lot to help with those who may need the extra light. Mrs. Charbonneau reported that the 300th Anniversary Committee and the Ladies Auxiliary would each like to have a table set up in the Municipal Center on Election Day. Mr. Canada moved to allow the 300th Anniversary Committee and the Ladies Auxiliary to have tables in the lobby of the Municipal Center. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Emanuel stated that he would like to contact the Memorial School to see if we can have access to the gym for the Town Meeting instead of using the cafeteria, stating that he would like to have enough room for all of the participants. The Board discussed that option and decided keep the Town Meeting in the school cafeteria. Mr. Emanuel asked if the Board thinks we should have a police presence at the Town Meeting. The Board advised Mr. Emanuel that the chief has always attended the Town Meeting, but they would confirm that he will be present. Mrs. Charbonneau reported that there will be two tables set up for registration at the Town Meeting and another 4 or so tables for various groups to use. Mr. Deschaine reported to the Board that he has been notified by some groups representing interests in petition warrant articles that they want to give a short presentation at the Town Meeting. Mr. Canada moved that all presentations for the various warrant articles need to be submitted to the Town Administrator by Friday, March 7, 2014 in order to be included in the PowerPoint presentation for the Town Meeting. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Highway Agent Colin Laverty was present at the meeting to update the Board on his Department's activities.

Mr. Laverty reported that once we have approval from Unitil for use of their poles, he will have the banners installed in the Town Center. Mr. Laverty has been doing research on sidewalk

snow removal equipment for the proposed sidewalks in the Town Center; he will bring options to the Board when he is finished with the research.

Mr. Lavery updated the Board on various projects throughout Town, including tree work and site clearing which is on schedule to be completed by March 31, 2014. He then updated the Board on snow maintenance and salt use. He recently ordered less than 135 tons of salt, and reported there is approximately 185 tons of sand and salt mix – this should be enough for this winter.

Mr. Lavery reported that his department is doing regular winter maintenance on the equipment – making sure everything is ready to go for spring and summer. The department has started the annual truck inspections – three trucks inspected so far and all three are in good condition. Mr. Lavery reported that truck #6 – the multi-purpose body truck –needs a new chain with drive sprockets in both the front and the back – the channel that holds the chain in place is rotting. He has gotten a quote of \$5800 for the work. Mr. Lavery doesn't think it is worth spending that money when the cost for a new stainless sander is \$10,000.

Mr. Lavery stated that he has begun the 2014 planned projects which include road paving, ball fields, maintenance on Municipal septic and grey water systems, and the cemetery project.

PARKS & RECREATION: Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting to update the Board on his Department's activities. He announced that he met with the Maverick's baseball organization of Newington which wants to rent 2 fields at Stratham Hill Park for doubleheader play on Sunday's during Stratham's baseball season. After meeting with the baseball Board, they would be open to the idea as long as we restrict it to a four-hour block. Mr. Hickey called various local towns to find out what they charge to rent their ball fields – the prices ranged from \$50 - \$100 per game. Mr. Canada was not in favor of endorsing the use of the fields by the Maverick's baseball organization. Mr. Copeland said he would not endorse proceeding. Mr. Federico said he was ambivalent.

Mr. Hickey updated the Board on the skating rink in the Park stating that with the fluctuation in temperatures the rink is in rough shape, with the thaw and then the quick freeze – the ice conditions have not been very good since. There have been people out using the rink but it is not in the best shape.

Mr. Hickey stated that they are keeping up with trail grooming needs. The winter mountain-bike series wrapped up on Thursday, February 27, 2014 – we are looking at continuing that program next year. He then reported on the kids programs that were in place this winter. Last week was a week-long Coyote Club camp for elementary school age kids and it was a huge success.

Mr. Hickey reported that Exeter Youth Lacrosse approached him about field usage at Stevens Park. He is waiting to hear back from them regarding what the requirements are and to get a more formal proposal from them. Also a men's soccer group has express an interest to use Stevens Park. Mr. Hickey said he believes it is time to reevaluate our form for field usage and to come up with a rate for the usage. He will work on a plan and have a proposal for the Board next month for revisions and recommendations.

Mr. Hickey reported on the youth sports stating that the basketball program wrapped up the regular season before vacation; tournament play is still ongoing for the next month or so. Baseball registrations are open until March 12, 2014. Softball registrations will open this week.

Mr. Hickey provided the Board with a list of summer programs that his department will be offering—included on the list are summer camps that would require a signed contract. Mr. Hickey presented the Board with a copy of a contract from the Lacrosse camp to review, mentioning that it is standard contract language and is the same provisions that we have signed in the past. The contract is not ready for signatures yet because Mr. Hickey is waiting to hear back to see if background checks are needed. If they are he will put that in the contract. The camp is open to non-residents as well, with about a 40 – 60 split (40 Stratham kids) who participated in this camp in the past. Stratham will receive \$11.00 for each girl registered and \$18.00 for each boy registered.

Mr. Hickey reported that he will be looking for a new summer camp director. He also reported that instead of having a weekly summer concert series, they want to try something new and so on Sunday, September 21, 2014 they will have a one day summer concert festival at Stratham Hill Park.

Mr. Hickey reported that the Gifford House boiler has been fixed.

Mr. Hickey updated the Board on upcoming events such as the Spring Thaw Road Race March 29, 2014 at Stratham Memorial School; and an Easter egg hunt on April 5, 2014 at Stratham Hill Park.

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 Lathrop requested use of the Municipal Center on April 13, 2014 for a Mother's Group meeting. Mr. Canada moved to approve the request. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mary Jo Benosky requested use of the Stratham Hill Park Front Pavilion on June 20, 2014 for the One Sky picnic. Mr. Canada moved to approve the request. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Christine Lamar requested use of the Municipal Center on March 29, 2014 for a bridal shower. Mr. Federico moved to approve the request. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine reported that the owners of 26 River Road are requesting restoration of a lot that was involuntary merged. After researching the issue, Mr. Deschaine agrees they have a valid request pursuant to RSA674:39-aa and have provided an application and the necessary paperwork. Mr. Copeland asked what the sizes of the merged lots are. The lots are 1 acre and $\frac{3}{4}$ acres – the house is connected to the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre merged lot. Mr. Canada moved to approve the application for the lot. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the reappointments of Fire Warden's: Chief Rob Cook, Tim Brothers, Josh Crow, John Dardani, Tim Slager, and Bob Law. Mr. Canada moved to reappoint these men as fire wardens. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine reported to the Board that the Cooperstown Team requested a raffle permit. The raffle will be a fundraiser to offset costs for the team. Mr. Federico moved to approve the permit. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board discussed meeting with the North Hampton Board on March 24, 2014 for a discussion with Peter Bragdon of HealthTrust, Inc. It was felt that the logistics of a joint meeting made such a meeting difficult and agreed to meet with Mr. Bragdon in Stratham that night.

At 9:04 Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public meeting to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:32 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.

Highway Agent Colin Lavery requested a vacation day on March 11, 2014 to volunteer for the election and a vacation on March 21 – 27, 2014. Mr. Copeland moved to accept his vacation requests. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The group then discussed preparations for Town Meeting on March 14, 2014 and reviewed the Warrant to decide who would present each Article.

At 9:44 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hensley
Executive Assistant