

MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2014 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:34 pm, Mr. Copeland opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Deb Bronson reported that there is \$1,948,522.96 in the general checking account.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Federico moved to approve the amended minutes of the April 28, 2014 meeting. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: John Sapienza came before the Board on behalf of the Fair Committee to request the light at the Gifford Field be replaced. Originally the light was installed in a tree approximately 25 years ago, and it is becoming unsafe. Mr. Sapienza reported that poles were donated by the Fairpoint telephone company and he would like to use one of those poles to replace the lighting fixture. Mr. Hickey commented that the repair is definitely needed. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the Fair Committee to remove the light in the tree and to put it on a pole so that it is more stable. Mr. Federico 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:

Justin Rivlin requested use of the Stratham Hill Park Scamman Pavilion on May 25, 2014 for a birthday party. The Board approved the request.

Anita Binette requested use of the Stratham Hill Park Front Pavilion on August 9, 2014 for a retirement party. The Board approved the request.

Erin Miller requested use of the Stratham Hill Park 4H Pavilion on June 21, 2014 for her mother's birthday party. The Board approved the request.

Pat Polzella requested use of the Stratham Hill Park Front Pavilion on June 22, 2014 for a church picnic. The Board approved the request.

Jennifer Hartley requested use of the Stratham Hill Park 4H Pavilion on May 11, 2014 for a Mother's Day family picnic. The Board approved the request.

Ellen Ellis requested use of the Firehouse on May 15, 2014 for the Cub Scouts. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request and waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

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

Mr. Lavery reported the highway crew has been busy cleaning up winter debris from town buildings and parking lots. Mr. Lavery attended a seminar at UNH on healthy turf plans and his department has recently thatched and fertilized all the turfs. The Veteran's grave markers have been engraved at the Town cemeteries. Both cemeteries have been cleaned and fertilized. Mr. Lavery has been working with Bruce Scamman and Jim Gove on the new proposed cemetery roadway. There is a stream (wetland) that runs behind the cemetery expansion – Mr. Gove will delineate it. The goal is to start construction late July.

Mr. Lavery reported that Stratham Hill Park "Day of Caring" is going on today and tomorrow. Highway crews are actively working, along with Liberty Mutual and Stratham Hill Park, on a BMX pump track which will be finished tomorrow. They are working on various other clean-up tasks in the park.

Mr. Lavery reported that the Highway Department recently re-graded and installed 1 ½" crushed stone along the parking area to repair some frost damage within that parking lot.

Mr. Lavery reported that the Highway Department had their annual fueling system inspection and everything checked out good. They needed to purchase a new vent cap (\$129), and a new lock set (\$10 ea).

Mr. Lavery reported that the summer hours of operation are in effect. His crew is working 10-hour days. Things are going well and production is up. They will keep that schedule until late fall/winter season.

Mr. Lavery reported that he is doing septic inspections throughout the Town, he will complete the inspections in the next week and will have a report for the Board next month. He is also inspecting and cleaning the storm water chambers at the Police Department. He is inspecting the grey water tanks at the Fire Department and the Highway Department.

Mr. Lavery reported that he met with the Conservation Commission regarding selective tree removal on the 5-acre parcel off Scamman Road to discuss the potential for 15% – 20% clearing on the parcel that abuts Dave Short's property, and the Barker Farm property. The Conservation Commission wants to discuss this at their next meeting before we do any tree removal.

Mr. Lavery reported that the stump grinding at the Cushman property and the Municipal Center is complete. The stump holes have been filled and seeded.

Mr. Lavery reported that the current focus items are the septic inspections and pumping if necessary, and his 2014 road projects – looking to pave all of the roads, a number of culverts to clean, and some ditching to do in anticipation to the paving. The electrical bids for the Municipal Center, Highway Department motion plates, and Police Department parking lot for retro fit lights, have been coming in.

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

Mr. Hickey reported that he is still working on the criminal background screening policy. Mr. Hickey attended a meeting in Concord with the New Hampshire Parks and Recreation Association – the Department of Environmental Services was present and they were discussing their new requirements for youth sports camps. They have a list of disqualifiers that are similar to ours. Mr. Hickey stated that he will revise the disqualifiers to coincide with the national standard – which will allow the screening agency to do the disqualifying for us.

Mr. Hickey brought a sample of the “No Hunting” signs that will be posted at Stratham Hill Park. They will need to post 100 signs at a total cost of \$125. The goal is to post the signs as soon as possible. The Board discussed ordering extra signs in the event that some of the signs are damaged. The Board advised Mr. Hickey to order 150 signs.

Mr. Hickey reported to the Board that he recently screened candidates for a part-time seasonal position at Stratham Hill Park. He recommends that we hire Daniel Hart who lives in Newmarket, stating he believes he is the best candidate that we interviewed. Mr. Copeland moved to hire Daniel Hart. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey reported that the kiosks in the park are under warranty and will be replaced because there has been some damage to them. Mr. Hickey believes it is weather related and not vandalism. Mr. Hickey reported that the clean-up in the Park with Liberty Mutual is going strong with a team of over 100 coming again tomorrow, they will also paint the salt shed, and all of the outbuildings at Stevens Park. Mr. Hickey is working with John Sapienza and Dan Whittier on lighting at the skating rink. They will also replace a hydrant that was removed by the 4H Barn.

Mr. Hickey reported that he will be adding mulch at Stevens Park. He would also like put up a bench and a tree in honor of two families who lost family members. There was a dedication in the Town Report to Clare Ellis and Christopher Rowe, Sr. and we want to dedicate a bench and plant an oak tree by the entrance of Stevens Park. They were both instrumental in getting Stevens Park built.

Mr. Hickey reported that the basketball season has concluded – it was a successful season. Baseball and softball has opening ceremonies last Saturday, it went very well.

Mr. Hickey reported that there is a community trip on May 28th to Pickety Place, the cost of the bus is \$1,035 and he needs approval from the Board. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the trip and bus transportation for \$1,035 for the community trip on May 28th through the Recreation Department. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey reported to the Board that he took the donated 2-way radios to be serviced. They all need replacement batteries and new chargers. He has 6 radios that he would like to put on line. The cost would be \$1,200. Mr. Hickey commented that when there is a race he rents the radios for a cost of \$700, so this would be a huge cost savings to have his own radios. Mr. Copeland

moved to spend up to \$1200 of the Media Capital Reserve Fund to refurbish 6 old police radios for the Parks and Recreation Department through 2-Way Communications. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey reported that Leslie Blaney is asking to host a one-time cake decorating class at the Municipal Center, and she wants to charge a fee. Mr. Federico asked what the fee is for. Mr. Hickey responded that it is to cover the costs of the supplies. The Board discussed that they would approve if it is under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Department and there is no profit from the class.

Mr. Hickey reported that two bicycle companies contacted him to have events in the Park. Pop-A-Wheelies would like to have a trail and road demo on May 24th and Trek would like to have an event on May 31st. The purpose would be to allow people to come and try out bikes. They will not be selling anything. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the demos without any sales activity. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:32 pm, Mr. Copeland moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hensley
Executive Assistant