

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2014 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:31 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Deb Bronson reported that there is \$1,557,159.67 in the general checking account.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Canada requested to wait until the next Selectmen's meeting to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on June 2, 2014. The Board agreed.

NEW BUSINESS: John Dold, Chair of the 300th Anniversary Committee, updated the Board on the Committee's recent activities. Mr. Dold explained that student Madeline Grey asked the Town Clerk if we had a Town motto. We did not and the Committee thought it would be a good idea to have a Town motto and decided to make it a contest. Mr. Dold announced that the winner of the Town Motto Contest is Kim Peirce for submitting the winning motto of "Inspired by the past – committed to the future." Kim Peirce was awarded \$100 for the winning entry. Ms. Peirce thanked the Committee and then donated the \$100 back to the 300th Anniversary Committee for their use.

Mr. Dold was asked about his request to the Fair Committee for a 300th Anniversary Committee tent at the Fair. He explained that the primary purpose of Chief Blackcrow coming to the Stratham Fair is to advertise for the 2015 Pow Wow and, although he will be selling a few items, the primary goal is to promote the Town's interest in the 2015 event. Mr. Dold said that the 300th Anniversary Committee would like two tables at the Fair, one in the Town tent near the parking lot entrance and another one by the main gate. The Committee believes that most people come through the main gate and the Committee would like to have a presence there.

The Board asked Mr. Dold about the 300th Anniversary Committee's reenactment that they wish to schedule in September 2015. Mr. Dold explained that the person who will do the reenactment will find folks who are interested and, depending on the interest, it will be either a British Revolutionary war reenactment, or if he has more interest from Native Americans, it will be a French/Indian war reenactment. Peter Wiggin, member of the 300th Anniversary Committee, stated that the purpose of the Pow Wow and the Reenactment is to educate the audience about historical events and culture. Mr. Canada moved to allow the reenactment to take place as requested by the 300th Anniversary Committee on September 18, 19, 20, 2015 at Stratham Hill Park, and be allowed to have campfires as long as they check with the Fire Chief just before the event to make sure the conditions are satisfactory, and that all fees be waived. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Dold stated that the 300th Anniversary parade will be in the third weekend in September, 2016 and the parade route will be on Portsmouth Ave. The Committee will work with the Police Chief and file a permit request with the NHDOT. Chief Scippa reported that he met with the parade Directors and discussed the route and logistical planning. The parade route that is being considered would have Crestview Terrace be the staging area, taking a left on Route 33 heading

toward the circle with the exit just prior to the circle into the Wingate/Post Office parking lot. Chief Scippa said that from a police point of view it is a good route. He also recommends that the Committee wait a year before filing for the permit.

Cemetery Trustees Colin Laverty, June Sawyer, and John Labonte came before the Board to discuss the Reiss property. A preliminary test shows that the soil is damp but it does not appear to be wetlands. They want to do more soil tests to see if there are any existing wetlands on the property. The Trustees would like to discuss where the funds will come from to pay Soil Scientist Jim Gove for testing the soil, and to also discuss expansion of the Cemetery. Mr. Laverty stated that the Reiss family would sell a portion of their land that abuts the cemetery. Ms. Sawyer asked Mr. Canada and Mr. Laverty to meet with Mr. Reiss to talk about purchasing the full parcel of his land, on behalf of the Cemetery Trustees. The Board agreed to the request. The Board directed the Cemetery Trustees to use the money in their capital budget to pay to have Mr. Gove test the soil, and funds will be added to the capital improvement budget in January.

Resident Tammy Ham came before the Board to discuss individual wells on individual properties on Smith Farm Road, stating neighbors appear to be ready to drill a well and that she doesn't believe they are doing it with the Town's approval. Mr. Canada stated that individual wells on individuals' own properties do not require Town approval. If they are part of a community water system, they must, however, continue to pay to maintain and operate the community water system expenses to which they have obligations.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Rob Cook was present at the meeting to update the Board on his Department's activities. He reported that there have been 235 calls so far this year; including one that was fatal last week.

Chief Cook reported that they will be doing pump testing on the engines and tanker this week at the pond. Once the testing is complete they will submit a report on any repairs and maintenance that needs to be done.

Chief Cook reported that there is an ongoing issue with the forestry truck lights not working properly. Mr. Cook will get a price to change the power head to see if that fixes the problem.

Chief Cook stated that he needs to understand how to process detail payment requests. Mr. Deschaine said that he needs to get the time and involvement to Valerie Kemp and she will bill it for the Fire Department and process the associated payroll.

Chief Cook reported that they will be looking to replace a couple of the gas meters – he will get quotes and bring back to the Board for approval.

Mr. Canada asked about 3 invoices from Two Way Radio. While all 3 invoices were under the threshold above which Board approval is needed, they were for the same type of items and dated very closely together. Mr. Canada was concerned that this was a structured invoicing arrangement to avoid going to the Board for approval. Chief Cook said it was not.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Scippa reported that there was a tragic accident on Portsmouth Avenue last week that resulted in a fatality of a motorcycle operator. Chief Scippa reported that the Fire Department and the Highway Department performed their jobs in such a manner that provided a safe place to conduct the investigation and to move traffic along. He also commented that the traffic trailer was of great use.

Chief Scippa reported that he was recently contacted by the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office about problems they were having with an antenna that interacts with the Rye water tank antenna, as part of the Rockingham County Sheriff's dispatch system. The Rockingham County Sheriff's dispatch officer asked to look at the antenna that is on the hill at Stratham Hill Park. While looking at the antenna, 5 trees were identified that either need to be cut down or trimmed so that there is a line-of-site connection between the antenna at Stratham Hill Park and the Rye water tank. The urgency is that they are in the process of increasing the capacity of the Rye water tank antenna to be a receiving site and a transmission site which will enhance two-way communication with the dispatch services. Chief Scippa stated that he read the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the antenna and it does not state that Stratham is responsible for the trees surrounding the antenna. Chief Scippa asked the Board for direction regarding this issue. Mr. Copeland recommended the Rockingham County Sheriff representative meet with Seth Hickey, Kim Woods, Colin Laverty, and Chief Scippa to identify which trees need to be trimmed and/or cut. Mr. Federico asked if the antenna can be moved higher. Mr. Canada agreed with Mr. Copeland's recommendation and advised Chief Scippa to start with that meeting. Once the costs are determined, Chief Scippa will discuss responsibility with Sheriff Downing.

Chief Scippa reported that the Police Department has responded to the last three serious shooting events that have recently occurred in the area: the Brentwood event, the Newmarket event, and the South Hampton event. In each one of those cases there were three Stratham Police officers on site to assist.

Chief Scippa reported that he has received a couple complaints in regard to speeding vehicles from residents on High Street and this continues to be one of the "hot spots" in town for speeding vehicles. The most recent speed study that was done was in May of 2013 and during that study there were 193 vehicles observed. The Police Department will focus on this issue during the summer.

PARKS & RECREATION: Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting to update the Board on his Department's activities. He presented the Board with a final copy of the background screening of volunteer head coaches and assistant coaches for their approval and signature. Mr. Canada moved to adopt the policy and procedure for background screening of volunteer coaches and assistant coaches of youth sports as presented by Seth Hickey with an effective date of October 1, 2014. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey reported that he has installed 2/3 of the "No Hunting" signs at Stratham Hill Park and will have all signs installed very soon. Mr. Hickey reported that a hydrant has been delivered and will be placed near the 4H barn. The Highway Department will assist with the installation. Mr. Hickey reported that he reviewed the water table at the rink to figure out how to avoid the need to add so much water and will keep the Board updated on what solution is

recommended. Mr. Hickey reported that the electrical line at the stage area needs some attention and will be getting some quotes for the repair.

Mr. Hickey reported that he would like to put a sign up at the Stratham Hill Park Pavilions that inform people that reservations are needed to use the Pavilions and to advise when the pavilions will be used by reservation that day. There have been several people using the facilities without reservations, including school buses using the Park as a recreation lunch stop while on field trips. He is also concerned that people with reservations will encounter groups without reservations using the facilities at the same time. Mr. Hickey asked the Board for permission to purchase the signs out of the reservation fund and would cost \$220 for the three signs. Mr. Canada moved to allow Mr. Hickey to spend \$220 out of the reservation fund for purchase of the signs. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey reported that regarding the proposed forest management plan for Stratham Hill Park, the Planning Board will appropriate \$3,000 from the mitigation funds from the Varsity Wireless cell tower payment for that purpose. He will keep the Board updated on the discussion and progress.

Mr. Hickey reported that things have gone well at Stevens Park. The soccer season is winding down and the baseball teams are using it. Mr. Hickey reported that youth sports are going well. We are hosting a baseball tournament this year at Stratham Hill Park the weekend after the 4th of July. We are also hosting a softball tournament June 18, 19, and 20th and will be using the High School, Middle School, and two Stratham ball fields.

Mr. Hickey reported on the summer camp program. He is looking for a program coordinator but all other positions are filled. Mr. Copeland moved to approve \$17,500 to cover summer staff wages. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey reported that he did a community trip on May 28, 2014 that was very successful. Mr. Hickey would like to begin the discussion on the purchase of a vehicle for these types of trips. The cost to rent a bus for a day is very expensive and he believes owning a bus would enable him to do more trips, will lower the risk of booking trips, and enable him to offer a greater variety of events. Mr. Hickey reported that he is starting a card group on Friday's at 1:00 pm at the Municipal Center.

Mr. Hickey reported that Papa Wheelies would like to have another demo on June 16, 2014 at the Park from 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

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:

April Josselyn requested use of the Stratham Hill Park 4H Pavilion on August 23, 2014 for an American Legion annual outing. The Board approved the request.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated that he and John Boisvert attended a meeting arranged by Underwood Engineering with representatives of the utilities who own the transmission corridors between Exeter and Portsmouth (Unitil/Granite State Gas Transmission, PSNH, and Maritimes Northeast.) The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibility of using these corridors for the sewer line between Exeter and Portsmouth should a regional sewer treatment alternative be pursued. The results of the meeting were mixed and are still being evaluated.

After the meeting, Mr. Deschaine had discussions with Bob Kelly of Exeter and John Boisvert regarding the status of the Underwood feasibility study of sending sewer lines to Portsmouth. It has become apparent to both Mr. Kelly and Mr. Boisvert that the 2nd phase of the feasibility study will need to be done. The cost for the 2nd phase is \$18,100 with Stratham's portion being \$9,050. Mr. Canada moved to authorize \$9,050 for this contract amendment and further authorize Mr. Deschaine to sign it. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine reported that the Board needs to reappoint the members of the Town Center Revitalization Committee: David Canada; Rachael MacDonnell; Colleen Lake, Sean Norton, and Tracey Cordy. Mr. Canada moved to reappoint the members of the Town Center Revitalization Committee for another term. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada asked about getting an RFP out for the annual audit. Mr. Deschaine said it is on the list for him to get it out soon. He will report back to the Board.

At 9:31 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hensley
Executive Assistant