

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 30, 2014 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:30 pm, Mr. Canada opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes of the May 23, 2014 meeting. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Deb Bronson reported that there is \$8,578,570.44 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PARKS & RECREATION: Director Seth Hickey was present at the meeting to ask the Board's permission to hire Anthony Shea as the program coordinator for the summer camp program at the rate of \$10.50 per hour. Mr. Hickey reported that staff training starts this week. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the hire of Anthony Shea for the summer camp program coordinator. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey requested permission from the Board to resurface the basketball courts at Stratham Hill Park and use \$5,000 from his CIP budget. Bell & Flynn quoted \$5,400 to resurface the basketball courts. Mr. Laverty will work with the foreman to bring that price down to under \$5,000. The Board advised Mr. Hickey that the Stratham Fair will be in July and they will be using the basketball courts for events so they recommend that Mr. Hickey wait until after the Fair to resurface the basketball courts. Mr. Hickey agreed and will bring this before the Board at a later date.

Mr. Hickey reported that Liberty Mutual donated \$3,000 to the Recreation Department that he would like the Board to approve. Mr. Copeland moved to accept the \$3,000 donation from Liberty Mutual to be put into the Recreation Revolving Fund. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: At 7:42 pm, Mr. Canada opened the public hearing for application by the Caroline S. Robinson Trust, 61 Stratham Heights Road, (Tax Map 5 Lot 81) for a discretionary preservation easement to be placed upon the property in accordance with NH RSA 79-D. Ms. Lewy stated that in 2004 the Caroline S. Robinson Trust had put a barn, silo, shed, and an ice house/pool house into a discretionary preservation easement that was approved by the Board of Selectmen. The deeded easement lasts for 10 years and it is now time to renew it. Ms. Lewy stated that this 1840, 4-story barn is a scenic landmark. It adds enjoyment to the view at the peak of the hill on Stratham Heights Road. Fronting on 1,150 feet of a major Town road, the property as a whole offers one of the most beautiful southerly views in the Town. Overlooking farmland protected through a conservation easement, the barn is central to the cultural integrity of the property and will remain a historically important structure for years to come. Ms. Lewy asked if the Board would like to approve the preservation easement and at what percentage of assessed value. Mr. Canada moved to renew Caroline S. Robinson Trust's discretionary preservation

easement for an additional 10 years at 50% of the assessed value. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. At 7:49 pm, Mr. Canada closed the public hearing.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS CONTINUED:

ASSESSING: Town Assessor Andrea Lewy was present at the meeting and presented a land use change tax abatement application for the Board to review. Ms. Lewy recommends that the Board approve the \$11,500 Land Use Change Tax for Albert Carbonneau, 6 Roby Jewell Lane. Mr. Canada moved to abate Mr. Carbonneau's Land Use Change Tax in the amount of \$11,500. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy presented an abatement application for the Board to review. Mr. Canada moved to approve Makris Real Estate Development at \$1,309 abatement as recommended by Ms. Lewy. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy reported that she will be sending out the commercial preliminary assessment tomorrow. There are currently two dates set up for hearings with concerned property owners on July 17th and July 24th. If more dates are needed, they will be scheduled.

Ms. Lewy reported that she and Chris Murdough are currently reviewing properties.

MEETINGS: The Chair then 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:

Megan Congin requested use of the Municipal Center on October 12, 2014 for a surprise anniversary party for her parents; she also requested permission to serve beer. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use of the Municipal Center and allow her to serve beer. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Pat Polzella requested use of the Stratham Hill Park 4H Pavilion on August 10, 2014 for Operation Christmas Child outing. The Board denied the request because they are not from a surrounding town.

Joe Drake requested use of the Stratham Hill Park 4H Pavilion on August 15, 2014 for a 4-H recognition night and requested that the fee is waived. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use of the Pavilion and waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Brittany Ward requested use of the Stratham Hill Park Front Pavilion on August 30, 2014 for a wedding reception. The Board approved the request.

Ricky Daley requested use of the Morgera Room on July 12, 2014 for a Boy Scout merit badge meeting. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use of the Morgera Room and waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dan Crow requested use of the Morgera Room on July 15, 2014 for his father's memorial service luncheon. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the use of the Morgera Room and waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mansi Saksena requested use of the Municipal Center on July 4, 2014 for a birthday party and requested permission to serve alcohol. Mr. Canada moved to approve the use of the Municipal Center and allow them to serve alcohol. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Deschaine reported that there is a grant called Section 319 and money might be available to offset costs having to do with water quality issues. Mr. Deschaine reported that Theresa Walker, of the Planning Commission, is looking at the Subaru project and the road construction permitting for that project since it is all going to be designed to improve the water quality coming off the Subaru lot, the former Mobile lot, and the Market Basket lot. Mr. Deschaine received an email today from Rob Roseen who spoke with a state official who said it sounds like the project is eligible. The pre application deadline is July 11, 2014. Mr. Deschaine is requesting the Boards permission to continue to investigate and possibly file an application. The Board approved the request.

Mr. Deschaine stated that he would like to discuss the training period for the new CEO/Building Inspector. He stated that he has almost completed the reference checks of the conditional offer, with a tentative starting date of July 14, 2014, and asked the Board what amount of overlap we should have with Terry Barnes and the new person. The Board agreed to have a week or two of overlap and will let Terry Barnes decide how much training time is needed.

Mr. Deschaine reported that he distributed to the Board by email the draft of the RFP for auditing services. He is not ready to discuss it this evening.

Mr. Deschaine reported that he is working with the current auditors on the 2013 fiscal year audit, and they asked about CIP balances from 2013 that will be carried forward into 2014 and/or declared as lapsed and no longer needed. Mr. Deschaine reported that the only two that caught his attention while reviewing the 2013 CIP are the Stratham Hill Park parking lot improvements of \$335, and the \$1,049 for the tennis court improvements. There is also a balance of \$342 in the Highway CIP for the mower. The Board discussed line item balances and carry overs that Mr. Deschaine provided to them.

Mr. Deschaine reported that the TE Grant contract has not yet been signed. He stated that due to the Board's discussion, limitation of funds, and the controversy about where, when, and how a painted crosswalk on Portsmouth Avenue might be located, it was decided that it will not be part of the project. To eliminate the crossing would take the estimated cost of engineering down from \$92,000 to \$87,000. The bottom line is that there is not enough money to build a crosswalk as part of this project so there is no sense of designing one. Mr. Deschaine further stated that \$50,000 was originally allocated for engineering but they also had another allotment of \$21,250 to put toward right-of-way. What they consider right-of-way was included in survey work, laying it out, existing condition plans, utility plans, etc. Once we broke that out of engineering cost, ROW costs are now \$14,985. The preliminary design work is now down to \$48,988 which

falls below the \$50,000 allocated. DOT has approved us to move forward with preliminary design at a total cost of \$63,973 against a total budget of \$71,250. Mr. Deschaine stated that DOT discovered that because of some federal regulation they were in default or possible over expenditure of their federal highway fund so DOT froze all the expenditures except the ones currently pending, including our preliminary design work. DOT is confident that once Congress finishes their work and assigns the Federal Highway Administration their allotment, then they will be able to assign the remaining amount, which is \$23,703 for the final design. Mr. Deschaine asked the Board for permission to proceed with the preliminary design because it meets all the budgetary constraints.

Mr. Canada stated that he followed up with the committees who have previously participated in the community tent at the Stratham Fair and stated that all Town committees should be made aware of the opportunity to have a spot in the Stratham Fair community tent.

At 8:48 pm, Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a matter that could affect the reputation of another not a member of the Board and also to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:11 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.

At 9:11 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hensley
Executive Assistant