

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2014 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

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

At 7:00 pm, the Chair moved to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:35 pm, the Chair moved to come out of the non-public session and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the matters discussed. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 7:36 pm, the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes of the regular meeting on August 4, 2014. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Deb Bronson reported that there is \$9,238,683.43 in the general checking account.

NEW BUSINESS: Highway Agent Colin Lavery came before the Board on behalf of Seth Hickey with a quote for the purchase of a lawn mower to use at Stevens Park. Mr. Lavery stated that the mower is also used by the Highway Department to mow various athletic fields and cemeteries in Town. The current 61" Bobcat mower has a total of 2400 hours on it, is leaking oil, and is in need of a motor rebuild. The Parks and Recreation Department would like to purchase a new Scag Cheetah from the CIP budget which has a total balance of \$11,000 and requested to make a purchase of \$10,696.55, leaving a balance of \$303.45 in the CIP. Mr. Canada moved to authorize Parks & Recreation to spend \$10,696.55 for the new mower. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Lavery stated that he thinks we should put the Bobcat mower on Craig's List for a starting minimum bid of \$900. Mr. Deschaine stated that this might be a good time to also sell the Chevrolet Tahoe from the Police Department. Mr. Lavery will look into the value in order to place it on Craig's List with a minimum bid. Mr. Lavery stated that the 2004 F-450 truck #104 is in need of a new turbo and he is requesting to expend \$1,500 on a new turbo at Seacoast Truck Repair. Mr. Canada moved to allow Mr. Lavery to spend up to \$1,500 for the repairs. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Scippa reported that he spoke with Rockingham County Sheriff Mike Downing and his staff in the communications division with regards to the tree trimming project at Stratham Hill Park. They are comfortable with the terms that the Board has designated and are willing to split the costs as presented. Chief Scippa will be speaking with the NH State Police communications later this week to secure their support as well. Chief Scippa reported that currently the antenna on Stratham Hill Park is out of service due to a lightning

strike and the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department is working with their insurance providers to check on the coverage and to have it repaired quickly. The Rye antenna was also affected by the lightning so communications are currently only operating on the Newington antenna.

Chief Scippa reminded the Board that they are conducting the school response training at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS) this Wednesday and have about 38 participants from four different Police Departments.

Chief Scippa requested of the Board to exceed a dollar amount that he asked for last month. He had asked to expend \$7,000 to outfit the new vehicle, but in actuality it will cost an additional \$300. The extra \$300 is for a secondary radio and speaker in the back of the vehicle that the Chief did not put in the original request. There is \$11,347 in the budget line item. Two-Way Radio is doing the work and they have been doing an excellent job so far. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the additional \$300 for outfitting of the new cruiser. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Scippa reported that the dog warrant activities have been completed, and it appears that we have about 15 outstanding unlicensed dogs which are owned by 12 or 13 people. Chief Scippa will issue "Must Appear" summons for those owners who are delinquent.

Chief Scippa reported that last month he had requested funding for training that was going to be held in Connecticut but through further research found that that same class is being offered in Portland, ME. It is much closer and will reduce the cost of the training so he will send his officers there.

Chief Scippa stated that he would like to discuss Town Ordinance 1-03 Hawkers, Peddlers, Vendors, and Town Ordinance 1-04 Solicitation of Funds & Sale for Charitable or Religious Purposes. Chief Scippa stated that based on information he and Mr. Deschaine received, it is clear that Town Ordinance 1-04 Solicitation of Funds & Sale for Charitable or Religious Purposes does, in fact, come up against a recent Supreme Court decision wherein a religious group felt it was unconstitutional for a Town to get in the way of their free speech and their freedom of religion by requiring registration with the town before engaging in door to door evangelical work. Chief Scippa stated that the easiest way to address the situation would be for the Board to repeal Ordinance 1-04 in its entirety, and then work with Mr. Deschaine and Chief Scippa to insert language into Ordinance 1-03 that would specifically identify and define conduct that is not prohibited, such as soliciting for religious purposes, preaching, political activity, or any other protected free speech. Mr. Scippa stated that another option would be to leave 1-03 alone and redefine 1-04 and put exemptions to it. Mr. Deschaine expressed different thoughts. Mr. Canada stated that he would like Chief Scippa and Mr. Deschaine to work on the Ordinance language then come back and present it to the Board. Mr. Copeland agreed.

Mr. Copeland asked Chief Scippa what are the plans for his old vehicle. Chief Scippa said that once his new one goes "on-line" he will have some minor body work done on the old vehicle, put a light bar on it and use it as a fallback detail car for the Police Department to use. It is 12 years old but has low miles and is mechanically sound.

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:

Jennifer Hubbell requested the use of the Municipal Center Meeting Room A on August 20, 2014 for a "Girls on the Run NH Volunteer Coach Training" and requested the fee is waived. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the use of the Municipal Center and waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Julia Ahumada requested the use of the Stratham Hill Park Front Pavilion on September 7, 2014 for a birthday party. The Board approved the request.

Andrea FMC Morris requested the use of the Stratham Hill Park Front Pavilion on August 31, 2014 for Exeter Dialysis Patient Staff picnic. The Board approved the request.

Joe Royer requested the use of the Municipal Center on November 1, 2014 for a birthday party. He also requested to be allowed to serve alcohol. Mr. Canada moved to allow the use of the Municipal Center and request a copy of his insurance declaration page in order to serve alcohol. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Seth Hickey requested the use of the Stratham Hill Park Scamman Pavilion on August 13, 2014 for a family event, and requested that the fee be waived. Mr. Copeland moved to allow the use of the pavilion and to waive the fee. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Deschaine reported that the preliminary values for the revaluation have gone from the gross 2009 figures of \$1,198,268,681 to the gross 2013 figures of \$1,226,671,118.

Mr. Canada reported that the tenants at the Gifford House have given their notice and are trying to re-rent it themselves since their contract does not expire until next summer. Mr. Canada asked the Board if we should keep the rent at \$2,100. Mr. Copeland stated we should keep it at \$2,100 and reevaluate it next year.

At 8:35 pm, Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hensley
Executive Assistant