

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2014 BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

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

At 7:32 pm the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

**SECRETARY' REPORT:** Mr. Canada stated that he did not get a chance to review the minutes of the September 22, 2014 meeting and requested to wait until the next meeting to approve them.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Bronson reported that there is \$5,711,320 in the general checking account.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

ASSESSING: Town Assessor Andrea Lewy was present at the meeting and presented the Board with three abatement requests. The first abatement is for Mark and Cynthia Devine at 4 Green Vale Drive. The original argument for the abatement was that they felt they were over assessed. An interior inspection was set up with the Devine's and upon inspection it was noted that an area in the home that was originally thought to be open with a cathedral ceiling was actually living area. When the data was changed it increased the assessment from \$408,800 to \$410,400. The home was also compared to other Delaware models and found to be consistently assessed. Ms. Lewy's recommendation is to deny the request. The second abatement request is from Haralampos Sidiropoulos of 46 Portsmouth Avenue. The abatement request was not supported by any additional documentation. Mr. Sidiropoulos had spoken with Steve Traub about the assessment and did not provide any information that the assessment was incorrect. Ms. Lewy's recommendation is to deny the request. The third abatement request is from Unitil for Map 29 Lot 1. Unitil also filed with the BTLA and has stated that the net book value to determine the assessment is too high. Ms. Lewy spoke with Scott Dickman, the DRA Utility appraiser that provided the assessment. Ms. Lewy asked Mr. Dickman if he would be defending the assessment at the BTLA. Mr. Dickman recommended (I) that she speak with Unitil and request their PA20, which gives the netbook value. Mr. Dickman stated that the netbook value that Unitil was reporting on the abatement form was actually less than the netbook value that Unitil had reported to him. Ms. Lewy recommends that the Board deny the abatement request from Unitil. Mr. Canada moved to deny the three abatements as Ms. Lewy presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy presented the MS-1 Certification Form for the Board to sign explaining that the DRA had already received the MS-1 on August 29, 2014 electronically but requires the Board's signature to be on file.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Stratham Fair Committee Chairman Francisco Marin came before the Board to report on the 2014 Stratham Fair. He reported that the total revenue for the Fair was \$71,900. After the Fair's CIP set aside for the year, the net profit was \$66,290. Those funds were dispersed 50% to the Stratham Volunteer Fire Department Association and 50% to the Trust.

Mr. Marin stated that the Fair Committee nominees for the ensuing year are Karen Gallagher, Tim Slager, John Cushing, Rob Cook, and Francisco Marin. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the Fair slate. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Kirthi Sreenivasan and Vidhya Bhad appeared before the Board because they have requested the use of Municipal Center Meeting Rooms A & B for a cultural event. The Board had some concerns because of the condition of the rooms after their use on September 20, 2014 when they rented the space. Mr. Deschaine stated that the floors were dirty and the table and chairs were not put back neatly. The toilets in all of the restrooms were running. Mr. Deschaine stated that it is our expectation that the folks who reserve the facilities make sure things are in good condition when they leave, and if the toilets are running to contact someone at the Municipal Center or the Police Department to take care of the problem. Mr. Canada stated that the other issue was the number of people stated on the reservation was less than the number of people who came to the event. Ms. Sreenivasan stated that it was difficult to know how many people were going to come since some will RSVP and others will not. Mr. Federico stated it would be better to assume the higher number on the reservation request. Ms. Sreenivasan stated that they will be very careful to clean up after their event. Mr. Canada moved to allow the Indian Cultural event. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Sharyl and Jerry Murphy of Sage Farm Antiques appeared before the Board to request the use of Stratham Hill Park for a 3-day antique show in 2015. Mr. Copeland said we have to stick with the guidelines. Mr. Federico stated that the By-laws state no commercial activity. Mr. Copeland then stated that the problem is if we open up that door, it would be wide open and we would have many commercial entities coming to us and the Park patrons would be inconvenienced by the activity going on in the Park. Mr. Canada stated that the event they want to have would overpower the Park and it is not fair to the community. Ms. Murphy stated that they would only use a portion of the Park. The Board denied the request to use the Park for the antique show.

**MEETINGS:** The Chair then reviewed the meeting 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:

Sanjay Iyer requested the use of the Municipal Center Meeting Rooms A and B on October 4, 2014 for an Indian Cultural Event. The Board approved the request.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Mr. Deschaine reported that we received 20 applications for the part-time Land Use Assistant 1 position. He asked the Board if they want to participate in the screening of the applicants. Mr. Federico stated that he wants to review the applications. Mr. Copeland stated that he will be out of town and does not need to review the applications. Mr. Canada stated that he will be out of Town and stated that he would like to review the finalists before the interview process begins. Mr. Deschaine will have that available for the Board next Monday.

Mr. Canada moved to accept Steve Doyle's resignation from the Planning Board. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:12 pm Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss the RFP for auditor as it could affect the reputation of another, not a member of the Board. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:38 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 8:39 pm Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hensley  
Executive Assistant