

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2014 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

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

At 7:37 pm the Chair opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland to approve the amended minutes of the regular meeting on November 17, 2014. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Deb Bronson reported that there is \$2,235,465.11 in the general checking account.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Canada stated that the Board would discuss Convenient MD's proposal to put banners up at Stratham Hill Park, and Stevens Park. The Stratham Hill Park Association discussed this at their meeting. Dan Crow, Chairman of the Park Association stated that the Association voted and it was not supported to allow the banners by a vote of 3-3. Mr. Crow stated there was an amended motion that passed to have the banners on the infield side only of the two ball fields at Stratham Hill Park. Max Puyanich of Convenient MD stated that they would prefer to have a sign on both sides of the fence, one facing out, as proposed, facing the parking lot. He agreed to count this as two signs and pay accordingly. Mr. Federico stated that companies that support recreation programs are well entitled in the asking for signage and he is in favor of granting their request. Mr. Copeland stated that he agrees with Mr. Federico but stated that perhaps we would want the signs to be up seasonally not year round. Mr. Canada stated that the little league fence is taken down for two weeks in July. He stated that he would be more comfortable with a one-year trial basis rather than the five sought. Mr. Canada moved to allow the program as presented, that is, six signs (3 at Stratham Hill Park and 3 at Stevens Park) for \$6,000, and that they be allowed for one year. The program will then be reevaluated with Convenient MD having first option for an additional four years. The price will remain the same. They will also be required to provide proofs so that the Board of Selectmen can approve the signs before they are produced. Convenient MD understands that the signs will be down for approximately two weeks during the month of July for the Fair. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

ASSESSING: Town Assessor Andrea Lewy was present at the meeting and presented the Board with six abatements for the Board to approve. Ms. Lewy explained the six abatements are the result of negative bills. The reason this happens is the first half bill is based on the assessment from last year. When we lowered the assessment for some as a result of the Town-wide revaluation, the second half tax obligation was wiped out resulting in a credit for the entire tax year. The six abatements range from \$16 - \$143 and is the overpayment from the June bill. Mr. Canada moved to approve the abatements for Marilyn Blaisdell; Barbara French; Madeline Johnson; Bradley Jones; Louise Richard; and Douglas Scamman, Jr. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy reported that she received the BTLA decision on a case brought by Peter and Anna Lessels of 3 Oak Lane. The BTLA largely ruled in favor of the Lessels and there has been an adjustment made by the BTLA based on the purchase price of the seller. Ms. Lewy stated that there is an appeal process if the Board is interested. It was agreed to request a re-hearing since the Board, Town Administrator, and Assessor all agreed the decision appeared to be “sales chasing”, a prohibited practice.

At 7:55pm 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. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:15 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. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to grant an Elderly Exemption discussed during the non-public session and to keep the name private since there is an income criteria associated with the exemption. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy brought one Veterans Credit before the Board for their approval, stating that Horst Kleinbauer meets the criteria and was in the Vietnam conflict. Mr. Canada moved to approve the Veterans credit for Horst Kleinbauer effective 2016. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy brought the 2014 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate for the Board's signature. Ms. Lewy brought the 2014 – 2nd half Tax Warrant of \$12,138,494 for the Board's signature.

NEW BUSINESS: Highway Agent Colin Laverty came before the Board to get approval for the Town Office Christmas Party, on Thursday, December 18th from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm at a cost of \$1,271.24. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request and allow for the expenditure. 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:

Chris Carbonneau requested use of the Morgera room on March 15, 2015 for a baby shower and requested the fee be waived. Mr. Federico moved to approve the request. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chris Carbonneau requested use of the Morgera room on January 10, 2015 for a birthday party and requested the fee be waived. Mr. Federico moved to approve the request. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Deschaine presented the Board with the Audit and MS5 for the Board to sign to get the tax rate. The tax rate will be \$19.91 this year. Mr. Canada moved to sign the financial report for the Town Budget. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine reported that they received four responses for the County's RFP regarding the electrical suppliers' contract. Only one would apply to Stratham. The pricing offered solely to the Town of Stratham is a 12 month rate at a little over \$0.12 a kilowatt hour, and a 24 month rate at \$0.1138 a kilowatt hour. Our current supplier is North American Power and their renewal rate is \$0.1149 for 12 months. Mr. Canada moved to go with North American Power at the rate they have offered us. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED: Mr. Deschaine presented the Board with two applications to the State to establish Economic Revitalization Zones (ERZ) pursuant to RSA 162-N:8. Mr. Deschaine stated that barring any further questions or additional concerns, it is recommended that the Board of Selectmen adopt the motion. Mr. Canada moved that the Stratham Board of Selectmen does hereby authorize the establishment of two (2) Economic Revitalization Zone Application Stratham Flexible/Mixed Use Development District November 2014 and Economic Revitalization Zone Application Stratham Industrial Zoning District October 2014. The creation of the zones will provide incentives to increase job creation, tax revenues, reduce vacancies, and facilitate vacant land development. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED: The Board discussed sending an email blast to residents with information about the Annual Community Tree Lighting, December 7, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Stratham Firehouse.

At 8:57 pm Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss legal issues. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:20 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. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:21 pm Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hensley
Executive Assistant