

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2014 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

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

At 7:31 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 November 24, 2014, and the amended minutes of the December 1, 2014 minutes. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Deb Bronson reported that there is \$841,546.00 in the general checking account.

NEW BUSINESS: Resident Jeff Denton came before the Board to request permission to align with the Stratham Volunteer Fire Department to have a "Lights for Lives" event. The rules would be for residents who wish to participate to decorate their home by December 19th and donate \$25. The proceeds would go to Seacoast Family Promise. The winner would be announced on December 21st and will be awarded bragging rights and a spot on the plaque which will be displayed at the Town Hall. Mr. Federico thought it is a good idea. Mr. Copeland expressed that he thinks it is a good idea but is wondering if the Town participation could cause problems down the road with other charities. Mr. Deschaine stated as long as it was clear that the event was being sponsored by Fire Department Association, the Town could facilitate by promoting it as a community event. Otherwise, the donations would be subject to the Municipal Budget laws and would get overly complicated. Mr. Denton stated that if this becomes an annual event they could rotate the charities by choosing from local charities. Mr. Canada moved that the Recreation Department facilitate promoting this event. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chief Rob Cook was present at the meeting to update the Board on his Department's activities. Chief Cook presented the Board with a Memorandum of Understanding from Rockingham County Sheriff's Department needed for a grant to redo the dispatch center for Rockingham County. He asked for the Board to look at it and sign if they approve.

Chief Cook reported that they have responded to 562 calls this year and he believes we will be close to 600 by the end of the year.

Chief Cook reported that the Fire Department's elevator's piston packing is leaking; John Sapienza and Dan Crow spend hours cleaning up the oil at the bottom of the elevator pit. Chief Cook got a quote from Stanley Elevator Company to repair the cylinders for a total of \$3,750. The Fire Department is over budget on their building maintenance, but there is money in other

budget line items. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the \$3,750 to Stanley Elevator Company to repair the elevator. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Cook reported that he would like to purchase three new sets of gear at a total cost of \$8,663.91 but would like to make it \$9,000 so he can purchase hoods, gloves, and winter mittens for fire fighters, and stated that there is money in the budget for the expenditure. Mr. Copeland moved to approve \$9,000 for three sets of gear and additional head gear and gloves. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Cook reported that he is looking into purchasing new computers for the Fire Department as they are out of date. He will look into it and present it to the Board when he has the quotes. Mr. Canada stated that he would like to have Paul Wolf give input into what computers to purchase.

TOWN CLERK: Town Clerk Joyce Charbonneau came before the Board to discuss implementing credit card/ACH use for payment of taxes as an option to residents. There would be a credit card fee of 2.95% to the resident that we would make sure they are aware of. The Clerk's office has software that is compatible for implementing credit card use for payments. Mr. Federico moved to allow the Town Clerk to institute credit card billing and ACH payments for property taxes. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Charbonneau reported that her department sends out about 350 – 400 motor vehicle renewal notices. What she would like to do is stop sending reminder notices by mail beginning January, 2015. We have 65% of residents whom we now send notices to via email and we would publicize that we are now sending notices only through email. Mr. Canada moved to implement Mrs. Charbonneau's plan to discontinue courtesy U.S. Mail reminders for Motor Vehicle renewals effective January 2, 2015. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed 2 – 1.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Scippa reported that he received a letter from Ray Hovsepian, General Manager of Audi of Stratham, also representing the Porsche General Manager of Stratham, stating that he is a member of an organization called ICL Autos and the organization would like to donate a LoJack stolen vehicle recovery system to the Stratham Police Department to be installed in one of our police cars. Chief Scippa has an inquiry into LoJack to get an actual price for this device to present to the Board so we can fulfill the statutory requirements for accepting a donation. Mr. Canada asked if we get this system would the Police Department get a lot of mutual aid calls from surrounding Towns that do not have the system. Chief Scippa stated that if a car that is stolen in another community and drives through Stratham, our system would alert us and then we would need to be a part of that investigation. Mr. Copeland stated that we also need to find out who is paying for the installation and who is paying for the monthly fees associated with the system.

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:

Joseph Berwanger requested use of the Stratham Hill Park – Front Pavilion, 4H Pavilion, Scamman Pavilion, and the Stage on October 4, 2015 for a Boy Scout Troop 1085 sponsored Car & Bike Show and to waive the fee. A motion was made by Mr. Copeland to approve the use and waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Deschaine brought a contract for the Board to sign to allow Highway Agent Colin Laverty to have G&K Services provide the uniforms for the Highway Department, as discussed last week. Mr. Copeland moved to have Mr. Canada sign the contract, Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine reported that he met with Great Bay Carpet Cleaning and they looked at the carpet in the Library and treated the area that is stained and it did take out a lot of the staining. Mr. Deschaine stated that we should probably have it cleaned a couple times a year. Mr. Canada stated that they should put the replacement of the carpet in the budget for next year in case the stains come back.

Mr. Deschaine reported that the application Mr. Daley submitted for the Economic Revitalization Zones in the Industrial Park and the former College site have been approved.

Mr. Canada stated that he wrote a newsletter that the Board has seen via email and asks that they approved it and for Mr. Deschaine to get it out to residents. It was approved.

At 8:46 pm Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:52 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.

Mr. Canada stated that the subject of the preceding nonpublic discussion was the request of three employees to get paid in lieu of taking vacation time. Andrea Lewy has 11.3 hours; Colin Laverty has 41.76 hours; and Paul Deschaine 71.88 hours accrued over and above what they can use in 2014 or carry over to subsequent years. Mr. Canada moved that, since they all have legitimate reasons why they could not take the time that we pay them so that they don't lose it. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:53 pm Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hensley
Executive Assistant