

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2015 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MEMBER'S 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'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the amended minutes of the regular meeting on December 22, 2014. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Deb Bronson reported that there is \$8,234,198.66 in the general checking account.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

CEMETERY TRUSTEES:

Colin Laverty, on behalf of the Highway Department and along Cemetery Trustees, Jane Sawyer and John Labonte, stated he was there to discuss the proposal to install three temporary single bar gates to deter vehicular traffic from driving through the cemetery during the winter. Mr. Laverty indicated they had used barricades in the past, but people had moved and/or driven around those barricades creating damage to the cemetery grounds. He continued that the gates would be closed as of November 1st and opened April 15th, dependent on weather conditions. Mr. Laverty indicated they would like to make an amendment to the Cemetery Regulations to close the cemetery to vehicular traffic from November 1st through April 15th. Chairman Canada asked why they would want to close the cemetery noting that residents could have someone buried there and would want to visit. Mr. Laverty responded that the cemetery would not be closed totally, just to vehicles. Town Administrator Deschaine indicated that he had heard from residents who were concerned about closing the cemetery to traffic and that he had spoken to Colin who had offered to check on the conditions on a week by week basis and report back to the Trustees. Chairman Canada said that he was surprised to hear this proposal and thought it would be odd to have a seasonal cemetery because there were some people that would not be physically able to walk to the cemetery. Mr. Copeland asked who would be liable if someone were to get injured at the cemetery. Mr. Laverty responded that the Town would be liable whether the gate was installed or not. He continued that they would try to accommodate residents to be able to access the cemetery as much as possible, and the reason for the proposal was to prevent further damage to the property.

Mr. Canada moved to deny the proposal, seconded by Mr. Copeland, which passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Laverty stated that the Highway Department had updated the list of Veterans buried in the town cemeteries, which was now saved electronically in an Excel spreadsheet. He continued that

he had received a lot of positive remarks from residents relative to putting up the veteran flag markers.

Mr. Lavery indicated that he was contacted the Town Center Committee, who had requested that they remove all holiday decorations from the Town Center and that he would make an effort to get that done as soon as possible. The Board agreed with the project but felt the removal of the lighting should not be his responsibility. Mr. Canada said that he would confirm that with the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Lavery indicated relative to winter maintenance, that they were in good shape due to the mild weather, but had used a lot of salt during the two ice storms. He stated they had used 660 tons of ice melt, and in years past had used about 1600 tons for the entire season, and they were right on track to use the same amount.

Mr. Lavery indicated that the Highway Department had done some work on the municipal signs around town. He continued that there were some hard water stains that will have to be treated in the spring.

Mr. Lavery stated his Department had been working on pruning sight lines and right of way maintenance.

Mr. Lavery noted relative to the uniform contract that Unifirst had picked up all of their uniforms as of January 2nd and they would have a new contract with G&K Services as of January 21st.

Mr. Lavery stated that he had worked with NH DES relative to the annual fuel savings report and the town had saved over 2000 gallons of fuel the past year. He continued he would be installing an "Idle Right" system on a 2011 Ford F350 which would be for vehicle details when they needed the truck for just warning lights so the lights could be on even though the truck was off. He continued that when the battery was running low, the truck would automatically start up for a period of time. He stated that the unit was \$500 but that he could foresee a savings of about \$4,000 in fuel. Mr. Lavery stated there may be a chance for a grant opportunity for additional units and DES had said they would keep Stratham in mind if those opportunities arose.

Mr. Lavery noted he had been working with Rollins Hill Development, LLC on the Rollins Hill subdivision, and they had another draft plan set and would be meeting with the Planning Board on January 21st.

Mr. Lavery presented his look ahead schedule and stated they were working on their weekly maintenance, were working to rebuild the 1989 landscape trailer, and continue with the sight line and right of way maintenance.

Mr. Federico asked if they had any problems with security at the new salt shed. Mr. Lavery responded they had not, and had worked with Paul Wolf to install a camera system and would be completed by the end of the month.

Mr. Canada stated he had understood that they had looked at Aubrey's car and asked for an update. Mr. Lavery responded that it needed work done to the rockers to pass inspection and the main bulk of the car would need some welding, fabrication and paint. He continued that the roof of the car needed work and suggested that be repaired as well to keep the car running as long as possible. Mr. Lavery indicated that there was a man who plowed part-time for him who also did body work and he was going to provide an estimate. Mr. Deschaine indicated that man had gotten back to him and indicated that the car was in much better shape than he had thought. He would be providing a full estimate in the near future. He stated he thought they could get five or six years out of the year for a relatively small investment.

RECREATION:

Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey indicated that the SPCA was looking for the Board to review the proposal for the Annual Paws Walk event on June 7th. He continued there were requests to use the temporary electric panels, for septic to be pumped before (and which the SPCA would pay for to be pumped after the event), and for use of the snack shack. Mr. Federico asked if anyone monitored the electricity use and if there was any donation towards that. Mr. Hickey indicated that no one had monitored in the past nor had they required a fee. Mr. Federico stated he thought that the town should be able to recoup some of those fees as the SPCA was charging their vendors. Mr. Federico moved to charge the SPCA Fifty Dollars per panel used during the annual Paws Walk, seconded by Mr. Copeland with all in favor. Sheila Ryan from the SPCA stated that nothing new was planned for the event that year and they would be sticking to the basics. Mr. Canada moved to allow the SPCA to reserve Stratham Hill Park on Sunday, June 7th, under the conditions noted on the back of their application and the added fee for electrical use, seconded by Mr. Copeland with all in favor.

Mr. Hickey indicated that he had a request from a gentleman who wanted to use Meeting Room A in the Municipal Center. He continued that the man was a contractor for Timberland who wanted to conduct a photo shoot. Mr. Copeland stated that he thought that would be considered commercial activity. Mr. Hickey stated he was looking for dates towards the end of January and the shoot would last one to two days. Mr. Copeland noted that he would need more information on the request before he would make a decision on this item as he would consider this commercial activity. He asked for more communication as to whether this man was a direct employee of Timberland, or if he was a private contractor. Mr. Canada moved that the request be approved, seconded by Mr. Federico, which passed with two affirmative votes and Mr. Copeland opposed.

Mr. Hickey indicated he was tasked by the Conservation Commission to hang signs indicating Town Forest Land, and that he had gone out between Christmas and New Year's to ensure that the no hunting signs were still up and to hang the medallions from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Hickey said the trail groomers were ready to go and in good shape. Mr. Hickey indicated that the skating rink was full to capacity from the recent rain and was now frozen solid.

Mr. Hickey stated that the Forest Management Committee had met and they were going to try to meet twice in January and twice in February. He continued they would be holding a meeting that

week to set goals and to develop a better understanding of what is important to that group. Mr. Hickey stated he hoped to have more information for the Board in February.

Mr. Hickey indicated relative to the "Fat Bike" race event in March that they would be holding some practice races beforehand.

Mr. Lavery noted that he had heard from Dan Crow, President of the Park Association, who was working with an Eagle Scout who would like to take on designating the rescue zones for part of the Eagle Scout award. He stated that he had not gotten back to Mr. Crow and was looking for direction from the Board. The Board indicated they had no problem going forward with the request. Mr. Federico asked about the other Eagle Scout project at the Park. Mr. Hickey responded that he had not heard anything about recent progress on that project, but he would follow up with the Scout.

Mr. Hickey stated that he was looking to have the field lining brought in-house for 2015. He continued in the past they had contracted that work out, but that he had money in the Rec Department revolving budget to purchase the equipment and that he thought it would be a great cost savings in the long run. Mr. Canada asked how much money he thought they might save. Mr. Hickey responded that he thought it would pay for itself in the first year and that he would bring a formal proposal forward in February and that they were currently spending about \$2000 per year for field lining.

Mr. Hickey indicated that he had provided the Board with a report relative to the Gifford House and there were a few items he wanted to get Board input on. Mr. Hickey went over the list of items that needed repair, or had been repaired.

Mr. Hickey stated relative to youth sports that everything was going really well and there were no issues. Mr. Hickey stated the basketball program was currently ongoing and that baseball and softball were both beginning to prepare for the upcoming season.

Mr. Hickey noted relative to programming, that they had completed their summer camp schedule and that he was working with some new vendors to bring different camps in. He stated that their camp registration was the following week and anticipated that it would fill up quickly. Mr. Hickey indicated that he would be bringing forward all the contracts for the summer camp in February.

Mr. Hickey stated they had a successful senior trip on December 13th to Portland, Maine and noted that he thought it was going to be an annual event. Mr. Canada asked if they were going to change the name of the trips. Mr. Hickey stated he thought it would be good to rename it Community Trips as it was open to everyone, not just seniors.

Mr. Hickey stated the ski program would be starting Wednesday nights at Pats Peak and Fridays at McIntyre. Mr. Hickey also indicated the Coyote Club would be starting on the January 15th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Joey Winslow gave a report on his Eagle Project regarding the replacement and restoration of the Town welcome sign. He went over his projected timeline and estimated costs. Mr. Winslow stated he thought he could raise about \$1000 and asked the Board what they might be willing to contribute to the project. The Board stated that Mr. Winslow should bring his proposal to the budget committee. Mr. Deschaine indicated that Mr. Winslow should contact the Department of Transportation to make sure that the placement of the sign was okay. Mr. Winslow noted that he was going to meet with a design company that had a design team and he would bring some concepts back to the Board. The Board indicated that they would prefer to go with Option 2, which increase the size of sign to 6'x3'.

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 Morgera room on January 8, 2015 for a Boy Scout meeting and requested the fee be waived. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated that the heating in the Library had been restored and there were no negative effects from the propane leak that was discovered on Saturday.

Mr. Deschaine requested a non-public session for the hiring of the Recording Secretary and the Executive Assistant.

Mr. Deschaine stated that as the WISE Project was closing down, an opportunity presented itself, and the need became apparent, that a monitoring program would be necessary to make sure the water quality was improving. He continued that a grant application had submitted by the Planning Commission and was approved giving the Town \$7,500 for consulting services to develop the PTAPP monitoring program. Mr. Deschaine noted that the grant approval was at a point where he would feel comfortable approving it. Mr. Copeland moved to approve the grant agreement and authorize the Town Administrator to sign it. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine indicated that he had met with the special town counsel relative to the tower lease agreement, who had to go through a lengthy conflict management process and that he should hear back soon on the matter.

Mr. Copeland moved to go into a non-public session at 9:16 P.M., seconded by Mr. Canada, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to come out of non-public session at 9:55 P.M., seconded by Mr. Copeland, which passed unanimously.

At 9:56 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier
Recording Secretary