

## **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 30, 2015 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

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

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Canada moved to approve the amended minutes of the regular meeting on March 23, 2015. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Bronson reported there was \$5,052,179.74 in the general checking account.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

John Sapienza stated he was there on behalf of Chief Cook. He continued that they were having trouble with the ice machine at the Firehouse and they had spent over \$1000 in repairing the machine over the past few years. Mr. Sapienza stated they had looked into replacement units and were requesting that the Board approve a replacement unit costing \$1600. Mr. Sapienza indicated that Chief Cook had requested that the monies come from general Town budget as all departments used the machine. Mr. Canada replied that he did not agree with that and thought it should come out of the Department's equipment fund.

Mr. Canada moved to authorize the Fire Chief to purchase an ice machine for a cost of \$1600, with the funds coming out of the Fire Department's equipment fund. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jack Fleming stated that his company was requesting a parade permit for a half marathon on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 A.M. Mr. Fleming described the course and stated they would be donating some of the profits to the Stratham Memorial School. Mr. Deschaine noted that there was the possibility of some temporary road closures due to the amount of people expected to participate. Mr. Canada expressed concerns with the inconvenience to residents associated with closing roads for a private venture, Mr. Federico noted that they might want to partner with the Rec Department to try to work something out as they were having concerns that the business was for profit. Mr. Hickey stated he would be happy to work with them to figure something out and thought that it would be a good community event.

Mr. Canada moved to allow the Stratham Half Marathon with the stipulations that all proceeds be relinquished to the School and/or Rec Department, to coordinate with the Police Chief, that proof of insurance be presented and to authorize the Chair to sign the parade permit and authorize any road closures that the Police Chief deems necessary. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:****ASSESSING:**

Andrea Lewy, Town Assessor, stated that the first item on her list was abatements. She continued that Emanuel Companies, had requested an abatement for 62 Portsmouth Avenue but, after inspection, recommended denying that abatement. Ms. Lewy stated that Emanuel Companies, had also requested an abatement for 118 Portsmouth Avenue and she recommended approving that abatement in the amount of \$342.45. Ms. Lewy stated that Kyle and Pamela Hollasch of 15 Greta's Way had requested an abatement in the amount of \$585.35 for physical deformities within their property and she recommended it be approved. Ms. Lewy continued that Northern NE Telephone had requested an abatement and recommended it be denied as it was a case pending in Superior Court. Ms. Lewy indicated that Shasta, LLC, 81 Portsmouth Avenue had requested an abatement but recommended that it be denied. Ms. Lewy noted that Valley Properties, Inc., 27 Portsmouth Avenue had requested an abatement but recommended it be denied due to lack of documentation.

Mr. Federico moved to accept the recommendations of the Town Assessor. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy stated the next item was Veterans' credits. She continued she had received a request from Russell Campbell of 18 Wiggin Way and he met the criteria of the Persian Gulf War. She continued that she recommended approving this credit. Ms. Lewy stated that she had received a request from Christine Eldredge of 167 Stratham Heights Road. She continued she had made numerous requests to receive her deceased husband's DD 214 but had not received it and recommended this credit be denied.

Mr. Federico moved to approve the Assessor's recommendations. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy stated she had received the GIS Internet Service Contract from CAI Technologies. She continued this had been approved at the Town Meeting but needed the Board to sign the contract due to the amount.

Mr. Federico moved the Board execute the contract. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Lewy asked for a non-public to discuss a request for an elderly exemption which contains personal financial information.

Mr. Federico moved to go into non-public to discuss said financial information at 8:49 P.M. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public at 9:00 P.M. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## REC DEPARTMENT

Seth Hickey, Parks and Recreation Director, stated relative to the Bike Patrol Program, that the New England Mountain Bike Patrol (NEMBA) meeting had gone well and passed out the resulting MOU for the Boards' comments.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the MOU with NEMBA. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated they had received a three tier proposal from Charlie Moreno for his forester services. He continued that he thought they only needed to go with the first tier at this time to get the groundwork started and it would only have a net cost to the Town of \$500 after they received the \$3000 from Varsity Wireless promised for this effort.

Mr. Canada moved to accept the proposal as requested pending receipt of the \$3000 from Varsity Wireless with the Town's portion to come from the Park permit fund. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey indicated he was hoping to receive the Board's approval to authorize him to close the trails as needed during Mud Season to prevent future problems with erosion, etc..

Mr. Federico moved to grant authority for Mr. Hickey to administer the closure of trails on a temporary, as needed basis. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey noted he had received a request from the Seacoast United Babe Ruth baseball team to use the baseball field for 11 games starting April 11<sup>th</sup> and ending July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Board stated it was okay as long as they were willing to pay \$75 per hour. The feeling of the Board was that a "For Profit" enterprise should contribute toward the capital costs of the field and therefore set a higher rate than is generally set for Non Profit organizations. Mr. Hickey indicated he would speak to them and report back.

Mr. Hickey stated he had received a request from Exeter Youth Soccer Association to use the Steven's Park for soccer practices.

Mr. Federico moved to approve the request at a cost of \$50 per block of time. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey stated he had received proposal for painting the Gifford House a while back and was looking for some direction on that. Mr. Canada suggested that it be sent out to bid again as it was not very successful the first time. Mr. Hickey agreed to do that. He will also include the Bartlett-Cushman House paint job as well.

Mr. Hickey noted that basketball had wrapped up and went well. He continued that baseball and softball registrations had also wrapped up. Mr. Hickey stated that the Soccer Board was doing well and they were moving forward with plans for the fall.

Mr. Hickey stated that he was looking to hire Jim Rivais for seasonal help at Steven's Park. He continued that Mr. Rivais had previously made \$12.50 an hour and was looking to increase that to \$15.00 an hour.

Mr. Canada moved to hire Jim Rivais at an hourly rate of \$15.00 for seasonal help at Steven's Park. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey noted there had been a road race the past weekend and it had went well but had a lower turnout than expected. He continued that they would be holding an Easter Egg Hunt at the Park this Saturday and expected around 300 children. Mr. Hickey stated that he had coordinated with Liberty Mutual to have some employees do volunteer work for the Town. He continued that it would be mostly landscaping work. Mr. Hickey indicated that the summer camp registration was going well and that they were working on putting together some senior trips.

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Colin Lavery noted that Police cruiser #5 had been decommissioned and was ready to be sold.

Mr. Lavery stated he had attended the first part of a two part training for labor compliance certification through DOT. He continued he would be attending the second part on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lavery noted relative to the Town Center Project, that he had reviewed the most recent submittal to DOT. He relayed his comments and initial recommendation regarding the street trees to the Board.

Mr. Lavery indicated that tree removal and sightline pruning would continue through June.

Mr. Lavery noted they were doing some pruning and tree removal of 7 tall pine trees at Stratham Hill Park relative to the public safety communication. He continued they were working with the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department and the State Police on the project and expected it would be finished in July.

Mr. Lavery indicated the Maple Hill Cemetery drainage project was on hold and he would have a proposal for the Board in May.

Mr. Lavery stated relative to the siding replacement at the Police Department, that they had received a few bids and would have a proposal for the Board on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Lavery noted relative to the fuel system purchase at the Highway Department building that he had worked with the parties involved to get the purchase straightened out. He continued he would have a final purchase proposal for the Board in May.

Mr. Lavery went over the 2015 paving and road construction plan. He continued it would be his suggestion to wait to make a decision after receiving more proposals from different contractors he has been talking to.

Mr. Lavery requested to purchase a Little Wonder walk behind blower for a cost of \$1259.99.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the purchase. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:**

The following Park permits and Municipal Center rentals were discussed and acted upon:

Christine Catapano requested use of the Municipal Center on April 2, 2015 for a Spring Get Together. Mr. Canada moved to approve the request. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Christine Sargent requested use of the Front Pavilion on July 4, 2015 for a family reunion. Mr. Canada moved to approve the request. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Drew Szeliga requested use of the Stratham Hill Park Stage on October 8, 2015 for the Middle School Cross Country Race. Mr. Canada moved to approve the request. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

Mr. Deschaine passed out numerous papers for the Board to sign. Mr. Deschaine stated DES had issued a permit for the wetlands behind Exeter Subaru which required an owner to sign.

Mr. Federico moved to authorize Mr. Copeland to sign the permit. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine indicated that two MOUs had been reached with Southeast Land Trust, one for the Short property and one for the Zarnowski property. He continued that the Conservation Commission had reviewed and discussed the MOUs and had endorsed them.

Mr. Federico moved for Mr. Copeland to execute the two MOUs presented. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated that Chief Cook had given him recommendations for Forest Wardens. He continued they were Rob Cook, Bob Law, John Dardini, Josh Crow, Tim Brothers, Rob Cook III and Tim Slager.

Mr. Copeland moved the recommendations. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine indicated that every five years we have to submit a renewal application, certification and agreement for the Federal Surplus program in order to be a part of that program.

Mr. Federico moved to renew the application, certification and agreement for the Federal Surplus program. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed sharing fire services with Exeter, Greenland, and Newmarket.

At 10:38 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier  
Recording Secretary