

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 23, 2015 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ms. Bronson reported that the current balance was \$3,282,393.21.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Copeland moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 16th as amended by Mr. Canada and Mr. Deschaine. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Canada indicated that he had some concern with the way that Library Trustees were fundraising and had asked that the Trustees attend tonight's meeting. He continued that his concern was that they were providing advertising, sales space and town employee time for their fundraiser with Sweet Grass Farms. Mr. Copeland noted that the entire Board felt the same way. Lee Beauregard, Chair of the Library Trustees, responded that they looked very carefully at ways to fundraise to keep the tax rate down. He continued they were very sensitive about not trying to promote any specific business and that Sweet Grass had held successful fundraisers with non-profits in the past. Lesley Kimball, Library Director, stated that the fundraisers were not taking any employees' time. Mr. Canada indicated that he thought that the Town was different from other non-profits and did not think it was appropriate. He continued that he would like the Trustees to come before the Board before doing these types of fundraisers in the future which the Trustees agreed with.

John Dold, Chair of the 300th Anniversary Committee, stated that they had \$11,773 left over from a 2012 warrant article supporting the writing of a Stratham history and wanted to see if the Selectmen would support moving that money into a 2016 warrant article authorizing it to be used for other 300th anniversary events. Mr. Dold went over the events and stated that the budget was \$70,000 and they had \$59,000 currently. He continued that he was going to be applying for a grant through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Mr. Copeland stated that he had a problem with using taxpayer monies for these events but would not object to a warrant article for the taxpayers to vote on. Mr. Federico noted that he did not have a problem moving the money. Mr. Dold indicated that they would not use any money that they did not need.

Mr. Copeland moved to allow the 300th Anniversary Committee to apply for a grant through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and allow the Town Administrator to sign off on behalf of the Board. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada moved that the Board sponsor a 2016 warrant article the 300th Anniversary Committee is proposing to repurpose the terms of the money approved in a 2012 warrant article. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed 2-1.

Parks and Recreation Director Seth Hickey stated he had received a request from WXGR radio station to hold a two day outdoor living expo at the Stratham Hill Park. The Board was opposed to use of the Park for this event as it is contrary to the non-commercial nature of the Park's bequest and established practices. The suggestion was made to look into using the adjacent Gifford field off Jack Rabbit Lane. Mr., Hickey continued that he would work with WXGR and that a detailed proposal would be provided to the Board.

Mr. Hickey indicated that this would be the third year working with Local Cycling to put on the Fat Bike race event and this year they were looking to add a beer tent. Mr. Chaffee of Local Cycling, stated that they found that having a beer tent drove participation in these kind of events. He continued that they would be hiring a caterer with a proper license and that Chief Scippa had indicated that he was ok with this.

Mr. Copeland moved to allow the Recreation Commission to work with Local Cycling for the Fat Bike race events on 2/18 and 2/28 with 2/28 having a beer garden by a licensed caterer. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Hickey went over the activities and projects going on at the Park and in the department.

MEETINGS:

Mr. Copeland moved to skip the reading of the details of the past and upcoming meetings. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PARK PERMITS/MUNICIPAL CENTER RENTALS:

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

Mansi Saksena requested used of Meeting Room A on 12/5 for a party.

Ronni Frieberger requested used of Meeting Room A on 12/15 for the Hills at Crocket Farm condo association meeting.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated that he had an abatement request for the Board to sign. He continued that the property was likely a phantom lot near the Rollins Hill development and the owner was unknown.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the abatement in the amount of \$38.99. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine indicated that Ms. Charbonneau had requested that staff work a half day on Christmas Eve without having to use their earned time.

Mr. Canada moved to extend a half day administrative leave to all town employees with the exception of the Police Department (except Administrative Assistant Stacy Grella) and the Highway Department (unless there is a need for plowing). Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board discussed whether to hold a meeting the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Mr. Federico moved to cancel the meeting scheduled for December 28th. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine noted that he had received a memo from Highway Agent Colin Lavery stating that Sarnia, LLC had completed all of the landscaping at 3 Portsmouth Ave and recommended a bond reduction in the amount of \$22,544.45.

Mr. Canada moved to return the money based on Mr. Lavery's recommendation. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine stated they had received a request for a raffle permit for the CMS Music Boosters from April 1st through April 30th.

Mr. Copeland moved to approve the raffle permit. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine indicated that they had received four bids for the printing of the 2015 town report. The Board then discussed the bids.

Mr. Canada moved to accept the bid from Kase Printing in the amount of \$3726.00. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada asked if the Board was okay with him purchasing some granite chunks from the Highway Department. He continued that Colin had indicated that the current going rate was \$1 per foot and that the Highway Department had no need for the material.

Mr. Copeland moved to approve the request. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with Mr. Canada abstaining.

At 8:35 Mr. Copeland moved to go into non-public to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:19 Mr. Federico moved to come out of non-public and to seal the minutes due to the nature of the conversation. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:20 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier
Recording Secretary