

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2017 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MEMBER'S PRESENT: Board Members Joe Lovejoy, Michael Houghton, Bruno Federico and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

At 7:30 Vice Chairman Federico opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Town Treasurer Deb Bronson indicated that the current fund balance was \$6,103,399.67.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers:

Mr. Lovejoy moved to appoint Mr. Federico as Chairman for the upcoming year. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to appoint Mr. Houghton as secretary for the upcoming year. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Federico moved to appoint Mr. Lovejoy as Vice Chair for the upcoming year. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Public Works Director Colin Lavery indicated that he had a purchase request for a dump trailer. Mr. Lavery discussed the request and why it was necessary and indicated that it had been discussed in detail at the CIP budget meeting.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to approve the purchase in the amount of \$10,890.00. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Lavery stated that the POW/MIA and US Flag were ready to put up.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to allow Mr. Lavery to take down the state and town flags and put up the US and POW/MIA flags. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief Matt Larrabee indicated that he is requesting authorization to spend \$65,269.76 to purchase two Zoll Defibrillator/monitors as by the passage of a Town Meeting warrant article.

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

Marty Wool indicated that the money for the flagpole was all set and asked if The Friends of Stratham Hill Park should purchase the flagpole or if the town wished to. Mr. Federico responded that they should purchase the flagpole and have it installed and then donate it to the town. The location of the flagpole was discussed and it was decided that any person with an opinion should attend the joint meeting with the Stratham Hill Park Association next Monday.

Allison Knab from the Conservation Commission stated that she wanted to discuss the action taken by the Board at the last meeting taking away their privileges to use the website. She continued that the email she received from the town was very strongly worded. Ms. Knab noted that there was no ill intent by the Commission and they did not know that it would look like the email was from the Board of Selectman but it did because of the way the new website was set up. Ms. Knab indicated that she thought taking away their privileges was too much of a punishment and that Pat Elwell had submitted her resignation over this. Mr. Lovejoy stated that he did not know that the email was going out via the website and that he also did not know that sending it through the website would look like it was coming from the Board.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to rescind the action of the Board of removing the Conservation Commission's website privileges.

Mr. Houghton stated that he thought there should be a description of what can or cannot be posted to the website. Ms. Knab noted that she agreed and it would be beneficial to have some guidelines. Mr. Deschaine indicated that there is a current policy on what is allowed.

Mr. Federico seconded the motion with the condition that all website users have an orientation on the use of the website, how it works and appropriate messaging. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine indicated that he had received a letter of resignation from Ms. Elwell, but that he had asked her to reconsider it, so he had not given it to the Board that evening.

BUILDING & CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Building Inspector Mark Morong stated that inspections had dropped off recently. He then discussed new items going on in town and ongoing projects. He continued that he wanted to discuss a new procedure he wishes to implement when a building permit expires. The Board and Mr. Morong had a discussion about his proposal and stated they were okay with it. Mr. Morong indicated that he would bring something formal forward for the Board to vote on.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Town Planner Tavis Austin discussed items being dealt with by the Planning Board. There was then a discussion on putting together an RFP for the Master Plan and on how to market the campaign to increase awareness.

Mr. Austin spoke about ongoing issues with the Rollins Hill Development and the changes that need to happen, which the developer thought had been asked and answered. He continued there will be a letter going to them from the town attorney.

Mr. Austin noted that they wanted to discontinue the mobile contract for a system that is not being used. He continued it was a 3rd line on the fire department contract enabling people to use a tablet in the field. Mr. Austin also noted that Paul Wolf had expressed concern about using the Apple platform for town related work.

MEETINGS: The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reviewed the meetings held this past week.

RESERVATIONS:

Paul Deschaine requested use of the 4H Pavilion on 5/29/17 for a family reunion and requested that the fee be waived.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to approve the request and waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Tracy Hall requested use of the Morgera Room on 5/5 for a Girl Scouts meeting and requested that the fee be waived.

Mr. Federico moved to approve the request and waive the fee. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Venkata Ravana Padala requested use of Room A on 4/1 for a birthday party.

Johnny Champa requested use of Room A on 4/2 for a vendor event. Mr. Lovejoy moved to deny the request as it was a commercial use. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated that he had a request from Dave Canada to serve on the Planning Board.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to appoint Dave Canada to the Planning Board as a regular member. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine indicated quotes for repairing and re-shingling the roof at the Bartlett Cushman barn. He continued that the lowest bid was from Chris Bickford of CSB Construction in an amount of \$2950.

Mr. Houghton moved to accept the bid from CSB Construction. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Lovejoy indicated that he would like to have a public discussion regarding the fact that Mr. Houghton was the owner of Dowling Corp. which the town has used and that there could possibly be contracts that might create a conflict of interest. Mr. Houghton indicated that he would recuse himself from any involvement between Dowling and the town. Mr. Deschaine indicated that he did not see any large issues that were coming forward and stated that he thought the Board should have a goal setting meeting where this could be discussed in more detail.

Mr. Lovejoy indicated he would like to set up a time to have an event for Dave to thank him for his service.

At 10:31 PM Mr. Lovejoy moved to adjourn. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier
Recording Secretary