

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2021 SELECT BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Board Members Chair Mike Houghton, Vice Chair Joe Lovejoy, Board Member Allison Knab along with Town Administrator David Moore.

At 6:30 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(a). Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 7:01 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to come out of the non-public session and seal the minutes finding that failure to do so would render the proposed actions ineffective. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Lovejoy motioned to accept the minutes of April 5 and April 19 as presented. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton called for any comments on the Treasurer's Report. Hearing none, he moved to the Police Department report.

Police Chief Anthony King noted that everyone in the department has been vaccinated. Activity is picking up significantly, especially with traffic reports. The department passed the web-based CALEA assessment. There were no recommendations/changes to policies. The next part of the assessment is scheduled for June 7 and 8. He reported that Officer Corey Wynn has completed the very difficult SWAT team training. He is now part of the Seacoast Emergency Response Team. Chief King stated that he has reached out to the legislative delegation in an effort to keep a dialog open. All front line cruisers now have locking mechanisms and window bars. This offers safety, security and liability protection for the officers, the equipment and the Town. Drug Take Back Day was successful. There is still a drug box in the lobby for people to drop off their unused medications. Chief King reported that he is working on changing the officers' schedule to ensure appropriate coverage. They discussed the pros and cons of the motorcycle lease. Chief King requested approval from the Board to ensure a complement of part-time officers to assist in managing over-time as well as bringing on full-certified officers who may be interested in serving in Stratham in the future. Conversation turned to the number of part-time officers and their functions. The Board approved ensuring a complement of two part-time officers who are certified to patrol. Chief King reported obtaining three quotes to paint the interior of the Police Station. There was consensus from the board to release the funds from the CIP for this purpose.

Chief King asked for the Board's opinion on holding National Night Out which is typically held on August 4th. The Board voiced support for holding the event.

Conversation returned to the number of part time officers and their roles. Mr. Houghton wanted to understand more about the transition to the new staffing schedule and Chief King indicated he would share more information. .

Mr. Houghton moved to the next item on the agenda, the appointing of Deborah Bakie as Town Clerk / Tax Collector following the retirement of Joyce Charbonneau. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to convey the responsibilities of the office of Town Clerk / Tax Collector to Deborah Bakie to

fulfill the vacancy. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Mr. Houghton swore Ms. Bakie in.

Mr. Houghton recognized Dan Crow who was representing the Stratham Volunteer Fire Association. He said that they are a 501c3 whose mission is to support the Fire Dept. In the past, the Stratham Fair has been the primary fundraiser, but this is the second year in a row that the fair will not be held. To raise funds, they are coordinating with the Stratham Fire and Stratham Police to hold a golf tournament. He is coming before the Board tonight searching for support and advice. New England Golf Club has been secured as a venue. The date is set for October 4th. They are obtaining sponsorships. Mr. Crow expressed appreciation for the camaraderie between the Fire and Police departments. The Board expressed support for the event. They discussed the financial details. Following a discussion about fundraising methods and practices, Mr. Moore indicated he would share the donations policy for the Police Department with Mr. Crow. The Board thanked Mr. Crow for his attendance and wished the SFDVA and Police Association luck with the event.

Mr. Houghton opened the public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Mr. Houghton read the public hearing notice: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are available to municipalities through the NH Community Development Finance Authority. Up to \$500,000 annually is available for economic development projects, up to \$500,000 for public facility projects, up to \$500,000 for housing projects, and up to \$350,000 for emergency activities. Up to \$25,000 is available per planning study grant. All projects must directly benefit a majority of low and moderate income persons. The public hearing is to update the public on, and take public comment on, the progress of the Regional Economic Development Center (REDC) CDBG loan program intended to create jobs by making loans to small businesses. \$50,000 was loaned in 2019. In 2020, due to COVID-19, the focus changed to both creating and retaining jobs. In 2020, the REDC provided 10 loans totaling \$240,000. The loans provided much-needed assistance to 11 small businesses ranging from an event venue, restaurants, paper tube manufacturer, dog daycare, home décor specialty store, karate studio, a mushroom and foraging company, gymnastics gym, and dental implant manufacturer. In 2021 the REDC will make six loans totaling \$180,000 to clients ranging from a beauty supply store, child-care center, insurance agency, event center, and a tax preparation office. The total project will create or retain 25 jobs, with 60% of those available/occupied to persons of low to moderate-income.

Laurel Adams from the Regional Economic Development Center thanked the Board for their support and said these loans make an enormous difference for these businesses.

Mr. Houghton asked if there was any other comments relating to this loan program. Hearing none, he motioned to close the public hearing. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton moved to the next item, the Frost/Zarnowski access road agreement. Referring to his memo on the subject, Mr. Moore recommended accepting the agreement as drafted and executing it. He clarified that the Frosts may only make repairs to road to facilitate their use of it

as a residential access road and must be coordinated with the Town. Ms. Knab motioned to accept the proposed access agreement.. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton addressed the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Moore noted there were two documents to be executed and submitted along with the Plan: Certificate of Adoption. Mr. Houghton motioned to adopt the Hazard Mitigation plan as recommended. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Mr. Moore continued saying there is also a Resolution approving the Stratham Hazard Mitigation Plan updated 2021 as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and recommended execution. Mr. Lovejoy motioned to move the Resolution as recommended by Mr. Moore. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton moved to the request for a reduction in the bond for Treat Farm Road project. Ms. Knab motioned to approve the bond release for Treat Farm Road as recommended by Town Planner Mark Connors in his memo dated May 6, 2021. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Next Mr. Houghton addressed a request from Timothy Hebert concerning Town property between Lovell Rd and Gifford Farm Road. The request, summarized in a memorandum from Mark Connors dated May 7, 2021, has been reviewed by the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Town Planner. Documents with their recommendation were provided. Ms. Knab was not inclined to move the request forward. Mr. Lovejoy concurs with Ms. Knab and the committees. The Board indicated that they did not feel it was appropriate to grant or otherwise encumber Town property to facilitate a single-private interest, which does not provide a public benefit. The Board also indicated that the Town's Master Plan goals of ensuring off road linkages and access to open space would not be served by encumbering this property adjacent to a neighborhood and a school. It was agreed that the Board was not inclined to grant the request. Mr. Moore will convey this to the couple, but will invite them to speak in the public comment portion of the next Select Board meeting.

Mr. Moore reviewed the correspondence.

Mr. Moore noted that the Memorial Day event is being planned by Geri Denton and Jeff Gallagher. It will be similar to last year's event. Murph Henderson will be the speaker at the park. The Heritage Commission is working on a project to restore the Morgera bench at the Veteran's Garden.

Ms. Knab motioned to approve the Reach the Beach Relay Race parade permit. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Mr. Houghton signed the document.

Mr. Moore reported on four requests from non-profits to use the pavilion and to waive the fee. Ms. Knab motioned to approve the requests and waive the fee. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

ADMINISTRATION

Reminders and heads up. Tax bills going out by end of the week. Pump track site walk on Wednesday, community retirement event for Joyce Charbonneau on Wednesday, upcoming Eagle Scout project regarding compass rose, working on PFAS filtration deployment.

Mr. Houghton directed attention to boards and commission appointments. Mr. Moore responded that there is one opening for an alternate on the Planning Board and three applicants. Mr. Moore said he will forward the applications to the Planning Board Chair and the Select Board will revisit the applications upon hearing from him.

Ms. Knab motioned to reappoint Michael Ream to the Energy Commission for a three year term. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Knab motioned to reappoint William McCarthy to the Conservation Commission for a three year term as a full member. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Knab motioned to reappoint Michael Deutsch and Kathy Bauer as Alternates to the Library Board of Trustees for a three year term. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 8:38 p.m. Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session to discuss contractual matters in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(e). Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 9:27 p.m. Mr. Houghton moved to seal minutes finding that failure to do so would render the proposed actions ineffective. Joe Lovejoy seconded. All voted in favor.

At 9:28 p.m. the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard
Recording Secretary