

MINUTES OF THE MAY 31, 2022 SELECT BOARD MEETING

Meeting held in the Hutton Room at the Stratham Municipal Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Board Members Chair Mike Houghton, Joe Anderson. Vice Chair Allison Knab was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator David Moore, Finance Administrator Christiane McAllister, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Jim Joseph

At 7:00 pm Mr. Houghton opened the regular meeting.

Mr. Houghton motioned to accept the minutes from the May 16, 2022 Select Board meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton welcomed the legislative delegation. Senator Tom Sherman gave an overview of various Senate bills. SB401 Municipal bridges and highways passed, which gives Stratham an additional highway block grant. He is working to reduce the municipal retirement contribution. Other bills, regarding transportation, remote meetings, elections and short-term rentals were discussed. He was happy to report that the state will be offering trainings for zoning and planning boards.

Mr. Moore updated the delegation on the steps the Town has taken to mitigate PFAS in town center. Senator Sherman and Rep. Altschiller advised that there is money available for remediation and incentivizing regionalization of water. Dr. Sherman advocated for public water systems, saying they are safer than wells because they are highly regulated and tested often. Mr. Moore is working closely with the state on water issues who has identified a number of large regional water projects that will address contamination and supply issues throughout the state, including one which addresses Route 108 and Town Center and would affect the communities of Newmarket, Newfields, Stratham, and Exeter.

Rep. Altschiller spoke about the omnibus bill (a.k.a., Christmas tree bill) explaining that the ZBA and planning board trainings are part of that bill. Mr. Houghton asked about the impacts of redistricting. Rep. Altschiller reported that Stratham is still a part of District 24, but the makeup of the District has changed to include Exeter, Stratham, Greenland, Rye, Hampton, North Hampton and Hampton Falls. She continued her report noting that child safety laws were passed. As former Select Board Vice Chair Joe Lovejoy requested at a previous meeting, she is doing work on gun violence prevention. The NH suicide rate using handguns is one of the highest in the country. In response to the tremendous need for mental health programs, a mobile crisis unit is now available 24/7. Beginning in July, 988 (a nationwide suicide prevention hotline) will go live.

Rep. Altschiller requested the delegation's next appearance before the board be in the early fall to allow them to be proactive about addressing issues/concerns before the filing period closes. She would also like to return towards the end of January to give an update.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Anderson motioned accept the resignation of Amber Dagata from the ZBA. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Houghton moved to the Naming of Facilities item on the agenda. Mr. Moore said the process is complete in accordance with their policy and that only action on the proposals by the Board is needed. Mr. Houghton wanted to wait until Select Board Vice Chair Allison Knab was present to make a motion.

Next, Mr. Houghton moved to the Assessing Item regarding a veteran's credit. The Board executed later in the meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Moore reported that the all staff meeting will be June 22nd at 8:30 am. Mr. Moore will put together an agenda for the Board's review. Potential topics would be trainings, adjustments in compensation, goals and initiatives. Mr. Anderson requested the compensation section be a listening session. Finance Administrator Christiane McAllister could address common benefits questions.

Mr. Moore is still awaiting the Group Net Metering Hydro contract to review.

Mr. Moore reported update the Board on building inspection and code enforcement issues. He advised that 23 Portsmouth Ave. has a demolition permit, but not a building permit.

Mr. Houghton moved to the goals update. Mr. Moore referred to the worksheet he submitted and had nothing further to add. Chief King has submitted additional goals that Mr. Moore will update.

Director of Public Works Nate Mears is scheduled to be at the next Select Board meeting. He will be presenting a draft transfer station ordinance for the Board's consideration.

RESERVATIONS

Mr. Anderson motioned approval for Stratham Community Church to use the Front Pavilion on 9/10 and to have the fee waived. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. Mr. Anderson motioned approval for the American Legion Post 32 to use the 4-H Pavilion on 8/7 and to have the fee waived as in the past. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Houghton motioned to re-appoint Brent Eastwood to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to an unexpired term to end in 2024. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton asked if there was any further update on PFAS. Mr. Moore confirmed that we will make the deadline for the submittal of pre-application for grant funds to address PFAS long-term options.

Mr. Anderson motioned to approve the fireworks permit request by John Bendezu for July 2, 2022 any time up to 10:00 pm as specified in the noise ordinance. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Anderson asked if Rep. Abrami was coming in. Mr. Moore noted he was at another meeting but suggested he and a board member set up a meeting to discuss PFAS goals separately.

At 8:39 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to enter a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II(a)(b) and (c). Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 10:10 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to come out of the non-public session and seal the minutes noting that failure to do so might render the proposed action of the board ineffective. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 10:11 pm Mr. Houghton motioned adjourn. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Richard
Recording Secretary