

## **MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2024 SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Board Members Chair Mike Houghton, Vice Chair Allison Knab; Joe Anderson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Administrator David Moore, Finance Administrator Christiane McAllister, Police Chief Anthony King, Public Works Director Tim Stevens

At 7:00 pm Mr. Houghton opened the meeting and asked for a motion on the minutes. Mr. Anderson motioned to accept the minutes of April 15 and 29, 2024. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton recognized Police Chief Anthony King for his department report. Chief King began by stating that two new officers have begun their FTO process. Start dates for the new full and part time officer have been delayed. Chief King is anticipating the resignation of another officer soon as well.

Chief King reported that the surveys that were distributed have been received back and are being reviewed by a supervisors group. He will forward them to Mr. Moore and the Board. The School Resource Officer shifts have been filled for the remainder of the school year with Stratham and Newmarket officers. He still needs to meet with SAU16 to discuss the SRO arrangement for next year.

Oral boards will be held on May 15 for four individuals to fill the open position and possibly, the next open position.

Chief King stated that he's received final approval for two grants: One for \$53,000 for Active Threat Equipment and one for vests. Typically, he prefers to make one vest replacement per year, but this year there will be four. This is a matching grant and the funds are available in the operating budget.

They returned to the discussion on officer vacancies. With the hiring of Officer Wamsley, there is one part time position still open. Chief King said that currently they are able to cover all shifts. When one of the officers (Poole) fulfills his military duty this summer, coverage will be tight. None of the applicants are certified yet.

Next Chief King requested \$8,000 from the Golf Tournament proceeds to purchase and replace all patrol rifle optics and two additional patrol rifles and \$5,500 to replace current PD gym equipment as part of the fitness program. Ms. Knab motioned authorization for the expenditure of \$8,000 for the purchase of two patrol rifles with optics and \$5,500 for the purchase of gym equipment out of the Stratham First Responder Golf Tournament account. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Chief King requested funds from the Radio Capital Reserve fund to purchase three portable radios. Ms. Knab motioned to authorize the Police Chief to move forward with the purchase of

three Motorola APX600 radios and microphones at an expense of \$12,100 out of the Radio Communications CRF. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Chief King stated that the Police Station generator is needing a repair and he is working closely with Mr. Stevens. They will know more after CAT's inspection tomorrow. Mr. Moore noted that we have options for funding. Mr. Houghton asked about the service providers. Mr. Stevens replied that Power Up does most of the service contracts. Seabrook pays for the one at the Municipal Center which is a separate company. They will come back with a definitive direction after gathering more information.

Mr. Houghton asked about feedback on wage adjustments and next steps. Chief King reported morale is better and they appreciate the incentives in benefits. Their hope is to continually move forward with some communication from the Board for potential future benefits and discussions.

Mr. Houghton recognized Mr. Stevens who reported that due to a canceled bid for a NH DOT project, we can secure an excavator and backhoe for a significantly better deal than anticipated. The Board agreed that we should take advantage of this opportunity. Mr. Stevens warned that the loader is failing and will need to be in the CIP for future replacement. Mr. Moore noted that the Board previously approved the purchase of the pieces of equipment Mr. Stevens was requesting. Mr. Houghton motioned to approve moving forward with the purchasing strategy outlined in the memo of May 3, 2024 from Tim Stevens for the purchase of the CAT 305 mini excavator and the CAT 420 rubber tired back hoe as opposed to previous excavator Model 3075 and the removal of the trailer. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Stevens reported using the blower every day with much success. Mr. Moore reported that the Cemetery Trustees were willing to fund 1/3 of the mower, but not half. The Trustees recommend using their operating monies out of the cemetery funds, not perpetual care funds. Mr. Moore suggests we accept their funding at 1/3 and we fund the remaining \$3,000 out of the DPW Operating Budget.

Ms. Knab thanked Mr. Stevens for his quick response regarding the Purple Heart sign.

At 7:31 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(b) Hiring. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Houghton-yes; Knab-yes; Anderson-yes.

At 8:40 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to come out of the non-public session and seal the minutes noting failure to do so may render a proposed action invalid. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Moore recommended treating Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> as we do the day after Thanksgiving – to close the Municipal Center to the public and have employees use a vacation day if they want it off. The building closure will only effect municipal center staff.

## ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Moore stated that on May 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be an update from Whitney Consulting Group on the town-wide revaluation. The Warrant is prepared and in need of signatures. Tax bills going out on Monday. Mr. Moore will ensure the website offers good explanations about the reval and tax rate.

Mr. Moore informed them that volunteers are engaged in organizing the Memorial Day ceremony. He reminded the Board that they committed to hosting the lunch.

Mr. Moore said he has begun the process of following-up on the SVFD Fire Association request concerning the Stratham Fair Trust given the revenue source explicitly mentioned is the Stratham Fair. The Town Attorney is reviewing the documents. Mr. Moore will then review, report to the Board, then have a meeting with the affected parties.

Mr. Moore reported that the Conservation Commission declined to permit trapping, removal and dispatching of beavers. Ms. Knab explained that the Conservation Commission actually wanted more information. Mr. Moore said there is a presentation on “living with beavers” coming up. Ms. Knab said someone from the Conservation Commission may attend.

Mr. Moore said the building fee research is moving forward. Mr. Connors is on vacation this week.

There will be a meeting to discuss building permitting software on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Will Dinsmore called attention to the lack of a local health board. Mr. Dinsmore will investigate further.

Mr. Moore noted that our recent change in VOIP programming makes the conference line for the Select Board inoperable. Mr. Moore asked if they wanted to continue to offer it. Ms. Knab said that if it is not required and no one has asked for it, she didn't see a need. Mr. Houghton recalled that in the four years we had the line, there were very few times anyone called in, therefore he did not think it was necessary either.

Mr. Moore did a Gifford Barn site walk with Mr. Stevens. They discovered a leak in the 18 year old roof. Primex was contacted and they are willing to fund half the replacement of the roof. Mr. Moore consulted with Nate Merrill, who suggested a metal roof. We are gathering prices and input.

Ms. McAllister spoke to the impacts associated with the SRO revenue being affected by Officer Amanda's resignation. The Board spoke in favor of Ms. McAllister's suggestion to post the revenue associated with the replacement plan for the SRO position in the General Fund similar to how the revenues under the contract with the SAU are processed.

Mr. Houghton called attention to the raffle permit application. Mr. Houghton motioned to approve the raffle permit for Colangelo's Gutters to benefit the NHSPCA at PAWS walk. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Moore called attention to the signature items.

Ms. Knab asked about the status of PFAS meeting. Mr. Moore said that Underwood will schedule meetings with Newmarket and Aquarion in May as part of the process for narrowing down a preferred path so they can do a deeper dive on logistics. Mr. Moore said that at the next meeting in June he will set the expectation of a regular check in.

At 9:05 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to adjourn. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard  
Recording Secretary