

MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2016 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MEMBER'S PRESENT: Board Members Joe Lovejoy and David Canada and Bruno Federico¹ and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Town Treasurer Deb Bronson reported that the current balance was \$2,235,754.74.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Grant requested a fireworks permit for 5/28 at his property located at 336 Portsmouth Avenue. Fire Chief Rob Cook indicated that he did not have a problem with the request as long as Mr. Grant checked with the Fire Department the day of the 28th to make sure there was no fire danger.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the fireworks permit. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion of Polling Place for November Presidential Election:

Town Clerk Joyce Charbonneau stated that she had emailed the Board a list of her suggestions if the polling place for the November election was changed to Stratham Memorial School. Mr. Lovejoy indicated that this issue had been brought up by some residents who would like the Board to look at a new polling place to solve some of the current issues. He continued that he had spoken with the principal at the elementary school and that day was an in-service day for teachers and children had the day off from school. The Board discussed in depth the logistics of changing the polling place. Ms. Charbonneau went over her requirements and also discussed how she thought they could speed up the lines at the current polling place. Police Chief John Scippa stated that if they were going to change the polling place, he thought that SMS would be the best place to have it. Mr. Federico indicated that he would vote to keep the polling place at Town Hall as he thought changing it could cause problems for the residents. Mr. Lovejoy noted that he wanted to have it in the most efficient place which he thought was SMS. Mr. Canada noted that he agreed with Mr. Federico and thought changing the polling place could cause confusion and would be a logistical nightmare.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief Rob Cook went over the issues going on in town. He continued that he would like to hire a part time person who was currently working for Greenland. Chief Cook noted that he thought that it would be a big help as the person he wanted to hire was a licensed fire inspector. The Board indicated they had no concerns with the concept as the new hire would be part of the regular, planned staffing.

¹ Mr. Federico arrived at the meeting at 7:53 P.M.

Chief Cook stated that the Memorial Day Ceremony was coming up and asked if the Board was planning to fund the cookout at the firehouse that day. Mr. Canada indicated that he had no problem funding the request.

Mr. Canada moved to allocate \$200.00 for the Fire Department to buy refreshments for the Memorial Day ceremony. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Cook discussed the recommendations for replacing the battery for the generator.

Chief Cook stated that New England Dragway had requested the Department's help at the upcoming race and wanted to make sure the Board was ok with bringing an ambulance there for the day. The Board indicated that they were ok with the request.

Chief Cook noted that a North Hampton firefighter had passed away recently and stated he would be offering help for the wake and the funeral.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Highway Agent Colin Lavery stated relative to the Town Center Project that there was an area proposed for front walkways by the Historical Society and he would like permission to do some planting in that area instead of the proposed grass strip. The Board indicated that they were okay with the plantings.

Mr. Lavery indicated that the Board had indicated that they were interested in installing the first 50 feet of the driveway at 28 Bunker Hill Avenue where access to the cell tower had been planned. Mr. Deschaine stated he thought the issue should be discussed in non-public.

At 8:50 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss litigation issues. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 9:05 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public and seal the minutes. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Town Planner Tavis Austin went over recent meetings of the Planning Board and issues that would be coming up.

Mr., Austin said he would start sending the agenda to all board, commission and committee meetings to all other boards, etc. to facilitate broader interaction between the groups.

BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Mark Morong discussed new and ongoing projects in town. He continued that he had recently attended a conference hosted by Primex, which was very helpful.

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

RESERVATIONS:

Alexa Schimmel requested use of the Scamman Pavilion on August 7th for the NH Air National Guard MDG Moral Day and requested that the fee be waived.

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

Ashley Pankin requested use of the Front Pavilion on July 10th for an outing. The use was approved.

Seth Davie on behalf of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard requested use of the Front Pavilion on July 18th for the Naval Command Family Fun Day and requested that the fee be waived.

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

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine indicated that he had recently gone to the 300th Committee meeting and discussed various issues they were having with the dinner/dance. Mr. Deschaine noted that he hoped to have more information the following week on their request to buy wine glasses as party favors for attendees. The Board decided to table the issue until further information was available.

The Board discussed having a traffic study done in the Commercial District.

At 10:22 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 10:36 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public and seal the minutes. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 10:37 P.M. Mr. Federico moved to adjourn. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier
Recording Secretary