

## **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2016 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

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

At 7:33 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 \$5,366,044.50.

### **ENERGY COMMISSION:**

Mike Welty, Chair and Matt O'Keefe, Vice Chair of the Energy Commission indicated that they were looking to conduct an energy audit of the Police Department building due to ongoing issues. Mr. Welty stated they were asking for \$2750 which would cover half of the price of the audit, with Unitil covering the other half. Mr. Canada stated he had spoken to Mike Houghton of Dowling Corp. and asked him to review the proposal. Mr. Houghton indicated his firm could do the audit and would so largely as a courtesy to the Town. It was noted that Dowling is the Town's HVAC service provider and Mr. Houghton is a resident who volunteers a great deal of time to the community. Mr. Welty stated that he would discuss the job with Mr. Houghton and report back to the Board.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to table the proposal. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Welty indicated that they had a proposal for solar panels on the Fire House roof that they would like to put out for an RFP. He continued that they were looking to find out if this was something that the Board would be interested in pursuing. They then discussed the issues and placement of the solar panels. The Board noted that they were ok with pursuing the matter further although Mr. Canada expressed concerns about the Board's authority to enter into such an agreement, which he feels may be tantamount to a lease, of the duration indicated. Lester Cuff spoke about his experience with solar panels and suggested it might be worth looking at doing town wide.

### **BUILDING AND ZONING:**

Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer Mark Morong stated that 113 permits had been issued and 157 inspections had been completed this year so far. He gave an update of all the projects going on around town.

Mr. Morong wanted to follow up on the cost of the commercial permits which he had discussed at a previous meeting. He continued that he thought that a project of a cost of \$1-\$1500 should cost \$100, a project costing \$1501-\$3000 should cost \$200 and a project costing over \$3000 should be computed at the current rate. The Board indicated that they were okay with those numbers but it would need to go to a public hearing.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to schedule a public hearing to change the fee structure. Mt. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Morong went over the violations that were pending and had been fixed.

#### PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Town Planner Tavis Austin stated that there was a bond release request from the Shell landscaping project for \$1507.51 which he supported.

Mr. Canada moved to release the funds. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Austin and the Board discussed the Exeter water agreement and the problems that have arisen, particularly as it pertains to a State grant to bring water to the Gibbs site at 13 Portsmouth Avenue.. Mr. Deschaine will speak to Exeter Town Manager Russ Dean and report back to the Board when he had additional information. They then discussed the Town Center Committee's action relative to the hanging of lights and banners and other projects in town.

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Highway Agent Colin Lavery stated that he had met with Fire Chief Rob Cook to discuss the job duties for the part time firefighters when they are on duty. He went over what those duties would be and that Chief Cook agreed with them.

Mr. Lavery asked for permission to purchase a new pressure washer for \$4490 from the new equipment budget.

Mr. Lovejoy moved to approve the purchase of a new pressure washer. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Lavery discussed the repairs that had been done and were needed at 28 Bunker Hill Avenue. He continued he wanted to replace the slider on the back side of the house and wanted to box in the other two sliders and put in solar glass panels. He continued that he had a couple other improvements he wanted to make and the total cost would be \$7600.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the expenditure. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief John Scippa stated that he was getting ready to outfit the new officer and wanted to set up an account with the Atlantic Tactical to purchase new equipment.

Mr. Canada moved to allow Chief Scippa to set up an account with Atlantic Tactical. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Scippa indicated that a cruiser had been in an accident that week while doing speed enforcement where the officer clipped the back of another vehicle.

Chief Scippa noted that he was collecting data and quotes for a speed enforcement device as previously discussed by the Board. He is looking into a 50/50 grant for this new equipment purchase. He continued that he would ask that the expenditure be made from the drug asset forfeiture account.

Chief Scippa stated that they would be participating in drug take back day on April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Chief Scippa indicated that he had gotten a quote for two Tasers at a cost of \$2164.86 and requested that the money come from the new equipment line.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the expenditure. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chief Scippa went over the changes made to the hawkers and peddlers ordinance.

Chief Scippa indicated that Troop A was doing some renovations on their barracks and that he had given them permission to park in their lot.

Chief Scippa stated that had advertised the new officer position and had received 56 applicants.

Mark Stevens stated that he was concerned that Portsmouth was under the impression that Stratham sewer was going to Exeter because of the recent water deal. He continued he thought Portsmouth should be notified that was not necessarily the case so that Portsmouth remained a viable option for Stratham's sewer disposal.

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

**PARK RESERVATIONS:**

All requests were approved unless noted.

Kevin Rowe requested use of the Morgera Room on 5/14 for a Wedding Anniversary Party and requested that the fee be waived.

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

Jessica Stein requested use of the 4H Pavilion on 5/14 for a Graduation Party.

Jenny and Drew Taggart requested use of the Scamman Pavilion on 4/16 for a Birthday Party.

Marie Girard requested use of the Front Pavilion on 8/20 for a Bridal Shower.

Jay Diener requested use of the Front Pavilion on 10/29 for the Great Bay 5K 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.

Kelley Gallant requested use of the Scamman Pavilion on 5/18 for the Rye Rec Afterschool outing 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.

Robert Law requested use of Room A for a High School Graduation Party on 6/18.

Peter Wiggin asked the Board to consider flying a MIA/POW flag at the Veterans' Garden at the Park. He felt it an appropriate place to do so, there were no other such flags in Town, and the Stratham Town flag, which would need to be taken down, was redundant. The Board took no action.

#### ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine stated that he was going to be on vacation from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup> and asked if the Board wanted to meet on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Board decided they would not meet on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Canada moved to appoint Terry Barnes to the Town Center Commission and the Heritage Commission. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Canada indicated that he was looking to meet with Mr. Deschaine for his 2015 evaluation review and suggested the following Monday. Everyone responded they were ok that.

At 10:17 PM Mr. Canada moved to go into non-public session to discuss potential litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Federico seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 10:56 PM Mr. Canada moved to come out of non-public and seal the minutes. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

At 10:57 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier  
Recording Secretary