

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2023 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; Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey, Police Chief Anthony King

At 7:00 pm Mr. Houghton opened the meeting and asked for motions on the minutes. Ms. Knab motioned to accept the minutes of July 31, 2023 as written. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton recognized Parks & Recreation Director Seth Hickey for his department report. Mr. Hickey reported a successful summer camp season. Approximately 140 – 160 kids attended per day; a huge increase over last year. Food trucks on Thursdays at the park has been extended to Oct. Summerfest was also successful and will happen next year. He thanked Chief Denton and Chief King for their involvement and cooperation. They are in their 10th year of offering the mountain bike series. With 100 bicyclists participating, it has generated \$7,000 which goes back into the trails which have sustained significant damage from the rains this year. They are starting to focus on fall programming. The Programming Assistant position is still open with interviews ongoing. Mr. Hickey called attention to a new, volunteer run discussion group for seniors.

Mr. Hickey noted that the Trail Management Advisory Committee will meet in a few weeks and discuss the trail damage. Stratham Hill Park Association will meet in Sept.

Pickle ball has been seen a lot of participation all summer long. The nets that DPW constructed for easier set up and breakdown are beneficial.

The Recreation Commission requested that Mr. Hickey do some preliminary research on purchasing a van for the dept. This topic had been discussed at previous Select Board meetings. The van would be used to support senior and middle school trips. This would allow Parks and Rec to plan smaller outings to attend local events without the expense of having to hire a Coach bus. Initial feedback indicates people want to participate in local outings but don't want to drive.

Referring to the summer camp program, Mr. Moore expressed appreciation for having a high quality, safe, local program that benefits Stratham families. Mr. Hickey was grateful for the high quality staff.

Ms. Knab asked if DPW had removed the story walk at the park and if not if we could move that project up. It was installed some time ago and is now in disrepair. Mr. Moore will ensure this is done.

Mr. Houghton recognized Police Chief Anthony King. Chief King reported that the new administrative assistant is off to a great start. The department has improved coverage due to a full complement of part-time officers. He plans to conduct individual meetings with all of the officers to gain input as to their future goals and address retention issues which continue to

dominate the field. He then requested a non-public session to discuss hiring. Ms. Knab asked if, on a State level, legislation might help in the retention of officers. Chief King talked about the nationwide issue of retaining and attracting individuals to be police officers.

Chief King requested funds be released from the First Responder Golf Donation. Funds in the amount of \$2,414.51 would be used to purchase Officer Wynn a SERT Tactical Vest. Officer Wynn's vest needs replacement due to age and proper fitting. In addition, he would like to use \$3,326 of the funds to purchase and upgrade camera sensors at the Police Station. This would allow for better coverage of the back parking lot to the station and a portion of the main entrance. Chief King reported that the IT consultant recently updated the internal server for the cameras. Ms. Knab motioned approval for the release of \$5,741 from the Stratham First Responder Golf Tournament for the two pieces of equipment. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 7:22 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to enter into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II(a) dismissal, promotion, compensation; (b) hiring; and (c) reputational matters, would likely affect adversely the reputation of another. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Houghton-yes; Knab – yes; Anderson-yes.

At 10:20 pm Ms. Knab motioned to come out of the non-public session and seal the minutes noting that failure to do so would render a proposed action ineffective. Mr. Houghton seconded the motion. Roll call: Houghton-yes; Knab – yes; Anderson-yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Moore narrowed down possible dates to hold a special town meeting on Stratham Community Power to Oct 19 or Oct 26. After a brief discussion, the Board decided on October 26.

Mr. Houghton motioned to release the performance guarantees for Kennebunk Savings based upon execution of the agreement. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Knab motioned approval of the Troop 185 Raffle Permit Application for the car show. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Knab motioned to re-appoint Dan McAuliffe to a full member seat on the Conservation Commission for a three year term ending at Town Meeting 2026. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Knab motioned to re-appoint Brad Jones to a full member seat on the Conservation Commission for a three year term ending at Town Meeting 2026. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton recognized Ms. McAllister for a brief financial report update. Given the late hour, Mr. Moore suggested moving the discussion to Sept. 5th. Ms. McAllister added that by Sept. 5th she will have done the revised revenues which is the next step in the tax rate setting.

Mr. Anderson announced that the governor signed a bill last week regarding non-public minutes over 10 years old. Implication of the bill is that non-public minutes will be made public unless resealed. Mr. Moore will obtain guidance from Town Counsel to ensure we are in compliance with the law.

The group briefly discussed a request from an abutter to use the municipal center parking lot on August 20 from noon to 5:00 pm. As long as there were no conflicts with other building events, the Board decided to allow it.

At 10:28 pm Mr. Anderson motioned to adjourn. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard
Recording Secretary