

SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017 – 7pm

Present: Chairman William Stewart, Selectman Thomas Maher, Selectman Damon Frampton, and Secretary Pamela Cullen

Guests: Jim Cerny, David Borden, David McGuckin, Wendy Poulin, Priscilla Hodgkins, Christiane McAllister, and Andrea Pruna

Chairman Stewart opened the meeting at 7pm.

1. Chairman Stewart asked for a motion to approve minutes. Selectman Tom Maher made a motion to approve minutes of July 24, 2017 as amended. Selectman Frampton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Chairman Stewart asked for Public Question and answers:

a. Town Clerk, Priscilla Hodgkins, explained that the town currently collects \$3 for every DMV registration completed and current RSA allows for Towns to collect up to \$5 per registration. She also mentioned that legislation was being enacted that will allow for Towns to charge up to \$10 per registration. She recommended based on the current and expected legislation that the Town increase its fee from \$3 to \$5. Town Clerk said that the money collected goes to Town road improvement or anything related to transportation. After discussion, Chairman Stewart felt it was reasonable to increase the fee from \$3 to \$5 per registration. Selectman Maher made a motion to increase the Town fee charged when registering a vehicle from \$3 to \$5. This increase will be effective in the coming months. Selectman Frampton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. Residents Andrea Pruna and Wendy Poulin came to discuss their idea of working with the recreation committee to bring more family programs to the town. Poulin said she spoke with Guy Stearns, Chair of the Recreation Committee, about the idea and they would like to form a subcommittee or become part of the recreation committee.

The Board discussed the status of the recreation committee, current appointees and how appointments are made. Secretary Cullen said that the only appointment to the Rec Committee has been Guy Stearns and no other names have been brought forward for appointment. Chairman Stewart said that the next step would be to connect with Guy Stearns about their suggestions, appointments, and availability of funds to move forward.

ACTION ITEM

c. Town Historian Jim Cerny said he had a concern stemming from the last Select Board meeting. Two residents came to the board with issues around tree cutting and mentioned they would like to have conversations off the record and the possibility of passing ordinance changes without a Town vote. Cerny passed around paperwork and pictures from the booklet called “Natural Resource Mapping and Land Protection Prioritization for the Seacoast Region” for the Boards review. Chairman Stewart said that the residents were referred to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board and noted that any ordinance changes would

go through the appropriate process which generally includes public hearings and a Town vote.

David McGuckin asked about the tree that fell during a past storm at the corner of Beach Hill Road and Wentworth Road. He wanted to know if there was anything the town could do to move it along. Chairman Stewart said that the Town would ask the homeowner and\ or the Association about the status as a courtesy but that there was nothing in the ordinances that compelled the homeowner to act. Jim Cerny also talked about a problem that the Cemetery Trustees are having with a felled tree in a town cemetery.

ACTION ITEM.

3. Agenda items:

a. Piscataqua Rangers Jr Fife and Drum Corp's email – Thomas Merriam

The Piscataqua Rangers Fife and Drum Corp (501c3) are requesting a place to practice in New Castle, possibly the Common, from 6 to 8pm once a week. They would also like an indoor place during the winter such as the Recreation Building. Selectman Frampton suggested that they be invited to the next Select Board meeting.. Other concerns discussed were the impact of noise on the abutters, and suggestions to use Fort Stark.

See attached paperwork.

ACTION ITEM

b. BOS Schedule for September.

Chairman Stewart discussed the September meeting schedule as the first Monday in the month is Labor Day. The Board decided to change their meeting to Tuesday, September 5 and keep their second meeting the same for Monday, September 18.

c. Public meeting on highway block grant.

Selectman Stewart gave a brief history about the block grant. NHDOT issues a Highway Block Grant annually which the town budgets for. This year the grant is for \$19,928.52 which comes in four quarterly payments of slightly differing amounts. This year Senate Bill 38 was adopted which freed up additional funds for towns. The town was fortunate to receive additional funds totaling \$16,860.27. Stewart said that in order to receive the funds the town must have a public hearing to accept this money. The Chair then discussed that the funds could potentially be used to extend the sidewalk from Wild Rose Lane to the Common. It was suggested to have the public hearing at the next Select Board meeting. Selectman Maher made a motion to have the public hearing on accepting the Block Grant funds on Monday, August 21, 2017 at 6:45pm. Selectman Frampton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Stewart said at the public meeting there will be an opportunity to discuss the sidewalk. David Borden said he will talk at the public hearing and felt it was a great use for the Block Grant. Rye Beach Landscaping gave an estimate last year of \$24,100 and said they will honor that estimate. Peter Taylor, owner of the land that would be used for a sidewalk, doesn't have a problem with the sidewalk. Borden said that most of the work would be done in the state right of way and will get the plans. David Borden is presently fund raising in order to provide additional funding required to meet the cost of the sidewalk extension. Stewart said that NHDOT approval

is needed but that based on a recent meeting, they seemed to be in favor of the project. Selectman Maher questioned the distance of the sidewalk. Discussion ensued about further expansion of the sidewalk to include going down as far as Beach Hill Road.

See attached paperwork.

ACTION ITEM

4. Follow up items:

a. Abatement for 76 Ducks Head

Chairman Stewart gave a recap of the abatement process that the homeowner has done starting with the original abatement and the subsequent concerns that the homeowner felt was not addressed. Avitar Associates replied to the homeowner's letter stating that there was no grounds to issue an abatement. The homeowner again submitted a concern they felt was not addressed and asked for reconsideration. This additional letter of concern was sent to Avitar. The town is waiting on their response.

ACTION ITEM

b. Fire monitoring services at town hall

Selectman Maher said that the town hall has a new fire panel installed which has stopped the nightly call-out for the employees. Maher said that the town continues to compare quotes for monitoring services at the other buildings for any potential savings. Chairman Stewart said that the town should look at the fire panel in the Recreation Building. Maher said that this panel is functioning but is antiquated with no replacement parts available. Maher gave the benefits for upgrading the panel.

ACTION ITEM

c. Common requests

Selectman Frampton said that he spoke to both Steve Tabbutt and Ben Jankowski about the request from Lizfit to use of the Common and they are fine with them using the Common. The fee was also discussed and to prorate the cost because of being so late in the season.

d. Recreation Building camera

Selectman Frampton said that the camera would be installed tomorrow. Secretary Cullen added that she had spoken to Steve Tabbutt and that the camera was installed today but needed a computer cable to complete the installation for WIFI. Dave McGuckin asked if the video will be fed to someone's laptop. Selectman Frampton said the camera will store itself and the staff will be able to download the video. Additional signage for the three doors regarding rules and regulations have been posted. Also, signs stating that the Rec Building has a monitoring device has been posted.

e. Fire boat demonstration

Selectman Maher said that he was in touch with Fire Chief Blanding regarding the fire boat demo. Blanding said that the boat demonstration will be on a Monday night sometime in late August or early September.

ACTION ITEM

f. Fire Department letters of acknowledgement

Selectman Maher said he will draft up letters for new members and for those members who have stepped down. Chief Blanding supplied names and addresses.

See attached paperwork.

g. Sewer update

Chairman Stewart discussed that the sewer by-pass work had been completed properly. The second phase of this project is to replace the sewer pumps. The second phase has been quoted with funding sources approved at the Town Meeting. Stewart explained about the replacement procedure, the engineering required and NHDES approvals. The lead time for the town is about 12 to 14 weeks to get the pumps and it looks like the project will be done in late November. The actual installation time is very quick. Chairman Stewart talked about cost overruns and some of the changes involving Underwood's role.

h. Water project

Chairman Stewart said that the town is in discussions with Portsmouth about work on the water system. Based on those discussions and the consulting\ study work that has been completed, the Town is now in the position to move forward with a special town meeting. Selectman Maher said that we are moving along on a parallel track with Portsmouth. Chairman Stewart talked about the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund and the percentage on funds for borrowing and implications for tax payers. The Chair discussed the Special Town Meeting and possibly having a goal of November of this year.

Cemetery Trustee Chairman Jim Cerny said that he had a question regarding the special town meeting. Cerny wanted to know if more than one topic can be addressed at a Special Town Meeting. It was discussed that special town meetings have to be a one agenda item meeting. Chairman Stewart said that Cerny's questions regarding cemetery trusts will have to probably wait until the May 2018 town meeting.

i. Contract.

As a follow up item the Board discussed the contract with the state regarding the two bridges that are slated for repair in 2018. The Board wants to see a plan and information that addresses the concerns they raised in prior meeting(s). ACTION ITEM

5. New Business:

Chairman Stewart explained about a recent memo from HDC Chairman Rodney Rowland. Rowland wrote that 3 Walbach Street has a violated the HDC decision on a fence installation. The memo was sent to the Building Inspector and copied to the Select Board.

See attached paperwork.

6. Committee reports

NCFD - Selectman Maher said that he has a July department report for the Fire Department. Maher gave a brief synopsis of the report.

See attached paperwork.

Water and Sewer Committee - Selectman Frampton said that the next Water and Sewer Commission will be this week on Wednesday, August 9.

NCPD Chairman Stewart said at their last meeting the Police Department gave their July statistics.

Chairman Stewart asked for any other business to come before the board and there being none asked for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Maher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Frampton seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.