

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday, October 2, 2017 -7:00 PM

Present: Bill Stewart, Chair, Tom Maher, Selectman, Damon Frampton, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

Also present: Pam Cullen, Assistant to the Select Board, Christiane McAllistair, Town Accountant, Jim Cerny, Dr. Jim Zuckerman, Tom Smith, Treasurer, Guy Stearns, Rec Director, Sandy Bisset, Energy Committee, Dr. Roger Epstein, David McGuckin, and Andy Schulte.

Chair Stewart called the meeting to order and called for a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

Public Hearing: Renewal of Comcast Television Franchise Agreement.

Chair Stewart opened the public hearing and Selectman Maher gave a background and explanation. He has been working with Comcast for the better part of last year and was attempting to extract some concessions as part of the extension. Agreement was reached to extend the agreement for a period of six years until July 2023. A separate agreement will be done dealing with the agreed upon Technology Fund (\$2000.) which he was able to obtain from Comcast. He noted that the extension agreement is non-exclusive even though there is no other cable provider.

This type of business is changing substantially. Initially they were not fully integrated, but now they are marketing wireless service for mobile phones, among other things. Selectman Maher noted that it would take a change in Federal law to be able to change the providers' processes.

Dr. Zuckerman expressed concern about the six year length of the contract. Selectman Maher said typically these cable franchise agreements go from 5 to 7 years. This agreement was changed from 5 to 6 years in order to leverage the Technology Fund. Chair Stewart stated unfortunately there are not a lot of options. Dr. Zuckerman thanked Selectman Maher for his due diligence.

There being no one else to speak to this matter, Chair Stewart closed the public hearing and brought it back to the Select Board for discussion.

After discussion, Selectman Maher made a Motion to Accept the cable television franchise agreement renewal between the Town of New Castle and Comcast of Maine and New Hampshire for a six-year extension to expire in July 2023. Selectman Frampton seconded, and the motion carried.

1. Approval of Select Board Minutes.

Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve the September 18th minutes of the Select Board meeting as amended. Selectman Frampton seconded, and the Motion carried.

2. Public Question & Answer.

Jim Cerny asked about the schedule for paving of Rte. 1-B. Chair Stewart indicated that his information was the week of October 22nd, and that one lane would remain open.

Chair Stewart asked for Dr. Zuckerman's opinion on whether our mosquito spraying plan was adequate in light of the recent confirmation of West Nile virus in Rye. He asked whether the Town should be concerned or do something differently. Dr. Zuckerman stated that the Town's current strategy is good, and there was in fact only one mosquito confirmed with West Nile virus. He did express concern about the warmer weather and the types of chemical compounds used. He noted that he was surprised that the City Council of Portsmouth recently voted 7-1 to discontinue all chemical spraying. Chair Stewart stated New Castle's vendor, Swamp Inc. should be contacted to review what chemicals are being use. Pam Cullen noted that spraying is done every month. **Action Item.**

Dr. Zuckerman also expressed concern about the use of Round Up, and would like to convene a meeting of the Town's Board of Health to discuss this matter. He also stated that the school nurse should be recognized for her education on ticks, and how the children carry the message home to their parents. **Action Item.**

3. Items.

a. Guy Stearns – Recreation Department Chair.

Guy introduced Dr. Roger Epstein to speak on the subject of solar panel installations and the energy cost saving benefits, which might be considered for other venue such as the Rec building. Guy stated that the upcoming Road Race could be a rallying point for solar issues, and more research is needed to do an adequate assessment. Dr. Epstein spoke about his own cost savings with his residence and wondered if a municipality might be eligible for subsidies. Selectman Maher suggested that this should be referred to the Town's Energy Committee. Chair Stewart suggested waiting until the roof work is complete next summer. With respect to financing, Guy stated the rec department takes in \$15,000 for the race, but much of the money is already earmarked. Chair Stewart noted that budget season is coming up, and any proposal would need to get to the Board in December or early January for FY 2018.

Guy Stearns stated that two citizens had approached him with the idea of doing more programs at the Common and the Rec building. Ideas included a movie night, and expanding use of the rec building beyond tennis. Chair Stewart stated he was in favor of developing community programs, and encouraged Guy to ask the two citizens to spearhead this effort. Pam Cullen noted there are some issues involved regarding the federal requirements for Common use, as well as a need for a license in order to have a movie night. The Library does currently hold such a license.

Chair Stewart questioned the \$7,000 fee that New Castle pays to the Town of Rye for New Castle students to participate in their rec programs. Guy Stearns and he proceeded to

discuss the benefits and value, but Guy will provide statistics to Chair Stewart, as the Chair stated he needed validation. **Action Item.**

Chair Stewart asked about the status of the hockey rink which was previously relocated from the Common to the school. Guy noted that Doug Pinciario is in charge of this. There have been concerns expressed about the ice quality. The first year was not a problem, but last year the weather did not cooperate and there problems. This matter will be revisited and brought back to the Board with a recommendation. **Action Item.**

b. LED Test lights in Town.

Sandy Bisset, Chair of the Energy Committee reported that the test lights are up at the corner of Walbach and Main and Atkinson and Main, as well as 2 other locations. 2 shields were attached at neighbors' requests. All are encouraged to offer their opinion. The Select Board agreed there should be articles in both the Islander and Island Items regarding this matter. Pam Cullen noted the deadline for Island Items is October 22nd. Dave Borden agreed to do an article. **Action Item.**

c. Assistant Town Treasurer.

Treasurer Tom Smith stated that the current assistant has resigned, and he put forth the name of Steve Witt of New Castle as his replacement. While Tom's position as Treasurer is an elected position, the assistant treasurer is selected by him and submitted to the Select Board for approval. He asked for permission to submit Mr. Witt's name and provided a biography for the Board's consideration. After discussion and review, Selectman Maher made a Motion to Appoint Steve Witt as Assistant Town Treasurer. Selectman Frampton seconded, and the motion carried.

Pam Cullen will draw up the appropriate paperwork and swear him in. **Action Item.**

d. Follow up Items.

Water Sewer Update.

Chair Stewart referred to the minutes of the last Select Board meeting for details as not much else has transpired since that time. He is drafting a letter to Portsmouth relative to the high TTHMS levels and asking for their mitigation plan.

Laura Ludes fencing update.

Selectman Frampton discussed the matter with Ms. Ludes and she has agreed to place the proposed replacement fencing on her property. This negates the Board's previous decision which required the property owner to maintain replacement of Common fencing behind her property. Chair Stewart noted there needs to be a discussion of all fencing at the Common. **Action Item.**

4. New Business.

a. Status of Project Manager

Jim Cerny asked about what progress has been in the final decision to hire a project manager. He is interested in the type of projects, etc. and whom the person would report to.

The Board explained that after consideration and review of projects needed to be done, the position has been split into two: One for Administration and one for DPW and Infrastructure projects. Chair Stewart stated they may delay the timing of the hiring for the DPW position. They have two excellent candidates, and are doing updated job descriptions at this time.

b. Auditor Status.

Dave Borden, on behalf of the Trustee of the Trust Funds inquired about the status of the auditor, as the MS 535 needs to be submitted to the State. He was assured the auditor has been working on it.

c. Annual Request to Store floats at Town Landing.

Dave Borden will submit requesting request to the Select Board asking permission to store their floats at Town Landing.

d. Board of Health Meeting.

Dr. Zuckerman requested a meeting of the Board of Health regarding "cancer clusters." He also mentioned that in discussions with PNSY, the Town was highly praised.

e. Financial Review

Chair Stewart provided a status of the current budget (expenditures and revenues) and will be providing this monthly at Board meetings.

For revenues: Budgeted: \$678,225 exclusive of tax revenue. Collected to date: \$253,093 or 38%.

For expenses: Budgeted: \$5,190,000. Actual: #1,100,000 or 22%.

Jim Cerny noted the current situation in the Town of Exeter with their elderly exemptions and asked what New Castle's situation was. Pam Cullen reported the Town has 4 exemptions. These are regulated by statutes.

5. Committee Reports.

Fire Report: See attached

Separate attachment.

Police Report: See attached

Chair Stewart stated that the Don White, Police Chief will be providing data gathered by the electronic sign which monitors speed, as well as information and data on the effect of the seasonal speed reduction signs. This data will be presented at the first meeting in November. **Action Item.**

Library Trustees: Selectman Maher will provide.

Just prior to adjournment, David McGuckin asked for a recap on the status of the Project Manager situation. He expressed his concerns over the final candidates. After discussion, Selectman Maher made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Frampton. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Attachment Fire Report:

New Castle Fire Department Monthly Report – September 2017

1. Calls for service in September: 18. Calls for service, year to Date: 152
2. Types of calls in September: 6 Medical Aid, 5 Fire Alarms, 3 Carbon Monoxide Alarms, 1 Motor Vehicle Accident with Injury, 1 Smoke Investigation, 1 Reported Boat Fire, 1 Plane Crash/Mass Casualty Drill.
3. Average response time in September: 7.11 minutes.
4. Total number of minutes on scene in September: 840
5. Average number of personnel per incident in September: 2.83
6. Total number of personnel responding to incidents in September: 51
7. Apparatus responding to incidents:
 - Rescue 7 responded to 9 incidents in September and 79 YTD.
 - Forestry 1 responded to 3 incidents in September and 38 YTD.
 - Engine 1 responded to 0 incidents in September and 0 YTD.
 - Engine 4 responded to 6 incidents in September and 51 YTD.
 - Hose 1 responded to 0 incidents in September and 6 YTD.
 - Marine 1 responded to 0 incidents in September and 2 YTD.
 - Marine 2 responded to 0 incidents in September and 4 YTD.
8. Training in September: 122 Man Hours of department in-house training. 8 members participated in an FAA Mass Casualty/ Aircraft Crash Drill at Pease National Guard Base.

7 members attended a class on "Air Medical Utilization, LZ Prep and Safety" given by Boston Med Flight at Epping Fire Dept.

9. Public Outreach Activities in September: Fireboat pumping demonstration.

10. Mutual Aid Given in September: None

11. Mutual Aid Received in September: None

12. Budget remaining on 9/31/17:

Fire Department: N/A

Emergency Management: N/A

13. Staffing: 2 Career members and 29 Volunteer members.

New Member: FF Andrew Stanley from Portsmouth

14. Areas of Concern: None.

Attached Police Log:

New Castle Police September log 2017

Motor Vehicle Warning	36
Motor Vehicles Summons	5
Radar Patrols	66
Services Rendered other Departments	11
Patient Transport to Hospital	2
Property Checks	56
Arrests	2
Warrants	1
Protective Custody	1
Criminal Trespass (Removed Warning Issued)	12
Alarm False / Operator Error	9
Accidents	1
Unable to Secure (Building, Care Taker Called, Secured)	1
Parking Tickets	6
Maintenance Completed	4
Radar Speed Sign Updates	

Re: Speed sign ending July 25 & Aug 1

Wk Ending (7 Days)	Location	Total Cars	Avg. Daily Cars	Avg. Daily Speed	Top Speed	Average High Speed
July 25, 2017	Wentworth @ Commons fence	8591	1227.3	21.3	43.0	40.7
August 1, 2017	Portsmouth @ Riverview	8961	1280.1	21.3	47.0	40.7