

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday, July 15, 2019 – 7PM

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

Also present: Fire Chief Ted Hartnett, Pam Cullen, Administrative Assistant to Select Board, Christiane McAllister, Accountant, Ken McDonald, TAPC, Jim Cerny, Dave McGuckin, Andy Schulte, Nancy Jackson.

1. Approve Select Board Minutes of July 1, 2019.

Selectman Maher made a Motion to Approve July 1, 2019 Select Board meeting minutes as amended. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried.

2. Public Questions and Answers:

Nancy Jackson of Cranfield Street asked the Select Board if they had considered burying power lines when the digging begins for the water project. Selectman Stewart noted that when this matter was previously raised it proved to be a very expensive proposition. Selectman Maher recalled that three years ago it was deemed expensive and would require a lot of underground space. Ms. Jackson asked that the Select Board appoint a formal committee to look into this issue to determine if its feasible and provide some options to consider, as well as identify any barriers, and come back with recommendations. Chair Frampton stated he would have no problem with a committee for study purposes. Pam Cullen recalled the effort by Oceans Street residents to bury power lines, and the costs and problems they encountered. Dave McGuckin spoke in favor of having such a committee. After discussion, Selectman Stewart indicated the committee could consist of 5 people, and would have to post notice of all meetings and keep minutes. The Select Board agreed. A point person was briefly discussed, but not resolved. Nancy will proceed with committee formation and report back to the Select Board.

3. New Business.

a. New Castle Historical Society re: sign.

Elaine Nollet, NCHS Board member, spoke on behalf of NCHS to seek Select Board approval for the replacement of the current outdoor signage at the Museum. The new sign will be permanent, and will take the place of the sandwich board sign. Selectman Stewart explained that as the building is a town owned building, approval from the land use boards must be obtained and referred NCHS to the Building Inspector to determine the next step in the process of obtaining approval and installation.

b. Health Trust Short term disability limits.

Christiane explained the improved benefit which would be for the full time employees. The Town will now be providing better coverage by having this new benefit, which more than doubles the current benefit. The cap would be upped and the cost to the Town would be \$1000.00. After further discussion, Selectman Maher made a Motion to approve the change to the Short Term Disability benefit for full time employees which would increase from

\$450 to \$1100 per employees, effective August 2019 if possible. It is the intent of the Select Board to have this new benefit go into effect as soon as possible. Selectman Stewart seconded and the Motion carried.

c. Hydrant rent costs.

Pam Cullen spoke about the memo she received from the Town of Newington asking if New Castle and Greenland would be interested in partnering with them to approach Portsmouth about the ever-increasing costs of hydrant maintenance. The memo noted that the towns have funded the purchase of the hydrants over the years and understand that Portsmouth is responsible to service them. Newington is concerned about the rising costs now exceeding \$25,000 annually. Pam Cullen stated she is in support of partnering with these communities. During discussion Chief Hartnett stated he would like to further look into this issue and come up with a report and recommendations. The Select Board noted that we don't own the hydrants, but lease them. After further discussion, the Select Board agreed to investigate this matter, and tabled the issue of partnering to a future date. Christiane also will look into this matter, and it is scheduled to be on the Agenda for the next Select Board Meeting. Pam Cullen will also make inquiries to Newington and Greenland and report back.

d. Safe Path

Ken McDonald reported on the progress of the project dealing with Wild Rose Lane to Rogers Blvd. Apparently the sidewalk is not presently ADA compliant, but Rye Beach Landscaping is prepared to remedy this and is trying to determine dates for the needed repairs. Ken also pointed out that NH DOT is not pleased with some of the dips in the walkway which cause excessive water pooling. These repairs will be made at no cost to the Town.

Selectman Stewart stated that resident Alison Tanguay had recently approached him about being involved with the public process of the TAPP grant. He noted her expertise and would like her to be a part of the project, as the town could benefit from her experience. Selectman Maher noted that the scope meeting is being held next Tuesday with DOT. Tom Jameson is the TAPP Director. He stated that Ken McDonald will be assisting Ben Jankowski with the project.

Pam Cullen stated that the town recently received a \$3150 gift from Mr. Diana of the Road Race, which was intended for the Safe Path Fund. Ben had suggested that some of these funds be put toward repair and replacement of playground equipment. Selectman Maher made a Motion to Accept the donation of funds, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Motion carried. Ken McDonald reiterated the distinction between the Safe Path and the TAPP grant.

e. Walton Road driveway permit.

Pam Cullen stated that driveway permits had long been in the purview of the Town Road Agent, but as a result of issues with 25 Piscataqua Street, he no longer has the authority to issue or deny driveway permits. After discussion it was determined that it (Select Board) now was the approving agent and asked to find out the exact criteria by which to make a

decision. Chair Frampton will reach out to the Chair of the Planning Board as well as Steve Tabbutt. A process needs to be established.

f. Fiscal Year End.

Christiane reported that at years end the balance remaining was \$214,000.

g. Recreation Building – work

Selectman Maher met with Ben and reported that repairs have been made to the Library windows. The Macomber Room door is to be replaced. The recent infestation of rodents and pests are being managed by Ben and Steve. New diaper changing stations will be installed in each of the rest rooms. Selectman Maher will proceed to get quotes and estimations.

h. Water Sewer Update:

Water:

Selectman Stewart that DES has finally issued the permit, which contains some expected conditions. There is a 30 day comment period and it goes to Governor and Council at the end of August. However they don't have to wait till then to send out the bid package, which will be published July 19th. The Pre-bid meeting is set for August 1, 2019. The contractors get their questions answered at this meeting, and the prepare the final bids. Bid openings are scheduled for August 16, 2019.

Sewer:

Selectman Stewart spoke about the Town's application for funds for the study of the force main. He also mentioned the alternative bridge crossings discussed with Underwood, noting that the pipe will be sleeved.

4. Committee reports:

Chair Frampton will have a report on Water and Sewer Commission for a future meeting.

No other report at this time.

4. Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Select Board, Selectman Stewart made a Motion to Adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Maher. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Jane Riordan
Secretary.