

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Eastman convened the Board at 7:00 PM in the Nowak Room of the Town Office and introduced other members of the Board: Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Lionel Ingram, Mr. Joe Pace, Mr. Bill Campbell and Mr. Russell Dean, Town Manager.

2. Public Comment

Mr. George St. Amour, 4 Stoney Brook Lane, regarding the Fire Department, Mr. St. Amour does not wish to spend the money necessary for new hires. Mr. St. Amour would also like to see the Town charge other towns for mutual aid calls in an effort to reduce the number of mutual aid calls that our firefighters participate in.

Mr. Eastman is concerned about 2 issues: He was told that the Town has been selling out of service vehicles to a wholesaler as opposed to putting them up for public bid, as called for in 99-04, and he was also told that there is a Town employee who was overpaid and the Town has not actively sought to collect those funds. He states that he is disappointed with Mr. Dean's leadership. Mr. Dean responds that the practice of sealed bids on out of service vehicles was abandoned several years ago, and the Town has been able to sell to wholesalers and receive a higher return on those vehicles than the bidding process allowed. The overpayment to the Town employee is an ongoing process that will be completed shortly. Mr. Eastman would like to find out when the Board abandoned the bidding process for out of service vehicles, and Mr. Ingram suggests that department heads may have forgotten the practice of bidding. Mr. Ingram suggests that this issue of 99-04 appear on the next agenda and Mr. Campbell suggests that the Fixed Asset Policy should be reviewed for revisions to include sale of Town vehicles.

3. Minutes

Mr. Ingram moved to waive the reading of the minutes of September 17, 2007 and accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Appointments

Mr. Campbell moves to appoint Gerry Hamel to the Town Building Advisory Committee. Mr. Ingram seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell moves to appoint Mark Leighton to the Town Building Advisory Committee. Ms. Gilman seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell moves to appoint Amy Bailey to the Town Building Advisory Committee. Mr. Ingram seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell moves to appoint Carol Sideris to the Planning Board as an alternate member with a term expiring April 30, 2010. Mr. Pace seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell moves to appoint Marc Carbonneau to the Budget Recommendations Committee. Mr. Ingram seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.

5. Discussion/Action Items

- a. Fire Department Staffing- Mr. Eastman suggests that the Town may charge other towns for mutual aid, review minimum staffing, and manage vacation schedules to ensure minimum staffing, and should the ambulance service be contracted to a private company? Mr. Eastman would also like to look into the possibility of utilizing the call firefighters. Chief Comeau says that his recommendations to the Board for the 4 new hires is based on budgetary concerns as well as the personnel report suggesting that the Fire Department adds a number of new firefighters. Mr. Campbell is concerned that some of the proposed savings in the Fire Department's report is not truly savings to the Town, and that adding the 4 new firefighters is an item for the budget process. Chief Comeau reminds the Board that the demands on the Fire Department are increasing and that the new hires are necessary to keep their budget within acceptable boundaries. Mr. Eastman suggests that if the Board approves the new hires at the Fire Department, it would be equal to throwing away the approved FY 07 budget that the townspeople approved last year. Mr. Campbell is concerned that there are a number of new positions that are being recommended in the new budget, and that the 4 new firefighters are going to continue to be a cost to the Town budget as well. Ms. Gilman reminds the Board that the difference between the new positions and the proposed firefighters is that the Fire Department already has funding in their current budget to accommodate the new hires, and the others are new expenditures. Mr. Pace maintains that the budget is not approved on a line item basis, but the total amount of the budget is approved and allocated to each department for them to administer as they need. He also maintains that the long-term benefit is worth it, and the level of service will be improved. Mr. Ingram asks if the State allows for the Board to allocate these funds to a different account for the purpose of the new hires, and Mr. Eastman says that the State says it is allowable. Mr. Dean states that the limitation on transfers relates to the MS-6. Governing body approval would be needed for these types of transfers. Otherwise there are no limitations to moving funds especially within a department. These functions are identified in the MS-6. Mr. Eastman suggests that the Town refuse to respond to some mutual aid calls. Chief Comeau states that the Department is looking at mutual aid calls and has seen a decrease in mutual aid calls so far this year. Mr. Pace suggests that Mr. Dean have the time to speak with the Local Government Center to get a definitive answer on mid year staffing for the Board. ***Mr. Pace moves that the discussion regarding these new hires be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Ingram seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.***
- b. Amend Classification Plan- Mr. Dean suggests that in light of the prior discussion, the Board may wish to take up this item at the next meeting as well. The Board agrees.
- c. FY08 Budget and Warrant Articles- Mr. Dean reviewed the proposed budget. Mr. Eastman believes that the Heritage Commission should be moved to the Planning Department. Mr. Pace says that the Town is using Franchise fees for the Cable TV account, so the item, which shows an increase in expenditure, is actually revenue neutral. Mr. Eastman wants all requested items to be included in the proposed budget, not added later. Ms. Gilman thinks that IT should be its own department. Mr. Pace and Mr. Ingram both would like to see this budget again next week with all of the departmental requests incorporated in the budget. The Board agrees to meet again next week for the sole purpose of approving the budget to be forwarded to the Budget Recommendation Committee.

- d. Designate Squamscott Block Loading Zone- *Mr. Campbell moves to designate, under 100.2, the area at the Squamscott Block Building at 130 Water Street as depicted in the attached map as a loading zone. Mr. Ingram seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.*

6. Public Hearings

None.

7. Permits & Approvals

a) Abatements & Exemptions- (attached)

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the abatements as presented; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

b) Permits

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the permits as presented; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Reports

a) Town Manager's Report-

The Board of Selectmen will meet for the sole purpose of approving the preliminary FY 08 Budget on September 30. The next Board of Selectmen meetings are on October 15 and October 29. October 6 is Hazardous Waste Collection Day at the DPW, and is a regional effort, which increases grant opportunities. Bulk pickup is scheduled for next week, and Channel 22 is looking very good. The link to Primary Place Online is now on the website. The transfer station will be expanding its hours for the fall, and more information will be forthcoming.

b) Selectmen's Committee Reports

Mr. Pace: The Arts Committee met last week.

Mr. Campbell: *The Downtown Restoration Committee held a public hearing last Wednesday to get public input on possible improvements The Conservation Committee meets tomorrow at 7PM regarding preliminary hearing on the St. Michael's proposal for Newfields Road.*

Ms. Gilman: The Heritage Commission is seeking a Certified Local Government rating. The next meeting will be October 10th.

The Zoning Ordinance Review Committee discussed definitions of offices and retail space. The Committee will meet with Sylvia. The next meeting will be October 4.

The Rec Advisory Committee met and reviewed the summer programs and agreed that they were very successful, a reminder that Gilman Park was not sprayed for mosquitoes since it is so close to the water. The participation for the Road Race was not as high as they expected. The Skate Park upgrade has been completed with Phase 3 scheduled for next spring, and the Board is looking into the possibility of a new winter event.

The Historic District Commission has 4 new applications including 2 slate roofs and replacement windows.

Mr. Ingram: The Safety Committee met and from May to September there were very few accidents. The River Committee met to review tasks, and The Rockingham Planning Commission met regarding development and transportation issues.

Mr. Eastman: The Water/Sewer Advisory Committee met to discuss the new budget and the water tank project, which is on time. Mr. Eastman presented a section of water pipe that had been eroded.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Non Public Session-

None.

11. Adjournment- At 9:22 PM Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn to non- public session; second by Ms. Gilman. VOTE: Unanimous. Mr. Campbell called the roll: Mr. Pace: Yes, Ms. Gilman: Yes, Mr. Ingram: Yes, Mr. Eastman: Yes, Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Geis
AA