

Approved: October 10, 2013

Posted: October 11, 2013



Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 26, 2013, at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room

Chairman Rothhaus called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Vice Chairman Yakuboff, Councilor Boyd, Councilor Dwyer, Councilor Harrington, Councilor Koenig, Councilor Mahon, and Finance Director Paul Micali. Town Manager Eileen Cabanel was excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Rothhaus led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

The 7th Annual Merrimack Fall Festival & Business Expo will take place at the Mastricola complex on Saturday, September 28th from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. rain or shine. There will be venues both inside and out. Admission is free, and the event is open to all. Following the festival is Merrimack Rocks; an evening of live music, fireworks, and tributes celebrating Merrimack and honoring Corporal Tim Gibson and Pete Gagnon. The event will begin at 4:00 p.m., at the new pavilion at Watson Park, with the arrival of the Budweiser Clydesdales, and conclude with a fireworks show at 8:00 p.m. Parking for the event will be at the High School and the old Shaw plaza with shuttle service available.

Regular meetings of the Town Council will be conducted on Thursday, October 10th and October 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room.

The Town auction for 19 Cabot Road has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 26th. All interested parties can contact the Town Manager's office at 424-2331 to be placed on a list and sent additional information.

Comments from the Press and Public - None

Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements

1. Promotional Pinning – Merrimack Fire Department

Submitted by Fire Chief Michael Currier

Fire Chief Michael Currier will recognize promoted fire officers through a promotional pinning ceremony.

Fire Chief Michael Currier remarked badge pinning is a longstanding tradition within the fire service. Through this ceremony, newly hired firefighters as well as those earning promotions are honored. The badge is a symbol of the public faith and trust in firefighters who wear it; knowing they are willing to lay down their lives for the protection of others just as the crusaders sacrificed their lives many years ago. He stated it to be customary for loved ones or personal mentors to pin the badges on the firefighters.

A Pinning Ceremony was held for the following officers who have received promotions:

- Assistant Fire Chief Brian Borneman; accompanied by his Wife, Becky, and children, Matthew, Jason, and Elizabeth. After being hired on 7-2-94, he achieved Master Firefighter on 7-4-99, was promoted to Lieutenant on 11-21-04, Captain on 1-20-08, and Assistant Chief

on 6-30-13. Assistant Chief Borneman also served as Union President of Council 93, has a Bachelor's Degree, is a Firefighter III, an Emergency Medical Technician, a Certified Company Officer I and II, and a Certified Hazardous Materials Technician.

- Captain Richard Gagne was unable to be in attendance due to a family emergency. Captain Gagne was hired 5-26-97, achieved Master Firefighter 6-13-02, promoted to Lieutenant on 10-31-10 and Captain on 7-7-13. He holds an Associate's Degree, is a Certified Firefighter III, an EMT Advanced, Company Officer I and II, and a Hazardous Materials Technician.
- Lieutenant Shawn Farrell; accompanied by Wife, Allison, and children, Lilly and Will. Hired on 1-16-03, achieved the rank of Master Firefighter on 1-13-08, and was promoted to Lieutenant 7-7-13. Lieutenant Farrell served as Union President of the IFO Local 2904, holds a Bachelor's Degree, and is a Firefighter III, Emergency Medical Technical, Certified Company Officer I and II, and Hazardous Materials Technician.

Appointments - None

Public Hearing – None

Legislative Updates from State Representatives - None

Town Manager's Report

September is "National Preparedness Month". For additional information please visit the Police Department's website, Facebook page or www.nh.gov/readynh. The Police Department, in partnership with the Merrimack School District, will be conducting tactical training drills at the schools throughout the month of October. There will be police activity signage at the schools during the training and advisories will be made via NIXLE prior to the training.

The Library Trustees have hired the UNH Survey Center to conduct a telephone survey to help better understand residents' attitudes about library services as well as usage habits. The UNH Survey Center will be in the field for one week at the end of September/beginning of October. You might be one of the lucky 400 random residents over the age of 18 who will be contacted. We ask that you help us to understand what the Town is looking for in library services.

The Library is celebrating "One Book, One Town" during the month of October. The 2013 selection is the science fiction classic, "Ender's Game" by Orson Scott Card. Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the government has taken to breeding military geniuses, and then training them in the arts of war. Teens and adults can sign out a copy of the book at the circulation desk, read it ahead of time, and come to the meeting to discuss the book and its controversial author over snacks and coffee.

On October 26th, the Police Department will be conducting "National Drug Take Back Day" for all Merrimack residents wishing to drop off unwanted prescription medication. Please come to the Police Department between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for disposal. The Police Department has a drop box in the lobby where unwanted prescriptions can be dropped off any time of day or night.

Director Micali stated the need for the Council to determine its November and December meeting schedule. Chairman Rothhaus requested members of the Council provide feedback.

Consent Agenda – None

Old Business

1. Second Hand Shop Trailer

Submitted by Town Councilor Daniel Dwyer

The Town Council to receive an update on the Second Hand Shop trailer.

Councilor Dwyer read into the record the following information provided by Town Manager Cabanel:

“In December I came before the Council asking for permission to move a portable classroom from the highway garage to the Transfer Station. That move was completed on April 8. We also have gone out to bid and contracted to get the electrical connection for the trailer. That also has been completed. We have moved the decking from the house on Bishop Street to the Transfer Station to be reused to build the decks needed to have access into the trailer. However, we have not yet built the decks because we have been waiting for a tenant. I come before you tonight to update the Council on the contract talks to date. The Town went out for a Request for Qualifications and received no bidders. I then reached out to two individuals to gauge their interest. Neither of the individuals was interested in operating the second hand store. In closing, I am seeking the Town Council guidance on how they would like me to proceed with the second hand trailer.”

Councilor Dwyer reminded the Council the impetus behind the change at the Transfer Station was safety of pedestrians partaking in the prior activity. A move was necessary regardless of whether another option was available, e.g., second hand shop. The individual who had expressed interest no longer wishes to run the shop. Councilor Dwyer suggested moving the operation out of the Transfer Station and allowing Town employees to manage it. He noted Rick Seymour, Public Works Director, has stated no objection to such a change. He suggested it likely it would be set up in such a way that individuals would enter the trailer, deposit materials and exit out the second door. There would be no charge associated with materials dropped off or retrieved. Discussions with employees have brought to the forefront time is already being spent (2-3 days/week) cleaning up the area.

Chairman Rothhaus remarked, without an individual responsible for manning the facility, he has concern with items being dropped off, which would typically have an associated disposal fee, e.g., computers, etc. Councilor Dwyer stated there to be an honor system in place to which he believes it the exception to the rule for an individual to disregard.

Councilor Boyd noted staff is already located in the recycling facility, and creating a third facility would require an individual to be dedicated to that area to monitor what is coming in and going out. Councilor Dwyer stated that is not the belief that has been expressed by staff. Councilor Boyd stated his agreement the judgment of staff is trusted; he simply wished to state his observation and concern with what would be left at the facility as well as traffic flow, which is something he would like to see addressed.

Chairman Rothhaus stated a concern with liability and questioned how that would be addressed, e.g., camera, etc. He stated his first inclination had been to put an end to the

activity if the proposal were not successful. Councilor Dwyer suggested a 90-day trial period. Councilor Mahon stated it to be a transfer station facility intended for the removal of trash not the accumulation of it. He added being prosed is institutionalizing something that began informally. Although staff has indicated willingness, management of this activity would require time out of their day and away from other duties. Councilor Dwyer stated such an endeavor would serve the purpose of eliminating trash from the landfill and recycling. Councilor Mahon commented most of the time the items end up in the landfill regardless.

Councilor Dwyer spoke of the investment already made, e.g., trailer relocated and electricity brought in, and stated he would not want to see the idea shut down without first attempting to make it work. Councilor Boyd noted, regardless of whether the shop is instituted, there is use for the trailer in that location. Director Micali reminded the Council, before such an endeavor could be put in place, it would be necessary to construct the deck. He stated the need for direction and noted, if in place longer than 90 days, it would be necessary to rip out the decks that have been put in to do it properly. Vice Chairman Yakuboff commented on the direction of the discussion; construction of decking, handicapped ramp, cameras, etc., and suggested the idea of a shop be put to rest and the trailer provided to the Transfer Station for use.

Councilor Dwyer reiterated his desire to keep it as a service for the Town. He would like to see the activity moved over to the trailer, and believes it would be a seamless transition. Vice Chairman Yakuboff spoke of the numerous organizations that run flea market type shops on weekends and the number of locations where items can be dropped off.

Councilor Harrington questioned whether the intent is that this particular activity be discontinued altogether. Several members of the Council stated their agreement the intent would be that the activity cease. Councilor Koenig stated his belief there is a difference between the quality of material that is about to be thrown in the Transfer Station and salvaged and items which would be brought to a flea market or consignment shop. Although the items are ones which individuals are prepared to part with, there is the opportunity for the items to be useful to others. He noted the activity was stopped at the Transfer Station previously only to pop up in the corner of the building and gain new life. The items are those which would be preferable to be taken out of the waste stream if possible. If even 10% stays out of the waste stream it is an improvement. He stated a hesitancy to incur costs associated with installation of ramps, etc.; however, believes it a good idea to try it to see what kind of response is received.

MOTION made by Councilor Koenig and seconded by Councilor Dwyer to install the operation and allow the Public Works staff to monitor and manage it for a period up to one hundred twenty (120) days from today at which point the Council will determine whether to continue the operation or shut it down completely.

ON THE QUESTION

When asked about the 120-day trial period and the construction of ramps, Director Micali stated they would be necessary regardless of the nature of a trial period. Chairman Rothhaus reiterated his concern with liability, and requested Town counsel be requested to provide an opinion in advance. Director Micali stated he would seek an opinion from both the Town's counsel and insurance provider. Councilor Koenig stated he was not opposed to seeking an opinion;

however, pointed out the operation is currently in effect. Councilor Harrington stated she would like it made known, should concerns arise, the Council would be receptive to addressing them.

AMENDED MOTION by Councilor Koenig and seconded by Councilor Dwyer to install the operation and allow the Public Works staff to monitor and manage it for a period up to one hundred twenty (120) days from today at which point the Council will determine whether to continue the operation or shut it down completely. Should problems arise the operation could be shut down earlier. MOTION CARRIED 5/2/0 Councilors Mahon and Vice Chair Yakuboff voted in the negative

2. Appointment Policy for Boards, Committees and Commissions [Tabled at the September 12, 2013 Town Council Meeting]

Submitted by Town Councilor William W. Boyd III

The Town Council to consider the recommended changes to the Town of Merrimack's Appointment Policy for Boards, Committees and Commissions.

Councilor Boyd noted the draft policy provided in advance of the meeting includes changes recommended at the September 12th meeting. He informed the Council he and Councilor Mahon met over the past weekend to discuss an annotated copy, which has resulted in the need for an additional re-write. Due to work commitments he was unable to complete the re-write in advance of the meeting. He requested the Council table the matter until the October 10th meeting. It is his intent to complete the edits, provide a revised copy to Kristin Wardner, Town Manager's Office, for peer review, and a final review with Councilor Mahon to ensure his satisfaction the edits reflect their conversation, and that it be presented in a final version for consideration on the 10th. Councilor Boyd thanked Kristin Wardner for assisting him in reaching this point in the process.

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Yakuboff to table until the Council's meeting of October 10, 2013. MOTION CARRIED 6/1/0 Councilor Koenig voted in the negative

Councilor Koenig stated he would have preferred an opportunity to provide comment on what was presented, which he believes to be a great improvement to the initial draft.

New Business

1. Parks and Recreation Committee – Request for RFP for Clearing and Logging at Wasserman Park in Anticipation of Dog Park Construction

Submitted by Town Manager Eileen Cabanel

The Town Council to consider a request by the Parks and Recreation Committee to move forward with developing a request for proposal (RFP) for logging and forest maintenance at Wasserman Park for the purpose of constructing a dog park.

Chris Christensen, Chairman, Parks & Recreation Committee, noted an independent organization/group of citizens has been researching and developing plans to construct a dog park. Originally the plans were for a location at Watson Park where little site work needed for such a project. The plan was moved to Wasserman Park, which has some advantages, but requires a significant amount of site work, e.g., open field vs. forested or unmanaged wooded area.

The desire, at this time, is for a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be put out for logging at the site and adjacent areas at Wasserman Park with the goal of the work being completed at no cost to the Town. The expectation is the logger would take the product and sell it to cover expenses including the cost of the Forester needed to oversee the project. Mr. Christensen noted, during its September 18th meeting, the Parks & Recreation Committee voted unanimously to support the conceptual plan provided with the Council's packets, and to encourage the Council to vote in favor of going forward with an RFP. He added, an RFP is just that a request for proposal. Should proposals be received that do not meet expectations, there would be no obligation on the part of the Council to award a contract.

One of the criteria of the Forester is approval by the Town making the project official rather than volunteer work. It was noted the Forester has done a good deal of volunteer work on projects in town; however, at this time, needs to know there is something further down the road that will result in some level of compensation to him.

Mr. Christensen spoke of revisions to cost estimates for the park and stated the plan provided is for a 200' x 215' park, approximately 43,000 sq. ft., or just shy of an acre. When a project encompasses an acre of development or disturbed area a permitting process comes into play as well as the stormwater runoff prevention program requirements for engineering oversight. He remarked it is important to plan for such costs given the possibility of future expansion.

He reiterated the desire, at this time, is to get the forestry work done, which will enable the committee to move forward with a stronger fundraising effort to work towards completion of the rest of the park. He stated one of the problems he would have as a potential donor is a commitment for the location of the site and an understanding of progress being made. He suggested the completion of this work would serve as a large incentive to potential donors.

Chairman Rothhaus remarked, because of runoff requirements, etc. associated with the size of the clearing, the price tag provided is in the area of \$60,000. He questioned whether it is believed fundraising efforts could result in offsetting a large portion of that cost. Mr. Christensen responded he believes so although it would require some participation by the Town. He is of the belief total cost would be closer to \$75,000 due to the expansion of the footprint and an estimate of \$5,000 in the stormwater program; part of which is precautionary.

They are working with a national building supply company, which has a local presence, and are hopeful they will be doing a major grant, although it cannot be said they are committed to that at this time. The largest part, roughly \$30,000, is in site development, which was not anticipated when the park was intended to be constructed at Watson Park. He reiterated the desire to conduct the logging project at no cost. It had been included in the budget at a cost in the \$10,000 range.

Councilor Mahon stated the issue to be a matter for the Town Manager and Finance Director to deal with. The Charter puts all town properties under the control of the Town Manager as well as the budget. The authorization of the RFP is an authorization the Town Manager would typically issue. He stated the Council could discuss this with the Town Manager; however, from his perspective, the way the process is set up in the Charter, it is the responsibility of the Town Manager. Should she have an issue/problem or if there were a conflict involved that is when she would discuss it with the Council.

Director Micali stated he and the Town Manager have discussed the issue, understand the Charter language and the ability to go out for an RFP; however, wished to understand whether this is an activity the Council would support. He remarked the park is basically broken into three parcels; conservation parcel, Wasserman Park parcel of which the Council are the stewards, and the approx. acre for the dog park. In discussions with the Forester, it has become known the only means for the project to be cost neutral would be if the forestry project on the Town owned portion of Wasserman Park were also undertaken. Director Micali added the Conservation Commission is 6-9 months away from having their selective cut done.

Chairman Rothhaus questioned the delay on the conservation parcel, and was informed the Commission is addressing other priorities such as the trails at Grater Woods. Councilor Dwyer commented it could be two years before the Commission undertakes the project. Councilor Dwyer added he is in favor of reinvesting in Wasserman Park. Unfortunately this 1 acre of land is not attractive; very few good trees in the area.

Chairman Rothhaus stated agreement it is a terrible piece of land relative to harvesting lumber. He stated his support of the property being used for the dog park. He also stated a desire to understand how costs would be covered when the project goes forward. Councilor Dwyer remarked the item will be on the agenda when budget discussions begin.

When asked, Director Micali stated the hope was to understand the Council's position on expanding the forestry project to include Town owned Wasserman Park land. High-end loggers would not bid on a job for a single acre of land because they will not move their million dollar pieces of machinery for junk trees. If the forestry project at Wasserman can be included the loggers would gain enough revenue from the timber to allow the two projects to be completed either at no cost or a revenue gain for the Town. If only the 1 acre is cut there will be a cost involved.

Councilor Mahon questioned the areas within Wasserman Park that would be looked at for the cutting project. Mr. Christensen stated the area would be south of the dog park area, down towards the football field and paralleling Naticook Road. He commented the Forester refers to the selective cutting of some of that area as forest maintenance to improve the health of the area. There are about 47 acres of park land, and the area that would likely represent a break-even point in cost would be 3-4 acres. The Forester may suggest additional maintenance areas. He stated the need for the Forester to be involved in the development of the RFP. Director Micali noted the Forester would be compensated through the sale of some of the timber (portion of revenue). He added, Mr. Cyr will go forward with developing the forestry plan; however, wants some assurances that the Town will move forward with the project.

Director Micali stated his impression the Council would like him and the Town Manager to move forward with an RFP process to include the Town land; however, prior to awarding a contract, the Council would like to be made aware of the amount of acreage involved.

Councilor Mahon questioned whether there is a purpose identified within the budget for the expenditure of funds. Director Micali stated there to be a consulting line within the General Government line items; however, he would like to conduct further research and report back to the Council.

2. Workers Compensation/Property Liability Cap

Submitted by Town Manager Eileen Cabanel and Finance Director Paul Micali

The Town Council to consider signing a Guaranty Maximum Agreement for Property Liability and Workers Compensation for the next 3 years with Primex.

Councilor Mahon stated he would be recusing himself from the discussion noting he is a retired employee of Primex.

Director Micali spoke of discussions that took place two years ago regarding a Contribution Assurance Program (CAP). Primex offers a CAP to members who qualify, providing them predictability by limiting the annual contribution increase during a defined period of years (CAP Period). At that time, Primex was capping at 7% for Property & Liability and 9% for Workers Comp. Although the opportunity existed for a five-year agreement, it was believed in the best interest of the Town to enter into a three-year agreement. Since that time there has been some volatility in the marketplace between the two vendors that provide the coverage. If deciding to remain with Primex or the New Hampshire Municipal Association certain benefits are derived due to legislation within State RSAs, which provides additional protection for liability. If with a private company those protections are removed.

With regard to Workers Comp. insurance, Primex is the only viable option. Over the past several years they have provided a not to exceed increase in the 9% range. He added in one of the last several years the cost was decreased and the following year the increase reached .6%. Costs are based on the Town's activity, e.g., the wastewater treatment plant has been doing very well and other areas such as fire, police, and highway have seen a reduction in the number of claims. He does not foresee the Town nearing the not to exceed 9% in the next three years. The Property & Liability insurance has been capped at 7% and has seen increases of 7%. However, during that timeframe there have been 5-6 major FEMA storms where they have paid the bulk of what the Town has been insured and the Federal Government has picked up the \$1,000 deductible.

Director Micali stated his recommendation the Town remain with Primex for the next three years and sign off on the not-to-exceed percentages provided.

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Harrington that the Town Council sign a Guaranty Maximum Agreement for Property Liability and Workers Compensation for the next 3 years with Primex and to direct and authorize the Town Manager and/or her proxy to sign and effectuate any documents to make the transaction complete.

ON THE QUESTION

Councilor Boyd thanked Director Micali for his work. He extended his gratitude to the employees of the Wastewater Treatment Plant for making safety the number one priority and to all Town employees for being safety conscience and keeping the premiums low.

MOTION CARRIED 6/0/0

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Harrington that, upon staff's acknowledgment and endorsement of the Primex contract, the Chairman and/or his proxy be duly authorized to represent the Town of Merrimack as the authorized representative to sign the following Resolutions:

RESOLVED: To hereby accept the offer of the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex³) to enter into its Workers' Compensation Contribution Assurance Program (CAP) as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, and to be contractually bound to all of the terms and conditions of Primex³ risk management pool membership during the term of the Workers' Compensation

Contribution Assurance Program (CAP). The coverage provided by Primex³ in each year of membership shall be as then set forth in the Coverage Documents of Primex³.

RESOLVED: To hereby accept the offer of the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange (Primex³) to enter into its Property & Liability Contribution Assurance Program (CAP) as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, and to be contractually bound to all of the terms and conditions of Primex³ risk management pool membership during the term of the Property & Liability Contribution Assurance Program (CAP). The coverage provided by Primex³ in each year of membership shall be as then set forth in the Coverage Documents of Primex³.

MOTION CARRIED 6/0/0

The Council recessed at 8:22 p.m.

The Council reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

3. Consideration of Changes to Chapter 193 - Welfare Guidelines [First Reading]

Submitted by Welfare Administrator Patricia Murphy and Town Councilor Tom Mahon

The Town Council will consider the acceptance of recommended changes to Chapter 193 – Welfare Guidelines of the Merrimack Town Code, pursuant to Charter Article V.

Ms. Patricia Murphy, Welfare Administrator, provided the Council with a PowerPoint presentation (copy attached). She went over each of the slides and explained proposed changes within the Guidelines. The following responses were provided to specific questions posed.

The meaning of “Fair Hearing” was stated to be a process by which an individual can request an informal hearing presided over by a Fair Hearing Officer, neutral person, when there is an objection to a decision made by a welfare official.

Ms. Murphy explained the change relative to shelter language for rent and mortgage (including escrows) would allow for mortgage payments inclusive of escrows such as tax and insurance providing the cost is either at or below the New Hampshire Fair Market for rent. She explained further some mortgage companies will not accept payment that does not include escrow amounts.

New language is included relative to a gasoline allowance for one vehicle/week in a household. Additional definition is provided identifying when a clothing allowance would be needed and what resources would be available for that. Ms. Murphy noted when a law is instituted adherence is required regardless of whether the language is included within the guidelines.

Councilor Koenig noted when disbursements are made to cover the expense of mortgages, rent, gasoline, etc. the total amount is summed up and attempts made to regain the funds when appropriate, e.g., place a lien against real property or similar asset(s). Ms. Murphy remarked there is an eligibility process, and there are certain payments of basic necessities. There is a difference between what is paid and what is allowed; the formula used to determine eligibility is based upon allowable expenses less any income and resources the individual has available to him/her. The Guidelines include an entire chapter on recovery, e.g., lien on real property, reimbursement requirement when an individual comes into a level of income that exceeds the basic allowances, etc. When asked about the budget, Ms. Murphy stated the current budget to be approximately \$35,000 under direct welfare assistance; most of which is housing.

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Mahon to move to a second reading on October 10, 2013. MOTION CARRIED 7/0/0

4. Approval of Town Manager Evaluation

Submitted by Town Council Chair Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair David G. Yakuboff, Sr.

MOTION made by Councilor Yakuboff and seconded by Councilor Harrington to ratify the actions taken by the Town Council regarding the Town Manager's personnel evaluation.

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Yakuboff stated the Town Manager has done a yeoman's job. He spoke of his appreciation for the effort she puts forth and spoke specifically of her endeavors to identify and acquire cost savings for the Town.

Councilor Boyd stated the Town of Merrimack is #1 in New Hampshire, #11 in New England, and 23rd nationwide. That speaks for itself. He spoke of the tremendous efforts Town Manager Cabanel puts forth on behalf of the community, and how grateful he is to have her as the Town Manager.

MOTION CARRIED 6/0/1 Councilor Mahon Abstained

Councilor Mahon noted his abstention to be that of a procedural issue.

Minutes

MOTION made by Councilor Boyd and seconded by Councilor Koenig to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2013 Town Council Meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED 6/0/1 Councilor Mahon Abstained

Comments from the Press - None

Comments from the Public - None

Comments from the Council

Councilor Boyd congratulated those responsible for organizing the Strike Back Against Cancer 5K race, which took place the prior Saturday honoring the memory of Erica Pombrio. Although a slightly less number of participants from the prior year, the amount of contributions was increased. Following the race, individuals took advantage of Watson Park to enjoy a barbecue and the outdoors. He remarked this is another example of what makes Merrimack the community it is.

Councilor Boyd stated the Merrimack Firefighters will conduct their Annual 5K at 9:30 a.m. on October 5, 2013. The race will begin at the Merrimack High School. Proceeds will benefit some of the philanthropic activities their organization does for a variety of different groups. For additional information visit their website at IAFF-2904.org. He thanked the firefighters for again contributing to providing activities for community members to participate in.

Councilor Boyd commended Dave McCray, David Shaw and all involved in the work that has been done to set up for the Fall Festival and Merrimack Rocks, and stated his excitement with the opportunity to participate in the event.

Councilor Yakuboff congratulated Becky Thompson from the Town Manager's Office on the birth of her Daughter on September 13th.

Councilor Dwyer reminded members of the public of the Business Expo taking place on Saturday, September 28th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Director Micali stated he received information informing him the deck for the trailer located at the Transfer Station is being constructed by the Public Works Department. With regard to the question posed of a purpose identified within the budget, which could be used to address the forestry project at Wasserman Park, a review of the budget identified a line item entitled Highway/Grounds Maintenance for Parks, which he believes would be appropriate.

Chairman Rothhaus thanked all involved in the Business Expo. Councilor Yakuboff informed the viewing audience the All Basics Stove Shop will be giving away a pellet stove (inclusive of installation/labor (zero cost)) to a selected Veteran. Short letters and resumes will be accepted beginning October 1st. All submissions will be kept confidential.

Councilor Dwyer spoke of his pleasure with the level of sponsorship for the Expo. He specifically mentioned the efforts of Mr. McCray, the Monahan family and the dozens of others who provided support.

MOTION made by Councilor Yakuboff and seconded by Councilor Dwyer to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED 6/0/1 Councilor Boyd voted in the negative

The September 26, 2013 meeting of the Town Council was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan