

Draft Minutes

Exeter Board of Selectmen

September 26, 2016

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Dan Chartrand called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices building. Other members present were Vice Chair Julie Gilman, Selectman Don Clement, Selectwoman Nancy Belanger and Selectwoman Anne Surman. Town Manager Russell Dean was absent.

2. Board Interviews – Budget Recommendations Committee

An interview was conducted at 6:50pm with Niko Papakonstantis in the Wheelwright Room.

3. Public Comment

Kathy Corson, Exeter resident, talked about some concerns with the proposed use of the Town Hall which came up at the last BOS meeting. She thinks the public should be more involved and the final decision should be made by the BOS. She spoke about how last Thursday's special meeting regarding this proposal was not posted. She said the posted meeting for the EDSP should have been referenced as Economic Development Strategic Plan and said there no agenda. She thinks it would be good to get an update on the TIF. She said new growth on the Epping Road will require more infrastructure and the costs concern her. She asked why that wasn't part of the TIF in the first place. She said she would like the Board to take action on the Town Hall issue and require Darren Winham to give an update on the EDSP.

Lucia Savage, Allen Street resident, spoke about the speed limit on her street. She said the average speed is 17.9 mph, but there are many cars which go much faster. She said her road is posted at 30 mph, but she would like to get it lowered to 25 mph and wondered how to go about that. She would also like a no outlet sign put there.

Mike Dawley, Exeter resident, said he is concerned about the TIF. He said there is a lot of activity going on and now there is a vision session scheduled for Mr. King's property. He asked how aggressively the TIF district is being worked on. He wants to get going on it. Next, he said last year there was \$10,000 approved to get a report from MRI. He asked if the BOS has made a consensus on input from that report. Chair Chartrand said the Board looked at that report and it led to the hire of the new Town Planner, who is implementing some recommendations from the report.

Darius Thompson, Exeter resident, said he hopes people will pay attention to the new paving job and crosswalks in town. He suggested a blinking light at one particular crosswalk where he said he's almost been hit. Next, he suggested a sidewalk extension on Drinkwater Road as cars go fast and there are bus stops. Next, he read a letter from a neighbor, Dan Nolte regarding the Town Hall proposal. In his letter, Mr. Nolte questioned letting a private company lease the Town Hall. He thinks it should go to the voters. He gave reasons for his feelings.

Motion: A Motion was made by Selectman Clement and seconded by Selectwoman Surman that the BOS direct the Economic Development Director, Darren Winham, to immediately cease any and all efforts and activities to rent or lease the Town Hall. Vice Chair Gilman said they have not had an opportunity to fully discuss this matter as a Board. Selectwoman Belanger said this is not ready to come before the Board yet but thinks it has been good to bring about this discussion. Selectwoman Surman said there is a lack of transparency with this issue. She thinks it would be good to stop and regroup. Vice Chair Gilman said she understands the disagreement about how this all came out. She said although it was not well done, it is the Economic Development Director's job to seek new opportunities. She is against the idea of a long term lease, but said if things had been done differently and it came to the BOS it would have caused the same uproar. Selectman Clement said Mr. Winham was never directed to seek a use for the Town Hall. He said that is why it needs to stop because he was never given the go ahead. Chair Chartrand said he was skeptical about the idea of putting any entity being in charge of the Town Hall. He thinks the Town Hall should be fixed up by the citizens. Also, he thinks this motion will end a valuable discussion. There has been an increase in applications for using the Town Hall since this discussion came up. He said he was disappointed in the lack of trust by the town and Mr. Winham has served the town by pursuing new ideas. He called the vote. Motion carried – 4-1 vote. Chair Chartrand voted nay.

4. Minutes and Proclamations

a. Proclamations/Recognitions.

There were no proclamations or recognitions.

b. Minutes: Regular Meeting: September 12, 2016

Selectwoman Surman had an amendment to page 4, last paragraph, referring Mr. Deluca as the President of the Chamber and not a member. She had an amendment to page 5, changing a he to a she. She had an amendment to page 6, last paragraph changing Jake to Jay.

Selectman Clement had an amendment to page 3, second paragraph, writing out the word inches.

Motion: A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Vice Chair Gilman to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2016 BOS meeting, as amended. Motion carried –all in favor.

5. Appointments – Budget Recommendations Committee

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Gilman and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to appoint Christine Soutter, Len Benjamin, and Niko Papakonstantis to the Budget Recommendations Committee. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Gilman and seconded by Selectman Belanger to appoint Peter Lennon to the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee for a term to expire April 30, 2019. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectman Clement and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to appoint David Ohearn as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission with a term TBD. Motion carried – all in favor.

6. Discussion/Action Items

a. New Business

i) Establish Memorial Day Parade Committee

Vice Chair Gilman said a group of people from last year are interested in increasing the vitality of the parade. They would like a formal committee established, as there is funding every year for it.

Selectwoman Surman thought this was a great idea. She supported anything needed to get this together.

Selectman Clement said the parade's purpose is to honor the veterans. He wondered if someone from a veteran organization should be involved. Vice Chair Gilman said that is a great idea, but that there are many organizations.

Vice Chair Gilman read the charge of the Memorial Day Parade Committee.

Motion: A Motion was made by Vice Chair Gilman and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to adopt the charge of the Exeter Memorial Day Parade Committee, as presented. Motion carried – all in favor.

b. Old Business

i) Water Restrictions Ordinance: Second Reading

Motion: A Motion was made by Vice Chair Gilman and seconded by Selectman Clement to open the public hearing on the amendment to the Water Restriction Regulations in the Town Ordinance. Motion carried – all in favor.

Darius Thompson asked when the restrictions in town will end. He also wondered how the public will be notified when they do end. Chair Chartrand said the Board voted for them to begin and will vote for them to end.

Jennifer Perry, Public Works Director, said they will go through the Board to end it. She said DPW and DES information was provided to the Board. The drought conditions have taken months to develop and will take months to end. She said we need significant rainfall.

Mr. Thompson asked what is done with the potential snow fall that is coming. He wondered if it could help replenish the water table. Ms. Perry said this is a concept that's out there. She is looking into multiple options. She said conserving water will make the biggest difference.

Vice Chair Gilman said there are around 100 water conservation kits at the DPW facility. She said they are now free on a first come first serve basis.

Selectwoman Surman asked if permits to kindle fire have been restricted. Chair Chartrand said the Fire Department has been extremely restricted. Selectwoman Belanger said she was on a conference call last week and the Town Manager said the permits are being stopped.

Vice Chair Gilman read the water restriction levels that will be used. She said the town is currently in a level four.

Motion: A Motion was made by Vice Chair Gilman and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to close the public hearing on the water service regulations. Motion carried – all in favor.

ii) Public Hearing: Map 49, Lot 12 Purchase

Motion: A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to open the public hearing on the purchase of property on map 49, lot 12. Motion carried – all in favor.

Ms. Perry asked if there were any questions regarding this.

Selectwoman Surman said where the railroad went through they used DDT in that area. She went back to her concern of contamination. Also, she said the parking lot was torn up this summer because of contamination. She asked if they should do some level of testing for

contamination. Ms. Perry said there may have been DDT sprayed there but it was banned in 1970. She said there is a well nearby which was tested with no results of any contamination.

Motion: A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to close the second public hearing on the purchase of map 49, lot 12. Motion carried – all in favor.

7. Regular Business

a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements & Exemptions

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve a Jeopardy Tax refund for map 32, lot 12, unit 9 in the amount of \$143.03. Motion carried – all in favor.

b. Permits & Approvals

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to approve an Application for Use of Town Facility, specifically the Town Hall, by Katherine and Morgan Roberts for music and theater shows from 11/6/16-11/11/16. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Vice Chair Gilman to approve an Application for Use of Town Facility, specifically the Town Hall, by Mona Pinette for a Tai Chi Society Tai Chi workshop on 12/10/16 from 8:30am-4:30pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Vice Chair Gilman to approve an Application for Use of Town Facility, specifically the town hall, by John Moynihan for the Prescott Park Arts Festival to have A Christmas Carol on December 9, 10, 11, 17, and 18, 2016, December 5-8, 2016, and December 19-20, 2016. Motion carried – 3-0-2 vote. Selectman Clement and Selectwoman Surman abstained.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to approve an Application for Use of Town Facility, specifically the Town Hall, by Katherine and Morgan Roberts for a Triple Threat Theater Performance on 12/20/16. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to approve an Application for Use of Town Facility, specifically the town hall, by Todd Deluca for a movie premier on 2/11/17 from 5pm-11pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

c. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean was absent.

d. Selectmen's Committee Reports

Selectman Clement reported a River Study meeting two weeks ago where they talked about the river ceremony and what is happening with CAPE. Planning Board met, and approved a 30,000 addition to a building. They also approved a conditional use permit to Riverwoods and had a second hearing on CIP. Attended a Conservation Commission meeting where they talked about Seacoast Ventures, Riverwoods, and the YMCA. The Rockingham Planning Commission met and talked about accessory dwelling units.

Selectwoman Surman had nothing to report, but said the Swasey Parkway Trustees got together.

Vice Chair Gilman reported HDC was canceled. They are waiting to hear from LCHIP still.

Selectwoman Belanger reported a joint Water/Sewer and BOS meeting. She said they discussed several issues.

Chair Chartrand reported EEDC will meet tomorrow at 6:30pm.

e. Correspondence

The following correspondence were included in the packet:

- letter from Ellen Chandler
- letter from Karen Derocher
- letter from Kathy Thompson
- letter from Morgan Roberts
- letter from Kathy Corson
- letter from Rockingham County Engineering and Maintenance Services
- letter from James R. St. Jean Auctioneers
- letter from Nancy Mayville
- letter from Andrew Stollar
- letter to David Safford from DES

- letter from Rockingham Planning Commission

8. Review Board Calendar

The BOS next meeting is 10/10/16.

9. Non-Public Session

None.

10. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Vice Chair Gilman to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Piper, Recording Secretary