

Exeter Board of Selectman
February 5, 2018
Draft Minutes

6:50 pm Called to Order by Chair, Don Clement for Board Interviews – Memorial Day Parade Committee, two candidates, Sandy Winter and Jane Kiernan.

7:00 pm Called Regular Session to Order by Chair, Don Clement

Board Present: Dan Chartrand, Anne Surman, Don Clement, Kathy Corson, Julie Gilman, also Town Manager Russ Dean

Others Present: Beth Dupell, Bob Hall, Patricia Quinn, Michael Licata, Chico Dafonte, and Huck Montgomery

Public Comment: Beth Dupell spoke on Small Business Revolution gathering on February 13th, 2018 on Facebook Live they will announce the top five towns at 7a.m. There will be a gathering in Town Hall. The media is coming. She is getting out the word to vote for Downtown Exeter. Voting starts immediately. Anyone can vote, and all votes count. The stipulation is one vote per email per day for one week. Vote at <http://smallbusinessrevolution.org>. She also stressed the benefits to the downtown area and the visibility for Exeter's businesses.

Mr. Clement commented on the enthusiasm that the Small Business Revolution has created in town and the event in town 10 day ago. He acknowledged the good work of Ms. Dupell and Craig and those working on the committee.

Approval of Minutes – TBD

Minutes & Proclamations

Appointments

Ms. Surman motioned to appoint Kelly Nagle, term to expire April 30, 2019, to the Exeter Arts Committee.

Mr. Chartrand seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Surman motioned to appoint Susan Drinker to the Memorial Day Parade Committee no term.

Mr. Chartrand seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items

Mr. Bob Hall, chair of the Exeter Station Committee Introduced Ms. Patricia Quinn, Executive Director of NNEPRA who presented an update on the Downeaster and Amtrak and the positive impact to the community and downtown businesses. She provided an overview of who they are and what they do. They are a small government agency formed by the Maine State Legislature for the purpose of establishing and managing passenger rail service in Maine. They are a small committee formed of seven individuals. Their focus is forming Partnerships, Performance,

Promotion, Projects, and Passengers. She presented on Operation statistics, History, discussed their operating partner, Amtrak, the maintenance and facilities, their host railroads that they travel over. She also shared their dining service with NexDine and the Station Communities. She reported on the growth in ridership, revenue and rider demographics and statistics of the travelers and where they go. She moved into the Finances of Operating Revenues. Over the course of 16 years of service they served 6.85 million riders and earned 102 million in ticket revenue. They traveled over 550 million passenger miles. Their operating revenues and operating expenses in fiscal year 2017 were 10.15 million and 21.85 million, respectively. Funding the gap between the revenue and expenses are funded by 46% from the fairbox, 43% Federal Transit Administration and 11% local and state funds. She also discussed Customer Experience: On Time Performance and Customer Satisfaction which is one of the highest in the country. Ms. Quinn also highlighted the economic growth that the community stations support in their respective towns. New projects were the Brunswick Layover Facility and Portland Layover Facility which were completed. Future projects in Maine: the PIDS and Royal Siding. New Hampshire Improvements are the Rockingham Siding and Tie Replacement. Amtrak is investing in their interiors and refreshing the look with new lights. Host special events as well as service expansion.

Comments

Ms. Gilman stated that while she works with the State Legislature that she realizes New Hampshire does not have a huge voice in the whole operation mostly because they do not provide a whole lot of funding. She asked, "What would you like me to do about that?"

Ms. Quinn responded that, that it would be great. She said that they have made formal requests to NH DOT for some level of operating support to help keep service going as fuel and operating cost go up. And that they were really please this past year when they announced the CMAC funding and they were considered and actually granted funding. She stated that the Maine Legislature that she reports to once a year really didn't like it very much, but they really try to focus on ridership of the passengers. She also responded that the state on the whole does not contribute to the funding; all three of the station communities are extremely supportive and vocal. Investment in something other than roads and vehicles that run on roads just does not seem to be where New Hampshire is at this time.

Ms. Gilman added that recently she was taking several trips down to Boston and back and wondered if the fare charges had changed at different times of the day. She asked if this is this something that the Downeaster are trying out.

Ms. Quinn responded that Amtrak has gotten much more diverse in the way that it sells tickets. That there is a fair table that's kind of like the worst case scenario, but it changes from there. It seems to be working out, she reported, because the revenue growth is outpacing our ridership growth. They have a few peak trains. She said that they try really hard to maximize growth. When trains are going to be full it's going to be a premium. They are trying to be smarter and more strategic. She also said that they are trying to cover more consistently 50% of their revenue through the fare box, trying to be a little more aggressive through fairs, and changing fair structures.

Ms. Corson commented that in her other life that she is a realtor and recently sold a house to a young couple, the husband specifically wanted to live near the train, so that they could walk to the train. She also went on to say that when she is down around that area, people are not as put off by that area because the Downeaster is so popular as people would have been before

because they see that as a real positive thing. She also added that after work in the area of the train station is completed that the station will look a lot nicer soon.

Ms. Quinn commented on way finding and the walk to downtown. She also relayed a story about the Amtrak Vice President of Marketing who came up from South Station on the train with family and friends. When they came out of the station and asked for directions to their bed and breakfast, it was Mr. Hall who said, "Climb in, I will take you there." Where else does this happen. This is just part of what makes this service distinctive, the community caring.

Ms. Surman thanked Ms. Quinn for the presentation, and added that when the town got the train, it was a huge impact. She asked if New Hampshire gets light rail how that will impact the service.

Ms. Quinn responded that they would probably coexist. She doesn't believe that they would share a lot but that they would probably share slots at North Station. She also went on to say, if you look at the numbers, the people and the travel patterns really seem to support it. Ridership is growing...People aren't doing this because of nostalgia, they're doing it because they don't want to drive because driving is expensive.

Mr. Brown thanked Ms. Quinn for the presentation. He went on to say that with the Lincoln Street reconstruction process that is going on. He believes that a big reason why residents have supported it so overwhelmingly has been because of the activity that the station has brought to the area. It has not only created awareness it also created awareness that we need to provide those amenities. He also commented that the designers of the project are bearing down on the way finding. Mr. Brown also related a personal story about an author he hosted and gave a ride back to the train station who commented on the ease of using the Downeaster service.

Mr. Clement thanked Ms. Quinn for the presentation and thanked Mr. Hall and Don Briselden for their service.

Presentation: Liberty Utilities Natural Gas Expansion Project

Michael Licata, Director of Government and Community Relations presented The Granite Bridge Project Overview discussing Liberty Utilities and their position in the state as a company. The project which is a 340 million dollar project designed to serve New Hampshire. It will be a 27 mile pipeline between Stratham and Manchester residing within the NHDOT right-of-way on the south side of route 101. He discussed the needed infrastructure investment of the project. He also went into detail of the path of the pipeline utilizing the Concord lateral and Exeter's piece of the pipeline path. Mr. Licata described the design and functionality of the storage facility that would be located on a 140 acre site in Epping off of route 101 and that it would be a full containment facility. The total footprint of the facility would be 15 acres. He reported to the board the safety measures and monitoring that would be in place for the facility and pipeline, constructing it as if it is in a high consequence area. He also demonstrated before the board LNG's safe storage history of 70 years and their commitment to safety. He provided a brief analysis of the benefits to Exeter with minimum impact to private and town property and provided a brief discussion on Tax Revenues. Finally, he discussed the Regulatory Review Process that they will take with this project and a time line of events to bring this project to fruition.

Comments

Mr. Chartrand responded that Mr. Licata's presentation was one of the more thorough presentations that they have had and that he didn't have further questions.

Ms. Surman asked if there are there any documented incidences with the LNG tank.

Mr. Licata responded that LNG has an excellent safety track record. The State Association for Fire Marshals has a document, *LNG for First Responders*. There were only three documented issues recorded. The most significant one, he stated, one would have to go back to 1940s with the second tank constructed. It was constructed during the war out of a non stainless steel when materials were scarce and failed immediately. The standards greatly improved since then. He also shared that they have hosted an open house for first responders at their training center in Concord. Our goal is to provide a lot of information and to keep an ongoing relationship with the town and first responders.

Ms. Corson asked if they would be coming before the Planning Board. She also asked about the surrounding communities near route 125, would they be able to take advantage of service.

Mr. Licata said he would be coming before the Planning Board. He also said that they would look forward to working with Unitil.

Ms. Gilman thanked Mr. Licata for a thorough presentation, and went on to say that it is good to have this out in front of the board so far ahead. She also responded in citing the news and the Site Evaluation Committee have been seemingly backlogged in their communication. She commended that this is a great beginning for Liberty to be able to prep the Site Evaluation Committee for their requirement for public meetings, public input. She said further that this was her hot topic as far as the Northern Pass. Citizens didn't believe they had enough input on the project or just didn't know what was going on and that this was something to keep in mind on this project.

Mr. Licata agreed.

Mr. Clement added that he didn't realize that 101 DOT had such a wide right of way on the south side of the highway.

Mr. Licata replied that they took the design drawings from DOT data and overlaid them. They haven't gone out and survey the right of way or our preliminary design route yet. The route is preliminary. He also said that they are absolutely committed and very confident that they will be completely in the right of way. He confirmed that they do need to go out and survey the design route.

Mr. Clement inquired of the Squamscott River crossing that he believes there is already directional drilling for the other gas line. He commented on the need for a lot of coordination. He also advised that they are going to be moving by a new waste water treatment plant, that is always a concern.

Mr. Dean did not have any comment.

Mr. Clement asked what the next steps were.

Mr. Licata said that they will meet with the Planning Board, notifying property abutters, having survey crews go out, and host an open house. He welcomes the town's input where to host that in order to inform the communities.

Mr. Clement said that he was sure that the abutters would appreciate being informed. The more information we can get out there, makes the project go smoother.

Public Hearing for the TIF Plan Amendment.

Motion: Mr. Chartrand moved to open the Public Hearing for the TIF District Plan Amendment for Epping Road Tax Increment Finance District.

Ms. Surman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darren Winham came before the board to request that 1.1 million dollars be added to the TIF for a light and road improvements at the intersection of Route 27 and Continental Drive, about 100 feet on Continental Drive from the intersection west to north and south 200 feet. They wouldn't increase the length of the TIF. He explained that they have about five hundred thousand dollars coming in annually, and expect more coming in. As part of this project he requests that the town as part of this project to discontinue anything above the entryway coming in above the Kevin King property.

There were no comments or questions from the board.

Motion: Mr. Chartrand moved to close the Public Hearing on amending the Epping Road Tax Increment Finance District.

Ms. Surman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clement commented that the voters will have an opportunity to vote on the TIF District Amendment Plan March 13th.

Mr. Dean confirmed that they are articles 5 and 25.

Town Warrant Updates

Mr. Clement commented that Saturday they had their deliberative session on all budgets and warrant articles, the legislative body and the people that were there could walk through them and debate them. If there are any changes/amendments to any articles or items the town has an opportunity to make any changes to the articles that were amended on Saturday.

Mr. Dean: Article 3, The Rec Center Citizens' petition

Mr. Clement: that was cosmetic changes nothing changing money amounts just adding some clarifying language.

Mr. Chartrand offered that article 19 was to clarify the wording of the warrant article specifically taking up pedestrian concerns walkways.

Discussion between board members regarding articles 21 and 22 modifying ballot to reflect 3/5th to reflect sixty percent majority based on review of counsel and DRA.

Mr. Dean offered further discussion, in looking through to the statutes on articles that are amended they make a reference to appropriations and special warrant articles but not citizens' petitions at least those that don't involve money. I couldn't advise you other than to say I recommend not doing any recommendations if you haven't already on a petition article that isn't financial.

Mr. Clement said that they did not make any recommendations on petition articles that did not involve appropriations.

Mr. Chartrand commented that it was not part of the Board's tradition.

Mr. Dean confirmed that two amended articles were non monetary citizen petitions

Mr. Clement suggested if the anyone on the board wants to go back and revote on the recommendations on articles that were amended non citizens petitions articles not having to do with appropriations that were amended, that this was their opportunity. If not then the recommendation that the board brought forth at the deliberative session will appear on the ballot.

Mr. Clement commented that there were 145 deliberative voters at the session.

Regular Business

Tax Water and Sewer Abatements

Motion: Ms. Corson moved to approve veteran credit for map 68 lot 6 unit 838 for \$500.

Ms. Surman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Ms. Corson moved to approve Elderly Exemption for the following properties in the amount of \$152,251:

Map/Lot	Location
104/79/1011	1011 Camelot Dr.
55/13	11 Colcord Pond Dr
104/79/1002	1002 Camelot Dr
95/64/287	47 Hilton Ave
95/64/232	2 Peach St
32/12/28	28 Beech Hill MH Park

Mr. Chartrand seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Motion: Ms. Corson motioned to approve Elderly Exemption for the following properties in the amount of \$236,251:

104/79/6	6 King Arthur Ct
54/4/125	50 Brookside Dr O-5
73/233	9 School St

Mr. Chartrand seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Ms. Corson moved to approve Elderly Exemption for the following properties in the amount of \$183,751.

140/79/137 137 Robinhood Dr

Mr. Chartrand seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Mr. Clement submitted a letter from Deputy Tax Collector to abate 2007 outstanding taxes in the amount of \$1211.57 plus approved interest in 2017.

The board discussed the lien and the interest that accrued.

Motion: Mr. Chartrand: moved to abate outstanding taxes, plus interest accrued on map 95, lot 64, unit 146, amount \$1211.57 plus accrued interest for 2017.

Ms. Corson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clement submitted a Water and Sewer abatement request on 7 Allen St for \$870.45 leak on property. Total usage was 111,000 gallons.

The Board discussed the carried over the term of the leak and over how many billing periods were involved. 691.28 abatement amount for sewer only.

Motion: Mr. Chartrand moved to make a motion to abate the sewer usage portion above the average calculated that at 691.28 that will make new bill total 1079.57 at 7 Allen St.

Ms. Gilman seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

3 aye

1 nay

1 abstention

Permits and Approvals

Mr. Clement: Exeter Area Women's Club for a book sale and bake sale, date June 2, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Chartrand moved to approve the Exeter Area Women's Club book and bake sale, date June 2, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Ms. Surman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clement questioned their request to waive the rental fee.

Mr. Dean replied that it is usually in the main motion on the Town Hall permit approvals..

Mr. Chartrand moved to make a second motion to approve the request for a waiver on the rental fee.

Ms. Surman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clement: Boy Scouts of America, rummage sales June 15 to 16, 2018 at Town Hall.

Motion: Mr. Chartrand moved to approve the rummage sale June 15 to 16, 2018, as is.

Ms. Surman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Mr. Chartrand moved to approve the Small Business Revolution reveal on February 13, 2018 at 7:00 a.m. reveal at Town Hall.

Ms. Surman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Mr. Chartrand moved to approve the Extreme Air of New Hampshire - Jump Rope competition on March 20 and 22, 2018 at Town Hall.

Ms. Gilman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager Report: None. We are continuing to work on the covenants for Vino e Vivo and TIF agreements.

Community Reports

Ms. Gilman: Nothing to report.

Ms. Corson reported on the Planning Board meeting to meet February 8th and the decision on the Exeter Rose Farm Yield Plan. Also mention a development of sixteen units off Linden Street and they will be adopting a new Master Plan.

Ms. Gilman asked how the Master Plan will be disseminated to various land use boards that need to refer to it.

Several members of the board suggested various ways to make available the Master Plan.

Ms. Surman had nothing to report. There is a Swazey Park Trustee Committee meeting coming up on Wednesday.

Mr. Chartrand had nothing to report.

Mr. Clement gave the board an update on EDC meeting. He reminded the board of a Climate Change Open House at Town Hall from 4:30 to 7:30.

Correspondence

Mr. Clement asked Mr. Dean to explain the letter from the State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration dated January 31, 2018. Mr. Dean explained the Review process of their Cyclical Inspections of the Town's assessments.

Mr. Clement submitted a letter thanking the Town of Exeter for their membership with the Exeter Historical Society.

Mr. Clement discussed the Board Calendar and the covenant and agreement they are working on. Mr. Chartrand offered that it should be driven by when the covenant and agreement are ready.

Next meeting: TBD

Mr. Chartrand moved to adjourn meeting at 8:47 p.m. Ms. Surman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kellie Dietz