

Draft Minutes

Board of Selectmen

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

1. Call to Order

Present at the meeting were Dan Chartrand, Anne Surman, Don Clement, Kathy Corson, Julie Gilman, and Russ Dean. The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by Chairman Clement.

2. Board Interviews

The board conducted an interview with Jennifer Martel for an open alternate position on the planning board. They reconvened at 6:55pm.

3. Public Comment

Chairman Clement told the public that the board had been advised not to comment on the planning board meeting from February 8<sup>th</sup>, because of the ongoing Rose Farm development case. They have reviewed the correspondence from the public about chairman Langdon Plummer's actions, and had sent them to the planning board.

Aimee Delaney had previously sent a letter to the board about it, and said that she did not want representatives to act like that while on town business. She had concerns about the large development of Rose Farm, and did not speak at the planning board meeting because she felt that there was a hostile environment. She asked the board of selectmen to carefully consider who they appoint to boards and especially chair positions.

Jennifer Briggs said that she felt threatened at the planning board meeting and that she felt that abusive language was used by Mr. Plumer. She felt it was important that people remain professional even when talking about heated topics. She also pointed out that the board of selectmen have the right to remove somebody from another board, and asked them to take that into consideration.

Maura Fay expressed her view that Mr. Plumer showed bias towards the developer, and that she will now have a hard time trusting his judgment going forwards. She felt that the public was being dismissed and disrespected, and hoped that the planning board's review process will be transparent.

Karen Dangora said that people have a right to speak about a large development project that affects them, and that she felt insulted and not well represented.

Jennifer Brackett Piskovitz said that she was concerned with the disconnect between the town's public image and what was happening behind the scenes, especially directly after the #MyExeter campaign. She said that it was not acceptable to treat members of the community that way.

Mike Dawley, a former chair of the planning board, spoke in defense of Mr. Plumer, pointing out how much time he devoted to the town. He said that while Mr. Plumer's behavior was uncalled for, but he thought that he should not be removed from the board. He also pointed out how extended the Rose Farm case had been.

Darius Thompson spoke about last week's board of selectmen meeting, during which Mark Damsell spoke about the Swasey Parkway construction. He felt that Selectman Chartrand had been disrespectful to Mr. Damsell about the applications they had received. He said that it was important for public board members to remember that they are there to serve the town, not their own interests.

Ms. Brackett Piskovitz said that because the only connection the public has to the planning board is through the board of selectmen, she wanted to understand how they felt about the issue.

Mary Hanson said that she felt as though the town's citizens were being pushed aside again by a board in response to this issue, and wanted the board to respond to the concerns.

Joe O'Donnell said that he felt that Mr. Plumer just needed to apologize in some way so that everybody could move on from this issue.

Mr. Dawley asked about the abatements in the packet, and said that he could not find them in the online version. He pointed out that a number of the elderly abatements were for expensive properties, and wanted the board to be cautious of this. He also asked about the citizen's petition for the recreation department project. It had been moved from the back of the list, and the formatting seemed odd.

Chairman Clement said that the petition was moved to the front because it is a bonding article, and the bonds are done in descending order in terms of cost. The language was reviewed by the legal counsel, and it is proper. It was also amended at deliberative session. Mr. Dean said that the RSA states that the petition articles have to be petitioned by 25 voters, but it does not say someone needs to put their names on it. They did add a clause at the end saying that it is a petitioned article.

Chairman Clement said that, for the exemptions, they go through a stringent process. Every 5 years, the elderly exemptions need to reapply. Property is not included in asset listings, and all assets must be listed excluding housing and income. He also said that the vast majority of the elderly exemptions were for manufactured homes. Selectman Chartrand pointed out that Exeter has a particularly generous elderly exemption policy.

Mr. Thompson asked if the Seadog and Vino e Vivo projects had received abatements over a five year term. Chairman Clement said that the Seadog received 79-E for nine years, and Vino e Vivo received 79-E for seven years. Their assessed value is essentially frozen for this period of time, where the additional value from any improvements is not taxed. The assessed value will then go up at the end of the term.

#### 4. Minutes/Proclamations

There were no proclamations at the meeting.

#### 5. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

#### 6. Appointments

There were no appointments at the meeting.

#### 7. Action Items

- a. Public Hearing: E911 Committee Road Name Changes

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to open the public hearing on the E911 Committee road name changes, Selectwoman Surman seconded and it passed unanimously.

Dave Sharples, the town planner, explained that the division of emergency services and communications started a municipal audit to create a map of town, and looked at street names and addresses. They created a report with a set of recommendations. 39 street names were confusingly similar or have the same name with a different suffix. The town wants to make sure emergency responders go to the proper address/street without confusion. An E911 committee was created, who meet monthly to go over the recommendations. Some of the name change recommendations will also require renumbering. The committee has notified abutters with regular mail and have also sent out certified mail. They also included the rationale behind the recommended new names.

Mr. Sharples read a letter from Marita Mathie, with a few different questions. Ms. Mathie wanted to know if the town would provide official documents about the address changes so the residents can update their mortgages and bills. She also wanted to know if the town would make changes to the tax and voter registration records, and if they had notified postal or GPS services about the change. Finally, she asked if the town could put together a list of guidelines helping people through the address change process.

Mr. Sharples said that the town would give citizens an official notice if their address changes that they can use for updating their records. The tax records can be done internally through the town, but he was not sure about the voter registration. As far as the US Postal Service, they do not want to know about the new addresses until the changes are complete. UPS and FedEx are outside services that he would need to get more information about updating them. For GPS, they will contact the major services such as Google Maps to request that they update the maps. Finally, he said that the town will put together a general list of guidelines to help residents.

Mr. Thompson asked if the town would offer services of a notarized letter. Mr. Sharples said they could get it notarized at the town hall. Assistant Fire Chief Justin Pizon said that a letter is sent to USPS, the state, assessing services, and some major utility companies giving them notice of the changes. Also, there is a 30-day notice to residents before the addresses officially change, so everybody has time to make any changes. Selectwoman Gilman asked when the new street signs would be installed. Mr. Pizon said that public works is currently updating all street signs in the town, and that Jay Perkins will be contacted when the street names are changed.

Barbara Rimkunas, with the Exeter Historical Society, recommended that the historical nature of Exeter be kept in mind when making the street name changes. She was concerned about the change from Arbor Court to Foundry Lane, because the foundry Exeter Brass Works was not adjacent to the street. Mr. Sharples said that he was open to suggestions if any of the names were disliked. Selectman Chartrand suggested that consulting with the town historians would be a good idea. Mr. Thompson also suggested that they put the name changes out to local schools to get students involved. Selectwoman Corson said that she wanted to make sure that Folsom Way is not shown on the tax map.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to close the public hearing. Selectwoman Surman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to enact the first recommendation, where Beech Hill Road Extension would be changed to Redberry Road. Number 10 would become number 44, and numbers 1,2,6,and 8 would be numbers 7,10,18, and 26.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to enact recommendation two, to change Folsom Court to Folsom Street, and change numbers 9 and 11 to numbers 19 and 21. Selectwoman Surman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The board suggested that the E911 committee go back and address the historical concern about Foundry Lane.

b. b. Epping Road TIF Agreement Update

Mr. Dean said that the town had some updates about the project. They are continuing to work on numbers in terms of reimbursement for Mr. Shafmaster, and making sure that the agreement is only about the TIF road. They also have some new information from Unitil about natural gas and also electrical information. They do not have a final draft of the agreement for tonight.

Chairman Clement said that right now, the work is split between the town and Mr. Shafmaster. Epping Road is going to be handled by the town for the water/sewer work. The TIF road will be handled by Mr. Shafmaster which will be paid out of the TIF fund. Mr. Dean said that he appreciated the input of the town engineer. He also mentioned that the road will be 28 feet, and that the road will not change any of the site plan for the planning board.

c. c. Cole Property Donation to Conservation Commission

Bill Campbell, the chair of the conservation commission, said that Dan and Jennifer Cole gave 4.85 acres of undeveloped land to the town. The railroad had split the land, and they acquired the surrounding area so that the Cole property was the last piece needed to complete it. It goes from the edge of Newfields to Route 101, protecting the river from highway pollutants. The property is mostly marshland. There is a right of way that crosses the railroad track, and there is a small section people can use for access. The property is open to hunting. The town counsel has looked at the deed and have also done a title search. They would be able to go to closing with board approval. At the conservation commission's last meeting, they voted unanimously that the board accept the land donation.

Mr. Thompson asked if the right of way goes across the railroad. Mr. Campbell confirmed that it did. The board agreed on the importance of protecting the properties in the area from highway damage from Route 101, especially the local saltmarshes.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Surman moved to accept the warranty deed of the Cole property at tax map 22, lot 10. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Regular Business

a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements and Exemptions

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to grant veteran credit of \$500 to the following properties: map 104, lot 79, unit 116; map 17, lot 6; map 54, lot 4, unit 6; map 95, lot 64, unit 101; map 81, lot 40. Selectman Chartrand seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to grant elderly exemptions for \$236,251 to the following properties: map 32, lot 12, unit 11; map 104, lot 79, unit 316; map 68, lot 6, unit 225; map 68, lot 6, unit 631; map 85, lot 89, unit 7; map 104, lot 79, unit 405; map 104, lot 79, unit 422; map 96, lot 3; map 104, lot 79, unit 113; map 80, lot 7, unit 2; map 104, lot 79, unit 125; map 95, lot 64, unit 97; map 68, lot 6, unit 126; map 61, lot 2; map 95, lot 64, unit 258. Selectman Chartrand seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dawley asked again about the values of the houses that were getting the exemptions, and said that perhaps they could look at their policy another time.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to grant elderly exemption for \$152,251 to the following properties: map 73, lot 57; map 70, lot 94; map 104, lot 79, unit 401; map 64, lot 105, unit 93; map 68, lot 6, unit 825; map 104, lot 79, unit 134; map 104, lot 79, unit 801; map 104, lot 79, unit 119; map 104, lot 79, unit 211A; map 28, lot 6; map 65, lot 6; map 104, lot 79, unit 424. Selectman Chartrand seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to grant elderly exemption for \$183,751 to the following: map 65, lot 102, unit 8; map 104, lot 79, unit 905; map 102, lot 9; map 76, lot 11; map 83, lot 20; map 104, lot 79, unit 133; map 32, lot 12, unit 22; map 81, lot 31; map 104, lot 79, unit 118; map 104, lot 79, unit 320; map 32, lot 12, unit 5; map 95, lot 64, unit 101; map 104, lot 79, unit 321; map 74, lot 45; map 18, lot 5. Selectman Chartrand seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to grant elderly exemption for \$229,950 to the following property: map 63, lot 120. Selectman Chartrand seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to deny elderly exemption for map 17, lot 6; and map 81, lot 40. Selectman Chartrand seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to approve the following abatement for \$329.27: map 63, lot 225. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0-1, with Chairman Clement abstaining.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to approve the following abatement for \$4,216.27 due to a fire: map 86, lot 3. Selectman Chartrand seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to deny the abatement for map 72, lot 172. Selectman Chartrand seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to approve the disability exemption for \$125,000 for the following properties: map 64, lot 105, unit 43; map 104, lot 79, unit 1012. Selectman Chartrand seconded, and it passed unanimously.

#### b. Permits & Approvals

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the use of the town hall main floor stage for a Kit Cornell memorial service on March 17<sup>th</sup>, from 12-3:30pm. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the use of the lobby, and the town hall stage for the Exeter General Federation of Women's Clubs for their bake sale on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 8am-12pm, with set

up on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 12-5pm, and cleanup from 12-2pm. Selectwoman Surman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to waive the rental fee for the Exeter General Federation of Women's Club for their yard sale. Selectwoman Corson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the renumbering of 68 Old Town Farm Road to 66 Old Town Farm Road. Selectwoman Surman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Selectwoman Surman recused herself from the next motion because it is her property.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the renumbering of 12 Hampton Falls Road to 12A Hampton Falls Road. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### c. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean talked about the recent fire department event, where they recognized Matt Slattery on his recent service in Qatar. They also recognized Mark Cook for his first day as a lieutenant. Also, Jason Greene is moving to the fire prevention officer position on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dean also mentioned the SB 420 bill in the senate which would make collective bargaining meetings open to the public. It could make the process more difficult, in his opinion. Finally, Riverwoods is having a warrant night on February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm.

Chairman Clement asked what would happen if a permit was approved and then the applicant changed the purpose of their use. Selectwoman Gilman said she did not think that had ever happened in her memory. Selectman Chartrand asked if Sheri Riffle could follow up on that. Selectwoman Surman said it was about TEAM Exeter's Selectman's meet and greet on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the original application was for a dance performance.

The board decided to follow up with the organization who made the application.

#### d. Selectboard Committee Reports

Selectwoman Corson said that at the last planning board meeting, they discussed a 16-lot subdivision off of Linden Street. The discussion was tabled until March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The planning board also officially adopted the new master plan.

#### e. Correspondence

There was an article in Yankee Magazine about Exeter, under the travel section. There was a letter from Mitchell Municipal Group about a new member of the firm, and that they have a new seacoast office. There were letters sent to Mr. Plummer from the public. There was also a letter from James Murray about the FDA food code update that routinely occurs every 4 years.

#### 9. Board Calendar

The next meeting will be on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

#### 10. Non-public session

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Surman moved to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91:A3 section 2A. Selectwoman Corson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by roll-call vote. The board entered into non-public session at 8:50pm.

The Board emerged from non public session.

Selectwoman Surman moved to adjourn, Selectman Chartrand seconded. Motion carries unanimously. The Board stood adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by recording secretary Samantha Cave.