

Board of Selectmen  
Draft Minutes  
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

1. Call to Order

Present at the meeting were Dan Chartrand, Don Clement, Kathy Corson, Julie Gilman, and Russ Dean. Absent was Anne Surman. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Clement.

2. Bid Openings: Parks and Rec. Mower & Docks

a. Docks-

Great Northern Docks Inc. in Naples, ME: A pressure treated dock would be \$14,500. A modular plastic dock would be \$19,500.

Easy Docks: The total charge would be \$16,046.17, with delivery and installation included.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to defer the bids to the parks and rec department for a recommendation. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Mower-

Perkins Power Equipment in Exeter, NH: The cost for a mower would be \$11,730.

JM Hayden in Newfields, NH: The cost would be \$11,206.40 for a Tigercat 261, \$12,133.60 for a Cheetah 61, and \$13,814.40 for a TurfTiger.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to defer the bids to the parks and rec department for a recommendation. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

3. Winter Storm Update

Chief Comeau talked about the upcoming storm, which would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> major storm in two weeks. During the last storm, 60% of Exeter residents lost their power. Chief Comeau said he had participated in conference calls with state emergency management and Unitil to prioritize needs. Unitil had about 50 trucks last storm working to restore power. There was no loss of poles, only trees and lines were downed. He said that this storm will be colder, so the snow will probably be lighter and cause less power outages. There were 16-18 inches of snowfall predicted. He asked residents to prepare their generators, but to keep carbon monoxide poisoning in mind. He also suggested that people have enough food and water for a few days in case of power outage and asked that residents try to keep fire hydrants clear.

Mr. Dean said that he appreciated the professional and methodical approach that the emergency departments had to the storms. Darius Thompson thanked public works and Urban Tree for removing downed trees, and also encouraged residents to check on their elderly neighbors.

4. Public Comment

Niko Papakonstantis said that reflecting on his past 5 or 6 years, he wanted to mention the positive things in Exeter including a stable tax rate, economic development, more town efficiency, and the quality of the town manager. He thanked Selectman Chartrand for keeping the big picture in mind,

and wished him the best. Selectman Chartrand recognized Mr. Papakonstantis for his work with the budget recommendations committee.

5. Minutes/Proclamations

There were no proclamations at this meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. 2/19/18

Selectwoman Gilman said that on page 4, the HDC is incorrectly written as the NHDC.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the minutes as amended. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. 2/26/18

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

7. Appointments

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to appoint Jennifer Martel as an alternate member of the planning board, to expire 4/30/2020. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to appoint Robin Tyner as a member of the energy committee, with no term. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Selectman Chartrand suggested that the board also appoint Ms. Tyner as an alternate member of the planning board, because she had expressed interest in both. Chairman Clement said that he did not want to appoint someone to two boards at once, and that the energy committee was her primary choice. Selectwoman Gilman said that she would be comfortable appointing her to two positions because the alternate planning board members do not typically vote, and the energy committee has a relatively light workload. Selectwoman Corson agreed, and expressed her desire to fill up the planning board and mentioned how difficult it is to get volunteers for these positions.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to appoint Robin Tyner as an alternate member of the planning board, to expire 4/30/2020. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed 3-1-0, with Chairman Clement voting nay.

8. Action Items

a. Town Election Overview – Town Moderator

The town moderator, Paul Scafidi, said that he had a phone call with Chief Comeau, Chairman Clement, Mr. Dean, Chief Shupe, the town's legal counsel, and the secretary of state about the upcoming town election. Last year, Exeter postponed their election for two days. They were informed by the secretary of state that they could not postpone the election this year despite the winter storm.

Mr. Scafidi said that the polls would be open at the old high school in the Talbot Gym from 7AM-8PM. He mentioned that there were a lot of absentee ballots, and reminded residents that poor weather was not a reason to submit an absentee ballot. He also said that new voters can register to vote at the polls, but they must show proof of citizenship (a driver's license would not suffice for this). If someone does not have proof of citizenship, they would need to fill out an affidavit at the polls and show proof at a later time. They must also show proof of residency to register, such as a bill or a lease agreement. Voters who are already registered only need to show a form of ID.

The parking lot at the old high school would be plowed as much as possible, and Mr. Scafidi informed everybody that they cannot show any campaign materials inside of the building. The school had cancelled classes due to the storm, so there would be no disruption.

Selectwoman Gilman brought up that the state finance committee had suggested adding staff to the attorney general's office in order to handle any challenged ballots. There was also a concern among the board members that the storm would potentially hurt voter turnout. Selectman Chartrand said that he thought that the best decisions about town voting come locally, and did not think that the secretary of state should make decisions about the issue for the entire state. Mr. Thompson asked if the school had a backup generator in case power was lost. Mr. Scafidi said that it did not, and that if ballots could not be put through the ballot machine, they would be stored in a secure location until they could be counted using the machine. He also said that over 200 absentee ballots would be hand-counted.

b. IRS Mileage Rate 2018

Mr. Dean said that the IRS mileage rate had been changed at that beginning of January from 53.5 cents to 54.5 cents per mile. He'd like the board to vote on it to be implemented, and would also like to approve an automatic rate increase each year when the IRS changes their rate. If the automatic update was approved, all employees would be notified each year when the rate changed.

Chairman Clement was concerned that the IRS rate might go down, and that he would not want the board to automatically lock in a low rate. He asked if the board would still be able to review the rate change and set their own if needed. Mr. Dean said that the board can review the rate at any time, and that the automatic rate change would simply standardize it. He also said that the rate tends to be fairly consistent, especially in times of stable energy cost. Mileage reimbursement is a small item in the town budget. Selectwoman Corson said that she did not wish the town to be behind the IRS rate, and that it would be a good idea to automatically update it so that the town stays current.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to adopt the new mileage rate of 54.5 cents per mile. Selectman Chartrand seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to approve the automatic update of the standard mileage rate in January, in accordance with the IRS rate, as long as notice is given to the board of selectmen. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements and Exemptions

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to approve veteran credits for the following properties: map 90, lot 33, unit 3; map 86, lot 51, unit 1 for \$500. 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 73, lot 242; map 95, lot 64, unit 311; map 95, lot 64, unit 257. Selectwoman Gilman seconded, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to approve the elderly exemption for \$236,251 for the following properties: map 52, lot 72; map 87, lot 8, unit C15; map 104, lot 79, unit 1006; map 64, lot 105, unit 103; map 28, lot 5; map 72, lot 117, unit 4; map 55, lot 46; map 81, lot 34; map 68, lot 6, unit 241; map 64, lot 24; map 104, lot 79, unit 610; map 104, lot 79, unit 117; map 104, lot 79, unit 903; map 73, lot 66; map 52, lot 63; map 71, lot 2. Selectwoman Gilman seconded, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to approve the elderly exemption for \$152,251 for the following properties: map 104, lot 79, unit 115; map 104, lot 79, unit 705; map 103, lot 15, unit 2; map 72, lot 17, unit 6; map 63, lot 102, unit 54; map 103, lot 7; map 62, lot 8; map 74, lot 11. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Corson moved to approve the elderly exemption for \$183,751: map 54, lot 4, unit 20; map 104, lot 79, unit 106; map 52, lot 68; map 54, lot 4, unit 6. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. Permits and Approvals

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the use of the town hall stage by Karen Desrosiers of the arts committee, for their Weekend of Music event from 3/7/19-3/10/19. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the use of the town hall stage by Mona Pinnette of the Taoist Tai Chi Society for their meeting and training on 4/22/18. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the fee waiver for the Taoist Tai Chi Society. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the use of the town hall stage, and the small room near the entry by Ellen Addington of the Exeter Area GFWC for their bake sale on 3/24/18, from 8AM-12PM. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the use of the town main floor, the poster board and the bandstand by Sharon Marston of TEAM Exeter for their Fall Equinox Fest on 9/21/18-9/23/18. This motion would also approve their use of four parking spaces on 9/21/18 from 5PM-9PM. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the fee waiver for TEAM Exeter. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Dean spoke about the Epping Road TIF, and reminded the board that the town wanted to take on the Epping Road water and sewer improvements instead of sending them to an outside contractor. They got quote from CMA about that work, who the town has worked with in the past. He recommended that the board allow up to \$82,000 for the design work for the water/sewer improvements, subject to a final contract with the town. He also asked for approval for the town manager to sign. He said that the bid process was shortened and they are planning to condense steps to prevent a delay from September to November. They also have a bid opening in two weeks for the Lincoln Street project. Selectwoman Gilman was pleased that the board could shorten the process while protecting the town's interests.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve a contract of up to \$82,000 with CMA Engineers and to authorize the town manager to sign the agreement with them for the planning and design of the water/sewer improvements on Epping Road. Selectwoman Gilman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to approve the disposal of surplus property, including old printers and computer parts, by Bob Glowacky. Selectwoman Corson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### c. Town Manager Report

Mr. Dean spoke about the bill in the state legislature about default budget calculation, called HB 1307. He said that the bill would change the definition of contracts going forward, which would affect fixed costs such as worker's compensation and health insurance increases. The contracts would be defined as "previous years amounts" when discussing the default budget. If those costs are not included in the default budget, they would have to adjust.

Selectwoman Gilman said that the bill would not allow for escalators in contracts. The basis for the bill is that they do not want default budgets to be "padded" with costs that people do not understand. The bill has passed the house, but has not yet passed the senate. She said there would be about 150 legislative bodies affected, SB2 bodies. She believes that a lot of representatives from legislatures without SB2 wouldn't understand the consequences.

Mr. Dean said the bill might have unintended consequences. He also brought up another bill about utility valuations, which would change the way that utilities are valued and would affect tax bills. He also wanted to thank Selectman Chartrand for his service on the board. Selectman Chartrand also expressed gratitude towards Mr. Dean.

#### d. Committee Reports

Selectwoman Gilman said that she will have a HDC meeting on Thursday for the 173 Water Street property, which would consist of a big change. She also wanted to thank Selectman Chartrand for his service.

Selectwoman Corson did not have a planning board meeting because it was cancelled due to the storm. She did go to the Riverwoods Forum, where a resident was presented with a dedication. She thanked Selectman Chartrand for his work on the board.

Chairman Clement said that the E911 committee had reviewed name changes, and found a mistake in the numbering for one of the streets. The residents on the street will be notified, and the numbering will be voted on again. He thanked Selectman Chartrand for his deep commitment to the town.

Selectman Chartrand wanted to encourage the residents of the town to serve on their local boards and committees, and said that he felt that the experience had been generally very rewarding.

e. Correspondence

There was a letter from New Generations, thanking the town for their donation from human services. NH Preservation Alliance sent the town a notice about their membership reaching its expiration date soon. And finally, there was a letter from Corporate Consulting with a brochure about municipal assessing services.

10. Review Board Calendar

The next meeting will be on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

11. Non-public Session

There was no non-public session.

12. Adjournment

Before the meeting adjourned, Selectman Chartrand moved that Joe Pace, a Kensington resident, be allowed the speak. It was voted on unanimously.

Mr. Pace said that he had served on the board from 2000-2009, and thanked them for their work. He recognized Selectman Chartrand on the board. Paul Royal, an Exeter resident, also spoke and thanked Selectman Chartrand on his service to the town. He appreciated that the board tries to do their best for the town's interests. Mr. Thompson thanked Selectman Chartrand for his example of leadership.

**MOTION:** Selectman Chartrand moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectwoman Gilman seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by recording secretary Samantha Cave.