

BOARD OF SELECTMEN DRAFT MINUTES NOVEMBER 5, 2012

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Matt Quandt reconvened the Board at 6:50 pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Town Offices building. Other members of the Board present were Selectman Frank Ferraro, Selectman Don Clement, Selectman/Clerk Dan Chartrand and Selectwoman Julie Gilman. Town Manager Russell Dean was also present.

2. Board Interview – Economic Development Commission

The Board interviewed Cynthia Tokos for a position on the Economic Development Commission at 6:50 p.m., then reconvened upstairs in the Nowak Room. A large number of residents were also present for this meeting.

3. Public Comment

Gerry Hamel of Exeter commented on the proposed sharing of municipal water systems between Exeter and Stratham. Mr. Hamel noted that most of the meetings have been in Stratham and that in his opinion a report on this proposed system doesn't recognize the possible downsides of the system for the Town of Exeter. Mr. Clement is the Selectmen representative on the committee for the water system plan. He explained that the report explored the feasibility of the plan and the possible expenditures to both towns. However, this study did not go into how those expenditures would be paid. Mr. Clement recommended that comments to the draft report be gathered and then send the report with comments back to the Board. He emphasized that there is not any agreement in place and that all final logistics, pros and cons would be covered later if the towns want to pursue the plan. Mr. Clement will look into the dates and venues for upcoming meetings on the water system plan.

4. Minutes & Proclamations

Regular meeting: October 15, 2012 – Mr. Chartrand moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Ms. Gilman. Motion carried.

5. Appointments

Ms. Gilman moved that the Board appoint Jason Proulx to the Economic Development Commission with his term expiring on April 30, 2014. Mr. Chartrand seconded. Motion carried.

6. Discussions/Action Items

Prior to the discussion of the Action Items, Ms. Gilman reported that improvements for voter parking on Election Day were in process. The improvements will include additional and more accessible parking at the voting site for voters, handicapped parking will be indicated with more signage, and candidate/candidate rep parking will be in the lower lot. Mr. Dean noted that these will be improvements over the primary day parking.

a. New Business

i. Sign Request – Exeter Historical Society

Lionel Ingram, Chair of the Exeter Historical Society Board of Trustees, presented his draft letter to the State petitioning for the placement of a historic highway marker in front of the Town Hall to the Board for their approval. Either the Historical Society or a private donor will pay for the marker and it will be installed by Public Works.

Mr. Clement moved to charge the Exeter Historical Society to petition the State for the marker, Mr. Chartrand seconded, motion carried.

ii. General Fund Balance Report

Mr. Dean provided a memo on the GF Balance which includes his recommendation that the non-GAAP fund balance be kept at \$1M and applying the balance to lower the 2012 tax rate. Mr. Dean explained that keeping the non-GAAP fund balance below \$1M means that the Town could run short of cash by year-end and the Town's bond rating could be affected.

Mr. Chartrand moved that the Board approve the proposal of the \$1M non-GAAP fund balance with the \$174,458 surplus above this amount to lower the 2012 tax rate. Mr. Clement seconded, motion carried.

iii. Fuel Contract Extension – Dennis K. Burke

A sales agreement confirmation from Dennis K. Burke, Inc. for fuel was reviewed by the Board. Mr. Dean noted that \$3.18 per gallon is a very competitive price and that this agreement is a continuation of contracts held with Mr. Burke in prior years.

Mr. Clement moved that the Board approve the sales agreement with Dennis K. Burke, Inc. for the price of \$3.18 per gallon for the term of November 2012-November 2013. Md. Gilman seconded, motion carried.

b. Old Business

i. Exeter Sportsmen's Club (ESC) Barrier

Butch York, President of the ESC, prepared a presentation for the Board so the meeting recessed for 5 minutes at 7:35 p.m. and reconvened at 7:40 p.m. when Mr. York's presentation was set up.

Mr. York reviewed the report provided by Cross-Spectrum Acoustics in October 2012. Mr. York presented details on noise levels and decibel measurements in the surrounding neighborhoods of the ESC, the materials to be used in a barrier wall (plywood with pea gravel interior) and other data on their proposed efforts for noise reduction. Mr. York said the ESC is also getting quotes on a concrete wall and an earthen berm.

Mr. Chartrand introduced a letter to the Board from 39 residents in the neighborhoods of the ESC which requests that the Board: 1) exercise their legal responsibilities as the lesser of the property, 2) state a noise abatement goal of 10dB and as measured by professionals, and 3) require the ESC to submit a noise abatement plan with 10dB noise reduction and to be completed within a year.

Mr. Ferraro, also a member of the Planning Board, noted that the ESC had come to the Planning Board proposing to put up a test wall. Mr. Ferraro hoped some progress could be made with this situation if the Board of Selectmen, when presented with the proposal, approve the construction of a test wall by the ESC. He recommended to the ESC that they submit a schedule for test wall plans to the Planning Board and to also include information about an earthen berm.

Chairman Quandt asked the Board members to state their primary goals for this situation at this time: Ms. Gilman – more comparative information; Mr. Chartrand – constituents happy and living with quiet enjoyment; Mr. Clement – noise measurements in the different neighborhoods done by other professionals, a better study of what noise and noise measurements actually is; Mr. Ferraro – to enable the ESC to be able to move on with this project.

At this time, residents who are neighbors to the ESC and members of the ESC provided the Board with comments. Beth Brosnan of Robin Lane read the letter to the Board to the meeting. Mike Rowe, a Stratham resident and Treasurer of the ESC, reiterated the Club's concern for the safety of all involved. Len Benjamin of Windemere noted the terms of the lease with the Club. Marbet Wolfson agreed that more testing needs to be done. Sue Ratnoff of Robin Lane questioned Mr. York's use of a noise comparison with the city of Boston where the environment is so different from Exeter. Other comments included being aware of noise possibilities when one purchases a home and the suggestion that residents offer some funding toward the situation as the ESC is doing the best it can.

It was the consensus of the Board that they are not concerned about tree removal if a berm is constructed.

The meeting recessed at 9:00 p.m. for 5 minutes and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

7. Regular Business

a. A/P and Payroll Manifests

Mr. Chartrand moves a 10/26/12 accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$419,450.56 from Capital Funds. Mr. Clement seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Chartrand moves a 10/26/12 accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$62,448.56 from operating account. Ms. Gilman seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Chartrand moves an 11/2/12 accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$286,888.85 from Capital Fund. Ms. Gilman seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Chartrand moves an 11/2/12 accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$556,893.24. Ms. Gilman seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Chartrand moves 10/21/12 payroll warrant checks dated 10/24/12 in the amount of \$175,122.60. Ms. Gilman seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Chartrand moves 10/28/12 payroll warrant checks dated 10/31/12 in the amount of \$175,122.60. Ms. Gilman seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Quandt opened three bids on tax-deeded property. One bid was for \$2,000 for 6 Plum Street. One bid was for \$2,000 for 49 Lindenshire Avenue. One bid was for \$2,000 for 84 Hilton Avenue. All three bids were submitted by Jason Palmer of P&M installed building solutions.

Mr. Chartrand moved that the Board accept all three bids, Ms. Gilman seconded, motion carried. Mr. Dean has a list of 10-15 houses for auction and asks that the Board authorize the list to offer them through sealed bids on which a minimum can be set, i.e., minimum of taxes and lot rent. The properties are 901 Exeter River Landing, 221 Exeter River Landing, 58 Alder Street, 10 Peach Street, 1 Plum Street, 23 Sumac Street, 12 Wayland Circle, and 29 Hampton Road.

Mr. Ferraro moved that the Board approve to place manufactured homes out to sealed bids and put 29 Hampton Road out to auction with minimum of taxes and fees. Mr. Chartrand seconded, motion carried.

b. Budget Updates – Mr. Dean reported that the Budget meetings and process is ongoing at this time. Mr. Ferraro referenced page 2 of the October 15, 2012 Board minutes where he had requested information about the spending for the Recreation Revolving Fund and for EMS. Mr. Dean said he would provide that information to the Board.

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the jeopardy tax concerning 518 Exeter River Landing (Map/Lot 104/79/518) in the amount of \$276.80. Mr. Clement seconded, motion carried.

c. Tax Abatements & Exemptions - none

d. Water/Sewer Abatements – none

e. Permits

The following permits were reviewed by the Board for approval:

Submitted by Claudia Frost for concert rehearsal use on December 12, 2012, 6:00-9:30pm. Mr. Clement moved to approve the permit, Mr. Chartrand seconded, motion carried.

Submitted by Claudia Frost for concert use on December 15, 2012, 5:00-10:00 p.m. Mr. Clement moved to approve the permit, Mr. Chartrand seconded, motion carried.

f. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean acknowledged the great work of the Fire Department, Police, and Public Works during Hurricane Sandy. There was a question about whether the Town adopted the blind exemption properly several years back, this was uncovered during a DRA review; Mr. Dean will investigate but noted it may need a warrant article in 2013.

g. Legislative Update - none

h. Selectmen's Committee Reports

Mr. Chartrand has recently attended various Budget Committee Recommendation meetings and Emergency Management with Chief Comeau and Chief Kane. He acknowledged the great work done by them as well as Jay Perkins of the DPW.

Ms. Gilman reported on the demolition of the garage, zoning changes on Portsmouth Ave., and the 375th anniversary committee which is reviewing events for the future.

Mr. Clement has recently attended numerous meetings including the Housing Authority, Transportation Committee, Trains Committee, Arts Committee and Water & Sewer.

i. Correspondence

- Two letters from Brennan, Caron, Lenehan & Iacopino concerning RSA 91-A and Carrier Trucking, Inc.
- Letters from Primex, Town insurance carrier, on 2013 renewals on the following coverage: Property & Liability, Workmen's Compensation and Unemployment Compensation
- Letter from Rockingham County Treasurer on a warrant for \$1,701,918.00
- A thank-you letter from the Chamber of Commerce for the work of the Fire Department on the holiday lights
- A letter from Swasey Trustee Ruthanne Rogers on the maintenance of the stone at the entrance of the Parkway
- A thank-letter from Seacoast Mental Health Center for an allocation of \$2,125.00
- A thank-letter from Big Brothers Big Sisters for a donation of \$2,250.00
- A letter from Timberland on their grant to the Town for outdoor/park furniture

- A letter from Nixon, Vogelman, Barry, Slawsky & Simoneau concerning RSA 91-A and any injuries incurred at the Exeter Transfer Station/dump
- A letter from the NH DES to the mayors of Rochester, Dover and Portsmouth concerning nutrient effects on the Great Bay Estuary

8. Review Board Calendar

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for November 19, 2012. Mr. Ferraro requested that camper tax and DRA issues be on the next agenda has those items were deferred in earlier in the year.

8. Non Public Session - deferred

9. Adjournment

Mr. Ferraro moved to adjourn, Mr. Clement seconded. Roll call vote: unanimous.
The Board stood adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris deZarn-O'Hare
Recording Secretary