

**Final Minutes**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**January 15, 2013**

Chairman Matt Quandt called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Nowak Room in the Exeter Town Office building. Members present were: Don Clement, Dan Chartrand, Frank Ferraro, and Julie Gilman. Also present was Town Manager Russell Dean.

**1. FY 13 Bond and Budget Hearings**

A motion as made by Mr. Clement and seconded by Mr. Chartrand to open the public hearing on the bond. Motion carried – all in favor. At 7:00 p.m. Russell Dean read the wording of Article # 18 from the proposed warrant.

Brian Griset asked for clarification on the paving of Portsmouth Ave.

Following discussion there was a motion made by Mr. Clement and second by Ms. Gilman to close the public hearing on the bond. Motion carried – all in favor. The public hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Clement and seconded by Mr. Chartrand to open the public hearing on the proposed 2013 budget. Motion carried – all in favor. The hearing was open at 7:09 p.m.

Russell Dean presented the proposed budget highlighting past years, as well as the Board of Selectmen's figure, the default budget figure, and the Budget Committee figure for each of the following areas: General Fund Budget, General Government, Finance, Planning and Building, Police, Fire, Public Works, Maintenance, Human Services, Parks and Recreation, Other Culture/Recreation, Public Library, Debt Service and Capital, Benefits and Taxes, Water Fund and Sewer Fund.

The overall proposed 2013 budget figures were:

\$21,086,794	Selectmen
21,314,141	Budget Committee
20,864,273	Default Budget.

Brian Griset asked for amounts for human services and paving.

Harry Thayer explained how the human services amounts had been handled in the past.

Mr. Ferraro proposed that the consulting line in the water and sewer budget be increased by \$10,000 each to cover the funds that might be necessary for the proposed economic impact study. The Selectmen discussed the study and it was agreed that funds would be available for the study without these suggested increases.

Mr. Ferraro brought up concerns in the area of the default budget. He pointed out a calculation error in the area of safety equipment and it was agreed the default budget would be corrected to reflect the correction.

Following discussion a motion was made by Mr. Ferraro to use the 2012 budget figure for fuel as the default amount. There was no second.

A motion was made by Mr. Ferraro and seconded by Ms. Gilman to reduce the human services amount in the 2013 default budget by \$65,995. Motion did not carry – 1 in favor – Mr. Ferraro; 3 opposed – Mr. Clement, Mr. Chartrand, Ms. Gilman.

Harry Thayer stated that he felt the selectmen needed to step up to the plate and sell the warrant article for public services since these funds are needed for justified services for Exeter residents.

Dennis Brady said he felt this had been a bad decision to handle the social services this way, that the warrant article was very large, and could have unintended consequences.

Brian Griset expressed concerns about the social services warrant article and the legality of the default budget. He urged the selectmen to reconsider putting it back in the regular budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Clement and seconded by Mr. Chartrand to close the public hearing at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried – all in favor.

A motion as made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Mr. Clement to approved the proposed 2013 budget amount of \$21,086,794 with a default figure of \$20,845,576. Motion carried – 3 in favor – Mr. Chartrand, Mr. Clement, Ms. Gilman; 1 opposed – Mr. Ferraro. Mr. Ferraro stated he was opposed since he felt the increase in the general fund was too high.

## **2. Recommendations on FY13 Warrant Articles**

Brian Griset urged the selectmen to show their actual votes on the warrant.

### **Article 18 – Portsmouth Avenue Water/Sewer Line Replacement**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one-million one hundred and twenty thousand dollars (\$1,120,000) for replacement and rehabilitation of water mains and sewer lines on Portsmouth Avenue from the High Street and Portsmouth Avenue intersection to the surface water treatment plant. The Town will authorize the issuance of not more than (\$1,120,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; Debt service will be paid from the water fund (\$180,000) and from the sewer fund (\$940,000) via water fees and sewer fees. (3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman that the selectmen recommend Article 18. Motion carried – all in favor.

**Article 21 – Exeter Fire Association and Town of Exeter Collective Bargaining Agreement**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the Exeter Fire Association which calls for the following salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year Estimated Salary and Benefits Increase Town Health Care Savings

FY13 \$28,802 (\$21,466)

FY14 \$10,518 (\$42,932)

FY15 \$30,567 (\$42,932)

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand three hundred and thirty six dollars (\$7,336) for the 2013 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Mr. Clement and seconded by Ms. Gilman that the selectmen recommend Article 21. Motion carried – all in favor.

**Article 22 – Supplemental Paving**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of two-hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), to be added to the Town’s paving budget, for the purpose of paving town roads. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Mr. Clement that the selectmen recommend Article # 22. Motion carried – all in favor.

**Article 23 – Linden Street – Court Street Culverts**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sum of one-hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the purpose of designing necessary improvements to defective culverts located under Court Street and under Linden Street. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman that the selectmen recommend Article # 23. Motion carried – all in favor.

**Article 24 – Ladder Truck – Fire Department**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of lease/purchasing a replacement for the 1994 Ladder Truck for the Exeter Fire Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of one-hundred seven thousand and two hundred fifty dollars (\$107,250), which represents the first of 10 annual payments (a total of \$961,125), for that purpose. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause. (Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman that the selectmen recommend Article # 24. Motion carried – 3 in favor: Mr. Chartrand, Ms. Gilman, Mr. Clement; 1 opposed – Mr. Ferraro.

**Article 25 – Human Service Agencies**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one-hundred three thousand and three hundred ninety-five dollars (\$103,395), for the support of various human service agencies that will serve Exeter residents in 2013:

Agency Amount  
A Safe Place \$5,500  
Area Home Care \$13,000  
Big Brother/Big Sister \$9,000  
Child and Family Services \$11,000  
Crossroads House \$3,500  
Families First \$3,000  
Great Bay Kids \$2,495  
Meals on Wheels – Food \$7,800  
New Generation Shelter \$2,000  
New Outlook Teen Center \$2,700  
NHSPCA \$1,400  
Richie McFarland Center \$6,300  
Rockingham Community Action \$11,000  
RSVP Friends Program \$2,200  
Seacare Health Services \$5,000  
Seacoast Family Promise \$1,000  
Seacoast Mental Health \$8,500  
Seacoast VNA \$5,000  
Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) \$3,000  
Total \$103,395  
(Majority vote required)

Harry Thayer commented that none of the social service agencies were getting any increase; the funding is at current levels.

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Mr. Clement that the selectmen recommend Article # 25. Motion carried – all in favor;

**Article 26 – Vactor Truck – Sewer Department**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of lease/purchasing a replacement for the sewer system “vactor truck” for the Exeter Sewer Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-seven thousand nine hundred and fifty one dollars (\$77,951), which represents the first of 5 annual payments (a total of \$424,831), for that purpose. The lease/purchase payments will be paid for by the sewer fund, with this first year payment coming from sewer fund surplus. This lease/purchase will contain an escape (non-appropriation) clause.  
(Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman that the selectmen recommend Article # 26. Motion carried – unanimous vote.

**Article 27 – Raynes Property Barn Roof Replacement**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of replacing the roof on the town owned Raynes Barn located on Newfields Road. The current roof was installed in 1991.  
(Majority vote required)

Ginny Raub gave a brief presentation of the history of the Raynes Barn and its importance to Exeter.

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman that the selectmen recommend Article # 27. Motion carried – all in favor.

**Article 28 – 375th Anniversary Celebration**

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of funding events related to the 375th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Exeter.

(Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Ms. Gilman and seconded by Mr. Clement to amend Article # 28 to an amount of \$20,000. Motion carried – unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman that the selectmen recommend Article # 28. Motion carried – unanimous vote.

**Article 29 – Re-establish Blind Exemption**

Shall the Town approve the re-establishment of the Exemption for the Blind provided for in RSA 72:37, which states, every inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the blind services program, bureau of vocational rehabilitation, department of education, shall be exempt each year on the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate to the value of \$15,000.

(Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Mr. Clement and seconded by Mr. Chartrand that the selectmen recommend Article # 29. Motion carried – all in favor.

**Article 30 – Petition Article: Additional Funds Richie McFarland Center**

On petition of Helen Crowe and others, to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,700) for the Richie McFarland Children's Center's early intervention program that serves children from birth to three years of age and their families. This amount will augment the recommendation from the Selectman and Budget Committee already included in the warrant article for social service agencies. This additional funding is requested due to the marked increase in the number of children served and will support the cost of providing early childhood special education, pediatric therapies and family support services to fifty-four (54) Exeter residents this past year.

(Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Ms. Gilman and seconded by Mr. Clement that the selectmen recommend Article # 30. Motion carried – 3 in favor: Mr. Chartrand, Mr. Clement, Ms. Gilman; 1 opposed – Mr. Ferraro.

**Article 31 – Petition Article: Additional Funds Child and Family Services**

On petition of Stephanie Cook and others, to see if the Town will support funding from the Town in 2013-2014 in the amount of \$12,000 to support a share of the services provided to Exeter residents to access counseling and family support services, without regard to income from Child and Family Services. Child and Family Services provides accessible and affordable programs to children, youth and their families leading to stronger family connections, improved school performance and better citizenship. From July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012, eighty-four (84) Exeter residents received 903 units of free or reduced social and mental health services valued at over \$98,000 from Child and Family Services. This represented a 13% increase in services requested and delivered over the previous year.

(Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Mr. Ferraro and seconded by Mr. Chartrand that the selectmen not recommend Article # 31. Motion carried – all in favor.

**Article 32 – Petition Article: Additional Funds Meals on Wheels Food Program**

On petition of Lanie Smith Burke and others, to see if the Town of Exeter will vote to raise and appropriate through special warrant article, an additional \$800 to support Rockingham Nutrition & Meals On Wheels Program's service providing meals for older, homebound and disabled Exeter residents in the Town's 2013 budget.

(Majority vote required)

Mr. Brady stated that it had been a tough year for the program and that any loss of money means loss of meals.

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman that the selectmen recommend Article # 32. Motion carried – all in favor.

Mr. Clement recused himself at this time - 9:06 p.m.

**Article 33 – Petition Article – St. Vincent De Paul**

On petition of Douglas Flockhart and others, to see if the Town of Exeter will vote to raise and appropriate through special warrant article \$5,000 to support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Exeter providing food from the Community Assistance Center's food pantry to Exeter residents in the Town's 2013 budget.

(Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman that the selectmen recommend Article # 33. Motion carried – all in favor.

Mr. Clement returned at 9:10 p.m.

**Article 34 – Petition Article – Womenade Funding (\$2,000)**

On petition of Judith A. O'Reilly and others, to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of \$2,000 for support of Womenade of Greater Squamscott, a non-profit that provides direct aid to community members in crisis situations requiring immediate financial assistance.

(Majority vote required)

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Mr. Clement that the selectmen recommend Article # 34. Motion carried – unanimous vote.

**3. Approval of A/P and Payroll Manifests**

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman to approve the 2012 AP manifest with checks dated 1/11/13 in the amount of \$3,513.54. Motion carried – unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Mr. Clement to approve the AP manifest with checks dated 1/11/13 in the amount of \$91,285.41. Motion carried – unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Ms. Gilman to approve the payroll manifest with checks dated 1/9/13 in the amount of \$170,017.67. Motion carried – unanimous vote.

Mr. Ferraro asked for clarification on the excavation at the Getty parking lot. Mr. Dean gave an explanation.

A motion was made by Mr. Chartrand and seconded by Mr. Clements to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. Motion carried – all in favor.

The meeting was re-opened. Harry Thayer stated that the proposed purchase of a motorcycle was actually a cost savings to the town since it would be purchased instead of a cruiser.

A motion was made by Mr. Clement and seconded by Mr. Chartrand to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Brickett  
Recording Secretary