

Final Minutes

Exeter Board of Selectmen Meeting

May 6, 2013

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Don Clement called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices building. This followed a non public session at 6:50 p.m. to discuss a fee waiver.

Other members present were Vice Chairman Dan Chartrand, Selectman Frank Ferraro, Selectwoman Julie Gilman, and Selectman Matt Quandt. Town Manager Russell Dean was also present.

2. Public Comments

No public comment.

3. Minutes and Proclamations

a. Regular Meeting: April 29, 2013

To be approved at a later date, per the request of Selectman Ferraro.

b. Special Meeting: May 1, 2013

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve the minutes for the May 1, 2013 Board of Selectmen meeting. Motion carried – all in favor.

Vice Chair Chartrand spoke about a proclamation involving National History Day. He talked about how National History Day requires students from Exeter High School and Phillips Exeter Academy to choose a theme for the year like performance, documentary, website, and paper. The students competed in the 11th Annual National History Day/New Hampshire Competition at Plymouth State College. Meredith Gilman and Gwenovere Gilman were in attendance and recognized for winning first place in the senior group performance category. Amesley Katz, Ben Paquin, and Chandra Budrow won second place for “No Clear Victor”; and Hojone Kim won first place for his paper. All three groups earned a special certificate for outstanding use of primary resources and are to compete in Maryland in June.

4. Appointments

No appointments.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. New Business

I. Mike Lambert: Stewart Park Proposal

Mike Lambert spoke on behalf of the Exeter Area General Federation of Women's Club, asking to place a small monument in Stewart Park. The monument is essentially a map of the Great Bay Estuary. Mr. Jeff Gallant will inset the map in granite. Mr. Lambert explained the monument will be kept "fresh" with funding from the Women's Club. He is simply looking for approval to place the monument in this location.

Linda Lambert, of the EAGFWC, added there will be writing on the bottom of the monument saying "Courtesy of het EAGFWC". She said the monument is funded by a cash prize the organization won at a recent convention.

Mrs. Lambert went on to talk about the organizations next fundraiser. It will be in celebration of the club's 60th anniversary. It will be held at the Exeter Inn on June 8 at 7:00 and will include dancing, music, and raffles. All profits will go to their contribution for renovating the Exeter Senior Citizen Center.

Selectman Ferraro thinks this is a great idea. He said it will be nice to see where the river goes. He asked Mr. Lambert if there is going to be any marking on the map showing where the person is, i.e. a "You are here" marking. Mr. Lambert said the project initially started out much larger. He said he kept downsizing and was hoping to rely on the sensibility of the individual to know where they are. Selectmen Ferraro mentioned that visitors who are not familiar with the area will look at the map and not know where they are. He said a label might be helpful. Mr. Lambert replied he would mention something to Jeff Gallant to see if he could sneak something in. Mrs. Lambert disagreed.

A Motion was made by Vice Chairman Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt that the Selectboard give the EAGFWC and Mr. Lambert and Mr. Gallant approval to go ahead with put the marker up with the map and we appreciate that you're thinking about maintaining in the future because that is often an issue. Motion carried – all in favor.

II. Discussion on Town Ordinance 703

Mr. Russell Dean said himself and Selectwoman Gilman had a prior discussion about the issue of having public events that involve alcohol. He went on to discuss multiple venues and events of which alcohol was sold at. He said the public drinking ordinance prohibits drinking unless there is an exemption. Mr.

Dean said he was just trying to start a discussion about how to deal with these proposals in the future.

Selectwoman Gilman said it is a difficult discussion because they recognize prior success at beer events. She said events that have alcohol always make more money.

Selectman Ferraro said it is good that the Board is exploring this. He went on to talk about who has the authority to ok these exemptions. He said there are not just outdoor events, that they have to think about indoor events. Selectman Ferraro thinks the BOS should be involved in approving the exemptions.

Selectman Quandt thinks an amendment should be made to have the Selectmen involved.

Chairman Clement said he would like to see somewhere in the ordinance only before "civic" events. The Board talked about this being a "slippery slope". Basically if one event has alcohol, they all will want it. There was a discussion about whether to make it so broad or limit to civic events. They decided it was something to ponder. Chairman Clement said he's not sure why Parks and Rec. are involved in the approving of the exemptions, and he thinks the ordinance needs some tweaking.

Vice Chairman Chartrand said the Board is searching for a problem that does not exist. He said he does not agree that the ordinance needs to be changed and is comfortable with it the way it is.

Mr. Don Woodward, of the Town Budget Recommendations Committee, said all the town departments had been asked to come up with ideas on how their department could improve the town and that is why the Parks and Rec. have been involved in the events.

Mr. Dean went on to report that Primex says whatever the outcome to make sure to stay within the scope of proper insurance. He reported that Primex says for each event they'd be happy to weigh in on thoughts and concerns and can give good insight.

Selectman Ferraro said he would be willing to take a shot at writing a new ordinance, but would like to hear back from Primex on their liabilities first. Mr. Dean says he will have something for the May 20th meeting. Mr. Dean asked the members of the Board to give him all their suggestions.

Chairman Clement said they would wait to hear back from Primex then take the next step.

III. Discussion: SB197

Mr. Russ Dean talked about SB197. He said it is headed for success. He talked about what SB 197 does, saying a few years ago there began a discussion that the water and sewer funds are voted as part of the operating budget in a single article each year. So the question came up: Shouldn't water and sewer have their own budget article? Mr. Dean went on to say the only problem is there is no provision for default budget for either water or sewer funds. So, SB197 came out of a process through one of the committees to craft amendments to the RSA that would allow now operating in a default budget for the water and sewer funds. Basically, making three separate articles: a general fund portion, a water fund portion, and a sewer fund portion.

Mr. Dean went on to say he just wanted to bring an update. He said there has been a lot of support around the state.

Mr. Dean said this doesn't require the vote of the town to make this happen. He said it is up to the Board to decide the format in the fall.

Selectwoman Gilman commented that she thinks this is a great idea.

Selectman Quandt asked Mr. Dean if he was just looking for an OK from the Board to recommend this legislation. Mr. Dean replied that he is.

A Motion was made by Selectman Quandt and seconded by Selectwoman Gilman to recommend support of the amendment to SB197. Motion carried – all in favor.

Chairman Clement commented the amendment gives a good clarification to the voters.

IV. Discussion: HB617

Mr. Russ Dean started by saying the House passed a version of the Road Toll/Gas Tax Bill that would increase gas tax by four cents a year. The Town of Exeter would see an additional \$816,000 in revenue from this over 10 years for highways. The Senate was to meet on this issue May 7, 2013.

Selectman Quandt said he does not believe this is going to pass the Senate at this time because it is a tax increase. He also mentioned lots of small businesses are against this.

Chairman Clement said Exeter receives a block grant aid based on current gas tax. There was a discussion about last year's revenues they were at about \$250,000 which is applied to the general fund. He said it has been, however, declining over the last few years.

Chairman Clement went on to say he always welcomes additional increased revenue for the state. But he may be a bit ambivalent about raising gas tax over a three year period by 12 cents.

Selectman Quandt said there are two options: either recommend supporting this or recommend not supporting is.

Selectman Ferraro suggested moving on the agenda. No action was made.

b. Old Business

I. Bid Award: Sewer Vector Truck

Mike Jeffers talked about the bid he recommends. He told the Board the bidder he would recommend is C.N. Wood, Inc. with a bid of \$369,000. Mr. Jeffers said he likes this truck. He explained how the truck has a simpler system for dumping and would be easier to fix.

Selectman Ferraro mentioned there is \$5000 worth of spare parts that Mr. Jeffers could use for the vector. Mr. Jeffers agreed and said a lot of the parts are interchangeable.

Selectman Ferraro asked what would be done with the current truck. Mr. Dean said they have not talked about that yet, but will probably put it out to bid. Mr. Jeffers said he was not interested in a trade-in as it needs lots of repairs. He agreed that either a private sale or an auction would be best.

Chairman Clement asked when the new truck would arrive. Mr. Jeffers said they should have it by October or maybe even sooner.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to award the bid to C.N. Wood Inc. for \$369,000. Motion carried – all in favor.

6. Regular Business

a. Bid Openings

No bid openings.

b. A/P and Payroll Manifests

A Motion was made Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve payroll distribution for checks dated May 1, 2013 in the amount of 160,537.32. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve checks dated May 6, 2013 in the amount of \$297,795.46. Motion carried – all in favor.

c. Budget Update

Mr. Dean reported no budget update.

d. Tax Abatements and Exemptions

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to approve the following abatements:

- Map 47, Lot 4 with a refund of \$996.03
- Map 47, Lot 4 with a refund of \$1021.25

Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to approve and elderly exemption for Map 104, Lot 79, Unit 225 in the amount of \$152,251. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Selectman Quandt to collect a Jeopardy Tax in the amount of \$412.13 for Map 87, Lot 14, Unit 9B. Motion carried – all in favor.

e. Water/Sewer Abatements

No water/sewer abatements to report,

f. Permits

Mr. Dean talked about a letter from Phillips Exeter Academy requesting the Town's permission to stop traffic on June 9 on streets close to the Academy for the purpose of graduation exercises. Chairman Clement said he assumes the Police Department is aware of this.

g. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean talked about the following:

- An organ the Board had previously declared surplus. He said the estimates of value are coming.
- The history awards presentation. He congratulated the winners and was thankful for his invite.
- Mike Favreau has closed the bathrooms at the rec. parks until park is open for the season due to a vandalism issue.
- Mr. Kirshen will appear at the May 20th meeting to give an update on the climate matters.
- There was a request for a speed limit on a private way. The town, however, does not regulate the speed limits on private ways.
- A note from Mr. Ken Berkenbush saying he expects the survey for work at the Sportsman's Club will go on and the fishing derby will go on as scheduled.

h. Legislative Update

No legislative update to report.

i. Selectmen's Committee Reports

Selectman Ferraro reported no meetings until Planning Board this coming Thursday, May 9.

Selectwoman Gilman said the 375th met. She advised the Board of upcoming events including Seacoast Idol. She said May 17 is National Bike or Walk to Work Day. She said the Heritage Committee meets Wednesday, May 8. She told the Board she walked through the band music room and there are piles of sheet music from 1800's though

today that are in good condition. She went on to say she wanted to start going though all the music six years ago, that it is a huge project, but it needs to be taken care of.

Vice Chairman Chartrand attended the meeting of the Tax Increment Finance Work Group last Wednesday, May 1. He reported that the group is developing a document to run by the Planning Board, Historic District Committee, etc., all leading up to a presentation in front of the Board of Selectmen. Vice Chair Chartrand also welcomed back the Farmer's Market.

Selectman Quandt reported the Board of Swazey met.

Chairman Clement the Exeter Housing Authority met. He said there is still landscaping the town needs to provide to finish up the Water Street Interceptor project. He then said the River Study Committee met and they are coming up with two potential alternatives to dam removal. They are leading up to a public presentation in June. He talked about the Unutil Emergency Response Overview and he would leave the essence of the presentation on the Selectmen's mailing box.

j. Correspondence

Chairman Clement went talked about the following correspondence:

- A letter from Mercedes Voorhees about supporting Article 35
- A letter from the Dept of Revenue
- Multiple Comcast correspondence
- A legal notice about the Exeter Planning Board Agenda

7. Review Board Calendar

The next scheduled meeting will be May 20, 2013.

Selectman Ferraro said he will not be in attendance of the May 20th meeting and asked to defer the review/approval of the Minutes for the April 29 and May 6 meetings until his return.

A Motion was made by Selectman Quandt and seconded by Selectwoman Gilman to adjourn the meeting at 8:35. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,



Nicole McCormack
Recording Secretary