

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MINUTES

January 5, 2009

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Joe Pace convened the meeting in the Nowak Room at the Town Offices at 7:00 pm and introduced other members of the Board: Mr. Bob Eastman, Mr. William Campbell, Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Matt Quandt and Town Manager, Russ Dean.

2. Public Comment – none.

3. Minutes & Proclamations

a. Minutes of December 22nd, 2008 – Mr. Campbell questioned a motion made on page 4 that was not completed and also found an error on a motion that needs to be amended on the high capacity pump.

Mr. Campbell moved to waive the reading of the December 22nd, 2008 minutes and accept them as amended; Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Appointments - none

5. Discussion / Action Items

a. Unitil Follow-up: 2008 Ice Storm

Todd Black, Vice President of Unitil, was present to speak about the ice storm power outages and to address any questions people may have. Mr. Black stated that Unitil has worked with Exeter for a while now and looks forward to continue working with the Town in the future. He gave kudos to everyone's efforts that helped in this trying situation. The results of the storm are not where Unitil wanted them to be and they are committed to do better. There were about 30,000 without power in the Seacoast region and over 1 million in total. The response of crew to come help was unprecedented. Crews from as far as Tennessee and Pennsylvania responded and traveled here to help devastated communities get back on track. There is a lot that needs to be improved and there will be an internal assessment done within Unitil. Better documentation and participation in regional discussions are ways to improve these situations. Mr. Pace asked Mr. Black what Unitil's policy is on the billing when the meters were off. Mr. Black said that no one will be charged for energy not used and Unitil will work out the correct payments. Ms. Gilman asked about instituting a citizen's emergency drill to have for these types of situations. Mr. Black said that Unitil would be open to that and would participate in it. Mr. Campbell made a statement saying that one of the biggest issues was the communication. Donna Shlackman also made a statement saying that she has a concern of the lack of communication and the rumors that went around which caused the Town's heartiness to diminish. The stress levels increased with the poor communication and she suggests that there be some way of communication to the people of the Town. Mr. Black agreed with Mr. Campbell and Ms. Shlackman and said that communication is on the top of their list of priorities. Mr. Dean asked about tree trimming and how it would have affected the power outages. Unitil does not foresee changing the amount of tree trimming. Vegetation control was not the biggest part of this since the damage was well outside the trim zone. Mr. Black said that this is the first step for improvements and there is still plenty of opportunity for people to follow up on this if anyone has any more questions they can call the

FINAL MINUTES

Unitil call center of write to the Chairman at Unitil as well. Mr. Pace thanked Mr. Black for coming to the meeting and reaching out to the community.

b. Chemical Bid Awards FY09

Chemical bids for the water and wastewater treatment processes were opened on December 14th, 2008. The DPW reviewed all bids and two of the bids require award by the Board of Selectmen as they surpass the \$25,000 threshold.

Mr. Campbell moved to award the bid of Sodium Hypochlorite to Borden and Remington of Fall River, MA in the amount of .9141 per gallon; Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell moved to award the bid for Liquid Sodium Bisulfate to JCI Jones Chemicals of Merrimack, New Hampshire in the amount of 2.17 per gallon; Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

c. Certified Local Government Application

The Town is seeking to become a certified local government through the State Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Historical Resources. The program is a partnership between the Town and the State to encourage and expand local involvement in preservation-related activities.

Ms. Gilman moved to authorize the application to the State of New Hampshire as a certified local government through the Division of Historical Resources; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

d. FY09 Budget Review and Warrant Articles

This is the fourth review of the FY09 Budget following the Budget Committee meetings in November.

Transportation Funding - Additional Funding of Meals on Wheels:

Ms. Gilman stated that the additional funding for Meals on Wheels is needed. It has not replaced the taxi service and it is a life line for some people. The local option fee was put in place to add to these services and grow them.

Ms. Gilman moved to include Meals on Wheels under article 11 and put in the budget for \$9,777 and have Coast be adjusted in the Human Services Budget. No second – motion fails.

Donna Shlackman came before the Board to speak of the Meals on Wheels Budget cut. She spoke of the local option fee and how it was to be used for these services. She also said that she is disappointed in the lack of support from the Board. All of their work has been thrown out and the money is being given to Task. Debbie Prue, Director of Meals on Wheels also spoke to the Board saying that she does not understand what to say to the people who use Meals on Wheels. This affects Exeter's senior citizens and she is disheartened by this decision. Mr. Pace suggested that they try to amend the warrant at the deliberative session in front of a broader group of people.

Recreation Revolving Fund:

Mr. Eastman stated that the fund should be kept. It was used in prior years to do many upgrades. Mike Favreau, Director of Parks and Recreation said that the Recreation Revolving fund was

FINAL MINUTES

passed in 2005 by 80% and they have gotten a lot of benefit from it. Mr. Pace stated that it is now too late in the game to make changes of this size and the fund will stay as it is. The Board agreed with Mr. Pace.

SCADA:

\$515,000 was recommended to be put in the budget for this project. The Board went over ideas to figure out how to include money for this project. Mr. Pace believes this project is something that needs to be done and should be funded.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the Scada project budget to \$240,000 and \$275,000 come from the water fund; Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell moved to increase the Water/Sewer fund by \$23,000 for the chemicals purchase; Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Snow/Ice Expendable Trust Fund:

Mr. Dean stated that this budget has been exceeded for the last 2 years. The demand is out there for this and it is something you can not plan for in a budget. It was determined that the outcome would be determined at the public hearing next week.

6. Public Hearings – none

**7. Permits & Approvals –
a. Tax Abatements & Exemptions –**

Veteran's Tax Credits:

Map/Lot/Unit

104/79/704

104/79/106

65/149

55/18

94/24/11

80/9

104/79/315

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the Veteran's Tax Credits as presented; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Abatements:

Map 11/ Lot 18/ Unit 2016

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the abatement as presented; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

b. Water/Sewer Abatements - none

c. Permits –

1. The Office of Homeland Security requested a permit to use the Nowak Room in the Town Office Building on January 15th, 2009 from 10:30am to 1:00pm.

FINAL MINUTES

2. The Exeter Day school requested a permit to hang a banner over Water Street from March 16th to March 29th, 2009.
3. The Oyster River Players requested a permit to use the Town Hall from January 24th February 1st, 2009.

Mr. Eastman moved to approve the permits as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Reports

a) Town Manager's Report

Russ Dean: Lessons were learned during the power outages. There were some problems with the generator at the public safety building. The Town will be talking to FEMA for funding about the generator issue. The Town is collecting information now for potential for individual assistance from FEMA. If you have suffered loss or damage from the ice storm please call the Town of Exeter Emergency Operation Center Ice Storm Damage Report Line at 778-9097. This information will also be on the Town website and channel 22. The water tank is closer to coming on line. They are waiting for representative from the tank company to be on site. There has been some preliminary language drafted for the Exeter Sportsmen's Club lease which will be reviewed by the Club.

b) Selectmen's Committee Reports

Julie Gilman: The Heritage Commission will meet next week.

Matt Quandt: Nothing to report.

Bob Eastman: Mr. Eastman inquired about the purchase of stickers for bulky pick up being sold at the transfer station. Mr. Pace stated that there could be an issue with the cash on hand. Mr. Dean said that the risks would have to be weighed and that he will do some research and see what other communities do and get back to Mr. Eastman.

Bill Campbell: Nothing to report.

Joe Pace: The next Selectmen meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13th along with the public hearing for the FY09 budget. There will be no Selectmen meeting on Monday, January 19th. The deliberative session will be held on Saturday, January 31st. The March election takes place on the 10th of March. Anyone seeking to place their name for elective office, the filing period is January 21st through January 30th at the cost of \$1.

c) Correspondence

1. Planning Board agenda 1/8/09 (zoning amendments)
2. DRA Warrant Article Workshop 1/6/09
3. New Hampshire Charitable Foundation re: Stay Warm NH Program
4. Andrew Stollar, 155 Court Street, re: employee praise
5. Tm Warr. 14 Towle Avenue, re: Sportsmen's Club Lease
6. Ed Desmarais (Exeter Resident) to Debra Howland, re: Unutil (BOS copy)

FINAL MINUTES

7. Notice of Information Meeting, Potential Economic Recovery Funding, January 9, 2009
10:00am, Concord (for large public water systems/wastewater systems).

9. **Second Public Comment** – none.

10. **Non Public Session** – Exception 91-a3 II (a) employee compensation;

11. **Adjournment** -

At 9:05pm Mr. Eastman motioned to move into non public session Exception 91-a3 II (a) employee compensation; Mr. Campbell seconded. Ms. Gilman called the roll.

Mr. Eastman: Aye. Mr. Campbell: Aye. Mr. Quandt: Aye. Ms. Gilman: Aye. Mr. Pace: Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Caruso
Recording Secretary