

## FINAL MINUTES

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

### MINUTES

March 8, 2010

#### 1. Call Meeting to Order

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

#### 2. Public Comment

Ms. Anne Surman of Hampton Falls Road said that she has served on the Budget Committee for the past several years and is currently a candidate for selectman. She wanted to address the letter that was in the paper recently that said that some of the candidates had not done their homework. She feels that the Budget Committee has made many good suggestions regarding the Finance Department's issues which have not yet been fully explored.

She was glad to see that a lockbox was implemented last year for tax and water/sewer collections and encouraged people to use it. She feels that the lockbox could be implemented to an even greater degree and that there is still a learning curve in the process. Another suggestion made that has not been fully explored is changing to a biweekly payroll. The Board has the authority to change the job description of the receptionist to include duties that would help out the Finance Department. Job descriptions are changed in companies all the time. Munismart has not yet been fully implemented either. She is very familiar with software roll-outs and understands that it will take some time to complete this process. She understands that it is difficult for some employees who are used to the old software to adjust to a new one but it is management's job to facilitate this process. She would like to see these suggestions explored fully, as well as utilizing the \$ 15,000 set aside for consulting on GASB issues, before a decision is made to hire additional staff.

Mr. Eastman said that Thomas Needham sent a letter to the town manager thanking the Town for the wonderful assistance that he received with respect to his need to contact Comcast. He said that the individual who assisted him is someone you really want being part of your organization.

Mr. Griset of Cullen Way had questions regarding Mr. Campbell's recent letter to the editor that appeared in the paper. He said that Mr. Campbell's letter implied that the amendment made by a handful of citizens at Deliberative Session hurt the Town. Mr. Campbell stated that he disagreed with Mr. Griset's interpretation of his letter and that his intent was to refer to an editorial that previously appeared in the Exeter Newsletter. Mr. Griset said he wanted to clarify that the two finance positions were removed due to general objections in town and that it was an attempt to reduce the budget so that maintenance items could be added back in. It was a combined effort to remove what would be permanent positions and put maintenance items back in the budget instead of having the maintenance items as warrant articles. He recommends that people approve the proposed budget. It is a little bit higher than last year but includes needed maintenance items. Mr. Griset stated that he has done his research and helped audit the water and sewer department in the past. There are issues that remain to be fixed after many years, such as the commingling of water and sewer enterprise funds with the General Fund.

Ms. Colleen St. Onge said that she felt Mr. Campbell's letter was unfair to some of the candidates. She was unable to be at the audit presentation meeting because she had other obligations. All candidates deserve the same appreciation and respect.

Mr. Don Clement said that this meeting was not the proper venue for this type of discussion on the eve

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of the Election and thought that this was very sad. He stated that he was not going to get involved in this argument tonight. It doesn't solve any of the Town's problems.

Mr. Gerry Hamel, Budget Committee member for many years, said that he agrees with Mr. Clement that the focus should be on solving the Town's problems. The Finance Department has problems and no one is saying that they don't need additional staff, but he wants to see all avenues explored before the Town starts hiring people. The people who spend their time volunteering on the Budget Committee deserve the respect of having their suggestions explored and considered. He understands and feels bad that the learning curve is tough on the Finance Department. He asked the Board to please utilize the Budget Committee's suggestions and not just disregard them.

Mr. Griset said that he was in agreement that everyone was looking for solutions. The assessing clerk is fully qualified to assist in the finance department as she has a decade of accounting experience in her position previous to working at the Town of Exeter. The receptionist has actually helped work in the water and sewer department during a vacancy a few years ago. Mr. Griset asked if the Town hired someone new for the finance department today. The Board said no.

### **3. Minutes and Proclamations**

#### **a. Regular Session Minutes of February 22, 2010**

**Mr. Eastman moved to waiver the reading of the minutes of February 22, 2010 and approve as presented. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

#### **b. Regular Session Minutes of March 2, 2010**

**Mr. Eastman moved to waiver the reading of the minutes of March 2, 2010 and approve as presented. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

### **4. Appointments**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to appoint Karl Kunz to the Economic Development Commission for a term to expire on April 30, 2013. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

### **5. Department Reports**

#### **a. Police**

Chief Kane said that the recent storm had taxed public safety to its limits in terms of equipment and manpower. The police department ran on generator power for 15 hours. It was a 3 day event for the police and fire and communications systems. As a department they have debriefed and identified ways that they can further improve. He can't give Unitil enough credit for their response and said that they really learned their lessons from last year's ice storm. They were prepared for this one. The police were always able to reach someone at Unitil and get an answer. They had 2 conference calls per day with updates on status and the number of crews out working on the problems. The majority of the town had power restored by midnight Sunday.

The Police Department put in a long 9 hour day under the microscope of the accreditation assessors. Although they may not have an official answer for 30 days, the assessors left saying that they didn't see any reason why they wouldn't be accredited. They were impressed with Exeter's dispatch center and evidence collection and storage.

They participated in the Seabrook evacuation drill which tests EOC capabilities recently. They had a

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significant stabbing and assault on Sanborn Street on Valentine's Day. The investigation is currently ongoing and they have made an arrest. Chief Kane has made the changes to his monthly report that the Board previously requested and emailed the February report today. If anyone has any questions please feel free to ask him. Their detectives recently taught a Cyber Bullying Class and a class on how to be safe on the internet to elementary level students which was very well received. Chief Kane thanked Mr. Eastman for his years of service to the Town of Exeter.

### **b. Human Resources**

Donna said that they are working on the personnel plan. They are putting together a committee and hope to start meeting with the committee in order to have a second draft available soon. They are reviewing benefits in the hopes of saving some money and improving them. There were substantial increases to benefits this year. They are gathering ideas and would like to make some adjustments. They continue having monthly workshops to benefit both employees and department managers. She recently attended a training on leadership employment law which was very beneficial. She is a member of the Safety Committee which had their first meeting in February. They are working on updating the Safety Manual and hope to have it completed and out to employees this year. The next Safety Committee meeting will be on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. So far this year there have been 3 resignations and 1 retirement. They have filled one position in the police department, one in fire and one for a wastewater treatment plant operator. There are currently two open positions, a custodian and a wastewater maintenance technician.

## **6. Discussion/Action Items**

### **a. Nomination of Squamscott River to NHRMPP**

Theresa Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission explained that a nomination was being developed to add the Squamscott River to the New Hampshire Rivers Management Protection Program. In 1995, the Exeter River, which starts in Chester, was enrolled in the NH Rivers Management Protection Program. The NHRMPP is a two tier program looking at river and watershed protection. It establishes a local advisory committee for the river's stakeholders. It has been a long held goal of the local river advisory committee, of which Don Clement is the Chair, to add the Squamscott River to the management program. It is important to note that it is one river with two different names. It becomes tidal at one point but is the same river. Last year the NH legislature amended the rivers program statute to include tidal rivers. They have met with the Planning Board and Conservation Commission and have their support as well as the support of the Boards of Stratham and Newfields. They would like to request a letter of support from the Board of Selectman of Exeter.

When the Exeter River was added to the program in 1995, a section of the river from Great Brook to Great Dam was excluded. At that time there was much active discussion about in stream flow rules and the ability to draw water off of the river, so this particular section was wisely left out. Ms. Walker would like to know if the Board would like her to include that section in her current nomination now.

Mr. Quandt asked if DES or ERLAC was responsible for enforcing the rules. Ms. Walker said that the committee is completely advisory and does not enforce rules. It is a citizens based group that reviews plans and makes comments. Mr. Quandt asked if enforcement will come from DES. He also asked if the Squamscott River is adopted into this policy would there be anything that would prevent Exeter from drawing water from the river whether there is a dam on it or not. Mr. Wayne Ives, In Stream Flow Representative from DES, said that there are already rules in place that say that we have to maintain biological and physical integrity of surface waters. This legislation is narrative standards only. In stream flow quantifies it with numbers. The goal is to generate a management scheme that allows for adequate water supply and the protection of the biological and physical integrity of the water, wildlife and

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vegetation. Mr. Ives said that they are in the process of developing a pilot program right now for the Souhegan and Lamprey Rivers. They are developing water management plans and these will be test cases since it is a pilot program. Hopefully the legislature will like what they come up with. It is a common misconception that they are only there to protect the fish, vegetation and wildlife. They are there to protect all the resources which by statute definition includes the public water supply. As things go forward some things will have to change but in most cases these are relatively minor changes. Exeter is already working on a multi-phased water development process with some good viable alternatives. The goal is to define a level of protection that supports vegetation and fish while still providing the needed water supply. In the future there will likely be more upstream water users competing with downstream water users. This program allows the water users to negotiate between themselves and is not a heavy handed state process.

Laura Weit, Acting Rivers Coordinator for the DES, explained that any organization or person can submit a nomination. Once a nomination is submitted she has 30 days to review it and determine whether or not it is complete. She then passes completed applications with her recommendation to the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RAC). They review it to be sure it meets certain criteria and make a recommendation. A public hearing is held and the comments are passed on, along with the recommendations, to the DES Commission. It is then forwarded to the General Court and signed into law by the Governor. After that RSA 43 is revised to include the river.

Mr. Quandt asked when the last time was that a river was added. Laura answered that it was in 2007.

Ms. Gilman asked if the management process is open to be changed depending on what occurs between reviews. Mr. Ives said that the whole thing is always open to review.

Mr. Mike Lampert mentioned that there are CSO's, 2 wastewater treatment plants and Clemson pond putting untreated sewage into the river. He asked what this would mean for the Town down the road regarding these loads and what would happen if another town such as Stratham decided to add a plant to the river. Ms. Walker replied that the nomination has no effect on these things. The nomination includes a description of the character of the river as it appears. It talks about the river and how the river is currently being used but doesn't get into loads or discussion on how these loads need to be managed. The advisory committee provides a voice and opportunity to talk to other towns about the river and work together.

Mr. Campbell said that Exeter is in the middle of deciding whether or not to remove the Great Dam and asked if this would affect anything. Would it matter if the river was described with or without the dam? Ms. Walker said it would not matter.

Mr. Quandt asked if it would affect the decision whether or not to remove the dam in any way? Ms. Walker said it would not.

Ms. Walker said that she needs to know two things from the Board by the end of the month:

1. Does the Board support the nomination of the Squamscott River to the NHRMPP?
2. Shall the nomination include the stretch of river between the Great Brook and the Great Dam that was omitted in 1995?

Mr. Quandt said that he thought this should be referred to the River Study Committee.

Mr. Griset said that the decision in 1995 not to include the section of river was based on the fact that the

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Town of Exeter and mill owners owned the flowage rights of the Exeter River to the town boundary. That section is not owned by the State and the Board controls the flow of the river there. He asked what the regulatory impacts and economic benefits would be if Exeter becomes involved in this program.

Laura said that one of the benefits is that it is a way to get all of the stakeholders together to talk about what the river means to them. Folks on the advisory committee are nominated by their town and able to give comments to the State. A designated river is at the top of the pile at the state level when grant funds are reviewed and monies are available.

Ms. Walker said that the Exeter River was the first in the State to have a fluvial geomorphic assessment done. As a direct result of that and the identification of fluvial zones, ARRA stimulus funds were awarded to several towns in the watershed including Exeter to address issues found during the assessment. These funds would not have been awarded if it hadn't been for the study. She said that there are other examples as well.

### **b. Letter of Support: "WestEx" Redevelopment Plan**

Theresa Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission explained that they have been working with the Exeter Train Committee to submit a grant application to Plan NH for a large parcel of land adjacent to the train station that was previously referred to as the Al Rose shoe site. Ms. Walker is requesting a letter of support from the Board for this grant application. Plan NH is a non profit organization that assists communities with land use planning. They have grant monies available from the EPA to use to assist municipalities with developing brownsfield sites. Brownsfield sites by definition are land parcels that are either contaminated or perceived to be contaminated due to previous use or existing use and no one wants to buy them. The Planning Commission has been working with the owner Mr. Roy and has met with the Exeter Train Committee. The applications for Plan NH are due next week. The cost to be involved is \$ 5,000 if selected. Ms. Walker said that the Planning Commission can leverage \$ 4,000 of that on Exeter's behalf so the Town of Exeter would only need to commit to \$ 1,000.

Mr. Don Briseldon of the Exeter Train Station Committee thanked Theresa Walker and the Rockingham Planning Commission for putting this all together. He feels that this is a wonderful opportunity to do a charrette through Plan NH. The Downeaster has been phenomenally successfully and it is expected that passenger use will continue to increase. The committee has come up with a flexible boundary around the tracks which they have termed "WestEx". He feels that this is a great economic opportunity for Exeter and asked for Board endorsement.

Mr. Quandt asked for clarification about the \$ 5,000 cost referenced on the application. Ms. Walker said that Plan NH is a competitive program and there is a \$ 5,000 fee for their services if selected. This fee was identified as an obstacle to Exeter's involvement. Scott Vogel, Transportation Planner in Theresa's office, found \$ 4,000 to provide on Exeter's behalf so that the net cost to the town would be \$ 1,000.00. The \$ 4,000 would come from Federal transportation funds that have been set aside to assist local municipalities with land use planning. Plan NH applications are due next week and answers will come by end of the month.

Mike Lampert stated for viewers at home that the term Brownsfield site means that the land is potentially contaminated. He asked if the Town was thinking about purchasing the site down the road and developing it. Perhaps it could be sealed and made into a pedestrian bridge. Ms. Walker said that the land is for sale. The results of the Plan NH work would give information to anyone interested in buying it because there will be known quantities. However, if the Town were to purchase the property, Brownsfield Cleanup Funds would be available and these are only for municipalities.

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Mr. Lampert asked what the nature of the taint is. If the site were to be developed, would dust be a problem for nearby residents? Don Briseldon said that we are getting ahead of ourselves. The purpose of Plan NH is to look at what it would mean to develop the site. The Station Committee has looked at some of the items that Mr. Lampert mentioned. Everyone will be better informed after the Plan NH charrette is completed.

Mr. Rick Vandeberg, who works on the Brownsfields grant program, said that the program exists to help property owners and potential purchasers of land that has a real or perceived taint. The purpose is to redevelop sites with a long history of usage. Often no one wants to spend money to assess a site because if it is found to have contaminants it will then cost a lot of money to clean it up. It is known that chemicals were used as part of the shoe factory process and so there is concern that there could be contaminants in the ground. So far what has been done for Al Rose shoe is a Phase I environmental assessment. This is a paper study and would be something that any buyer of the land would need to have. This study describes what contaminants could be on the site based on its history. The next step would be a Phase II study which would actually confirm whether or not any of the items identified in Phase I do exist. Since Phase II has not been completed, he cannot fully answer Mr. Lampert's previous question at this time. However based on what he has seen so far of the Phase I study, he said that in terms of a developer coming in he feels that the site is very promising.

Ms. Walker has already requested a letter of support from the Rockingham Economic Development Corp for this project. Ms. Gilman said that she felt this idea of looking into developing an area of town that has been neglected and also had great potential for growth is wonderful and quite a deal for \$ 1,000.00.

**Mr. Aldrich moved to sign a Letter of Support for the West Ex Redevelopment Plan project and provide the \$ 1,000 (should the project be approved.) Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

### **c. Provident Bank Lease Update**

October 2010 is the approximate construction completion date for the new Provident bank building on Portsmouth Ave. Their current lease of the portion of the Town Hall goes through June 2010 and has a provision to allow it to be extended month by month after that. Ms. Alison Field of Provident Bank advised the Board that the bank would like to work out an arrangement with the Town to maintain the ATM that is currently installed in the vestibule after they move to their new location. They would like to work out a lease for the 110 square foot space.

Mr. Campbell asked what the impact would be if it was decided at a future point to move a Town department over to that Town Hall space. He was also concerned that it might appear that the Town was favoring Provident Bank. Ms. Field pointed out that it is very common for banks to lease space inside other buildings and Ms. Gilman felt that if they were leasing it would be OK. Ms. Field said that if it was agreed that they could continue to lease the space after they move to their new location they would install a second door which would effectively block access to further down the hallway. This would not diminish the Town's ability to use the space. This small 110 square foot space has no windows and no heat and is not usable office space. The Town would control access to the second locked door. After hours access to the front door is controlled by a swipe card.

There was Board consensus that Mr. Dean come up with a new lease for the Provident Bank for the ATM space. Ms. Field said that it has been a pleasure working with this Board and they very much appreciate the relationship. Mr. Campbell said that the bank has done a nice job of upgrading the space

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and it has been a mutually beneficial relationship.

### **d. River Hazards Policy Review – Second Read**

Mr. Campbell said that further to last week's discussion he would still like to see wording in Section 3 that a property owner would reference DES guidelines for how to go about removing hazards on their property. Mr. Quandt asked if there was any mechanism to assist property owners if the removal costs were too expensive. Mr. Dean said that there would need to be a budget item for such costs and that he was not sure what the guidelines would be for this. There is currently a situation with a large tree near the Linden Street bridge that poses a potential problem to the bridge and also involves private property so there is definitely a need for a River Hazards Policy.

Mr. Quandt said that he can't support the policy now after Mr. Dean's comments about costs needing to be a budget item. Expense definitely has to be considered. Mr. Quandt was asked by the other members of the Board to take the item back to the River Committee with Mr. Dean's comments about expenses needing to be a budget item.

### **e. Economic Development Commission Update**

The Exeter Development Commission was established in March 1967. This commission has not been active lately but is in the process of coming back together. They have quite a bit of power as they are able to buy, sell, lease and develop properties. They have their own by-laws and handle their own money. Mr. Dean verified today that they have an account at Ocean Bank with a current balance of \$ 25,164. Ms. Gilman said that the commission has been so inactive that many people don't understand the powers of the commission. She would like to look back into old meeting minutes to see what the original intent of the commission was. State legislation allowed for it to be set up. Mr. Campbell said that there appear to be some conflicts with the RSA that governs it and he'd be happy to do some work on updating it. Mr. Eastman said that the whole ordinance should be reviewed and rewritten. Mr. Campbell feels that it is a good commission to have and that it just needs to be updated. He'll work on it and bring it back before the Board again. Ms. Gilman feels there needs to be more public education about it.

Mr. Dean asked if the Board would like to see some sort of advisory committee in the meantime or is there the feeling that the updated ordinance would be forthcoming in the near future. There are 4 or 5 tangible things that this group could work on. One example would be to look at a TIFT District proposal. TIFT stands for Tax Increment Finance District. Mr. Campbell said that they don't have much of a commission yet to work with as he believes there are currently only 3 members. One member was just appointed tonight.

### **f. Letter of Commitment for Transportation Enhancement Grant**

Ms. Gilman said that previously a Letter of Intent had been submitted to the Department of Transportation for a grant to purchase and develop a train station baggage building. The project has been ranked # 26. It has just come to her attention that they are now asking for Board of Selectmen commitment to match the funding that is being requested in the grant. Someone has to give a 10 minute presentation to the State on March 15<sup>th</sup> to explain to the State why Exeter should get these grant funds. Mr. Dean said that the Town's cost would be \$ 71,000 and that it would be a warrant article in 2011 if the grant is approved.

**Ms. Gilman moved that the Board of Selectmen submit a Letter of Commitment to the Department of Transportation for application 0914TE for historical renovation of the 1890**

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**baggage building subject to approval by town meeting in 2011. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

### **7. Regular Business**

#### **a. Accounts Payable and Payroll Manifests**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to approve a weekly payroll warrant dated March 3, 2010 in the amount of \$ 164,723.17. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to approve a weekly accounts payable warrant dated March 5, 2010 in the amount of \$ 2,125,222.86. Big Ticket Items: \$ 1,037,000 to the Cooperative School District, \$ 834,000 to the Exeter School District, \$ 15,600 to Dennis K Burke for fuel, \$ 6,300 to Mitchell Municipal Group for legal services, \$ 98,000 for the February payment to NH Retirement, \$ 5,900 for Fire Dept supplies, \$ 39,400 to Underwood Engineers for the I/I Study and \$ 46,200 for electricity and natural gas. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

Mr. Eastman asked if a new employee had been hired today and Mr. Dean said no.

#### **b. 2010 Budget Department Update**

Mr. Dean said that he had an issue for the Board regarding the budget for the Finance department. Mr. Knight's amendment at deliberative session that removed monies with the intent of removing the 2 proposed new positions also removed an additional \$ 9,518 beyond the cost of the 2 positions. It now has to be determined where to adjust for the additional loss of \$ 9,518.00. Mr. Eastman said that this issue was brought up at deliberative session but no one carried through with a motion to restore it. Mr. Aldrich said that he believes that the current issue at hand is where the \$ 9,518.00 is going to come from. Mr. Dean said that they can continue discussion on this next week after they know what budget they will be working with for 2010.

#### **c. Tax Abatements & Exemptions**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to approve a Veteran's Tax Credit for a service connected disability in the amount of \$ 2,500.00. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to approve six Elderly Exemptions totaling \$ 1,165,506. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement for Map 19, Lot 16, Unit 55 in the total amount of \$ 689.91 plus interest. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement request for Map 71, Lot 115 in the total amount of \$ 1,311.96 plus interest. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement for Map 94, Lot 24, Unit 13 in the amount of \$ 3,994.69 plus interest. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement request for Map 72, Lot 121 in the amount of \$ 1,305.17 plus interest. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

**Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement request for Map 86, Lot 8 in the amount of \$ 502.16**

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plus interest. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement for Map 100, Lot 2, Unit 3 in the amount of \$ 610.74 plus interest. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement for Map 64, Lot 105, Unit 89 in the amount of \$ 260.13 plus interest. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement for Map 95, Lot 64, Unit 55 in the amount of \$ 389.06 plus interest. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Aldrich moved to deny 6 abatement requests for:

Map 73, Lot 53, Unit 17

Map 87, Lot 18, Unit 23

Map 72, Lot 117, Unit 5

Map 71, Lot 75

Map 87, Lot 8, Unit B-07

Map 19, Lot 16, Unit 15

Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous

### d. Water / Sewer Abatements

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve a water and sewer abatement for 109 Epping Road for a one in 10 year abatement as recommended by the water & sewer department in the amount of \$ 685.67. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve the abatement request for 11 Allard Street for a one in 10 year abatement as recommended by the water & sewer department pending customer proof that the deficiency has been corrected in the amount of \$ 84.79. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve the water and sewer abatement for 12 Patricia Ave for a one in 10 year abatement as recommended by the water & sewer department in the amount of \$ 213.08. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

### e. Permits

1. Requests from the U.S. Census Bureau to use the Town Hall for the dates of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> from 8 am until 5 pm, April 12<sup>th</sup> thru April 15<sup>th</sup> from 8 am until 5 pm and April 27<sup>th</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup> from 8 am until 4:30 pm. It is where folks who are working on the census will go for training and will serve as a central base of operations. One permit shows the Wheelwright room instead of the Town Hall. This will be corrected.

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve the permits as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded. Mr. Quandt asked for discussion and inquired about the letter accompanying the permit application which indicates that they do not have insurance. Mr. Dean said that they are claiming an exemption from the insurance requirement since they are an arm of the Federal Government. The Federal Government is self-insured and any claims that could arise would be governed by the Federal Tort Claims Act. Mr. Dean said that they will confirm that. Vote: 4-1 Mr. Quandt opposed.

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2. **Women's Club request to use the Town Hall for a book sale on April 17<sup>th</sup>**
3. **Request to use the Town Hall for a concert to benefit the NH SPCA on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 10:00 pm**
4. **Request by the Water Street Bookstore to use the Town Hall for a book signing on April 16th**

**Mr. Quandt moved to approve the previous 3 permits. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

### **f. Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Dean thanked Arthur Baillargeon for providing many nice photos for the annual town report. He reminded viewers that sample ballots are available at the town clerk's office and on-line and that the polls will be open tomorrow from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. Voting will be at the Talbot Gym on Linden Street. He thanked the Police Department for putting out the sign at the intersection for the public. The next meeting will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> when the Board reorganizes. Public Works has expanded the transfer station hours this week in the wake of the storm. They will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 2:30 pm except for Thursday when they will be open through 4:00 pm to take in debris from the storm.

There is an issue with a wetlands permit regarding 46 Brentwood Road just issued by DES. It does not mean that a building permit will be issued. They'll see how the zoning ordinance amendment goes tomorrow. It may be that a conditional use permit will be the way to go.

There has been a resolution regarding a private sewer line issue on Water Street that the Town has been maintaining. Mr. Jeffers has done a nice job of facilitating this process with the business owners. The town will be getting reimbursement. The town is not in a position to take over the line due to its condition but will continue to maintain it as long as it is being reimbursed.

There is a request from an Eagle Scout Chris Brooks to work on the Gilman cannons. The Gilman Park easement is in its final stages. Title search is in process and they hope to have a deed by the end of the month for the Board of Selectmen to sign.

The Finance Department has a volunteer named Laura Hill. Laura, who has a bachelor's and masters' degree as well as a great deal of accounting experience, is not working at the moment and volunteered her services for the time being. She started assisting the Finance Department this week.

### **g. Legislative Updates**

Mr. Quandt said that there is currently a bill being considered which allows for no tax on telephone poles. This is a temporary law that is done largely at the request of the PUC and passes about every two years. New Hampshire is one of only two of all 50 states that exempt utilities from pole taxes. It is a getting a serious review this year. The vote is on Wednesday. Call your senators if you wish to express your opinion.

### **h. Selectmen's Committee Reports**

Mr. Eastman had nothing to report.

Ms. Gilman said that the Transportation Enhancement grant applications are being considered on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Concord. On March 10<sup>th</sup> decisions on Energy Block grant applications will be announced. The Heritage Commission has had two demolition reviews. Both property owners have been very

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cooperative. They have been deemed not critically important to the town's heritage so they are coming down.

Mr. Aldrich announced that the Conservation Commission meets tomorrow.

Mr. Quandt announced that the Cable Committee meets tomorrow at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Campbell had no committee reports. Since this is Mr. Eastman's last night, he presented him with a plaque commemorating his 9 years of service to the Town of Exeter.

### **i. Correspondence – None.**

#### **8. Second Public Comment**

Mr. Eastman said that it has been an honor to serve the citizens of Exeter for the past 9 years. He has been inspired and uplifted by the good citizens of Exeter. There have been good days and there have been bad days. He thanked Anita and the department managers and employees of Exeter who have expressed their concerns to him over the years as well as keeping him apprised of issues. Hopefully these efforts have made Exeter a better place. He has one challenge for the new Board. He thinks they should hire an outside consulting firm that reports directly to the Board to look into the hostile town working environment.

#### **9. Non-Public Session – None.**

#### **10. Adjournment**

**Mr. Eastman motioned to adjourn at 9:12 pm. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mancinelli  
Recording Secretary