

Draft Minutes

Exeter Board of Selectmen

January 6, 2014

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. 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 Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Minutes & Proclamations

a. Regular Meeting: December 30, 2013

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to accept the minutes of the November 4, 2013 BOS meeting as amended. Motion carried – all in favor with one abstention from Selectwoman Gilman.

No proclamations.

4. Appointments

No appointments.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a. New Business

I. Representative Donna Schlachman – Adult Day Care

Donna Schlachman was at the meeting to discuss the closing of the Adult Medical Day Care. It closed on December 31, 2013. She is part of the county delegation which looks over budget and such, but has no control over the three county commissioners that closed the program. She said the commissioners have a lot of power and don't always abide by 91-A, as they do not make all times, dates and places of meetings public. She said all the county delegation can do is vote on the budget and allocate the money.

She went on to talk about the Adult Day Care, saying it keeps people out of nursing homes. She is concerned about the erosion of services. She wanted to give one commissioner, Tom

Tambarello, thanks for being the only one to vote to keep the daycare open. She asked the BOS to please raise their voices and ask them to reopen the daycare.

Selectman Quandt asked what the waiting list was like to get into the daycare. Ms. Schlachman said she was unsure. She said the daycare is much cheaper than a nursing home, as it costs only \$71/day as opposed to \$350/day for a nursing home.

Selectman Ferraro thanked Ms. Schlachman for her presentation. He said the daycare is also beneficial as it allows people to work. He said in 2012 the county took in \$3 million more than expended. The numbers say there is enough money to keep the daycare open and keep people working.

Ms. Schlachman said the point isn't to make money; it is to provide a service. The daycare helps families.

Vice Chair Chartrand said he shares Selectman Ferraro's concerns about the counties large fund balance. Selectwoman Gilman said she appreciates Ms. Schlachman's efforts.

Chairman Clement said the Board could write a letter to the commissioners.

A Motion was made by Selectman Ferraro and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to ask the Town Manager to write a letter to the County Commissioners asking them to reconsider the closing of the Adult Daycare and reopen it as soon as possible. Motion carried – all in favor.

II. Great Dam Discussion

Chairman Clement reminded that they would bring discussion back by this meeting to see if the Board had any recommendations on an option for the dam. He asked the audience if anyone was in attendance that did not have a chance to speak at the prior meeting when this was discussed, they could now. No one did.

Chairman Clement went on to say they have an opportunity here. There has to be some kind of resolution. There was an intensive study on the dam which resulted in four solutions. He looked to the Board for a motion.

Selectman Ferraro said removal of the dam was most cost effective and the most economic and environmentally friendly alternative. If they chose to stabilize the dam they could be back in this position in 5 years.

A Motion was made by Selectman Ferraro and seconded by Chairman Clement to place a warrant article on the ballot for this March that would authorize the appropriating and raising of funds for removing the dam and restoring the Exeter River. The floor was opened for discussion. Selectwoman Gilman said she is not for removal. She is for stabilizing. She thinks this is a major impact on the historical district. The dam is a cultural resource to Exeter. The

loos of the dam will affect people's opinion of the town. Selectman Quandt said he is not ready to vote for removing the dam. Vice Chair Chartrand thanked Mimi Becker for addressing his concerns and said he is not ready to move forward either. Chairman Clement said he does not think stabilizing the dam will really work. He said it may look attractive but does not think it is a viable option. He thinks dam removal is the best option. With a Motion on the table, the Board voted Ferraro and Clement in favor, and Gilman, Chartrand and Quandt voting nay. Motion denied.

III. Ed Doris – Lincoln Street Parking

Ed Doris, from Good Karma Café, spoke about the parking issue on Lincoln Street. He talked about the parking spots in front of his café, saying cars are allowed to park there for hours or days to take the train and it does not allow for his customers to have parking. He said the tipping point for business is parking. He provided a picture of a car parked in front of his café that was there taking up a parking spot for three days. He asked the Board for these spaces to be made short-term parking spaces. He said most of the businesses in his area agree with him.

Paul Moore, from Trakside Café, was also there to speak. He said since the train opened their two extra stops his sales have dropped and it is because cars are taking up the parking spots for days. He said after 10 am there is no parking at all for his customers. He brought a petition which was signed by 300 people saying they are sick of there being no parking. He said as they keep opening train stations, the parking will become less. He also asked the Board to make the spots two-hour parking or something short-term.

Chairman Clement asked if there are any parking regulations on Lincoln Street. Mr. Moore said there are none.

Selectwoman Gilman said they have looked into this before. They talked about putting the business side of Lincoln Street posted at two hour parking, then further down past the businesses putting them at all day parking.

Vice Chair Chartrand said he would like to bounce this issue to the Chief of Police and have him do an analysis. He's done this before and gives the Board his recommendation.

Chairman Clement said they will give this to the Chief of Police and get the process going. Selectman Quandt said they should schedule a first hearing have the hearings while the Chief does his research. Chairman Clement scheduled the first hearing for January 27.

IV. FY14 Budget & Warrant Articles

Chairman Clement said last meeting the Board asked Mr. Dean to cut the budget between 1% and 1.5%. Mr. Dean said a 1% decrease would be \$173,579 and a 1.5% decrease would be \$260,368. He said he wanted to create the least amount of impact possible when doing the decreases. All the possible decreases he suggested equal \$456,402. He continued to go

through his recommendations. When going through the possible budget decreases, the Board decided they were good with most of the cuts, but wanted to have more discussion about the following: IT- Various, PL-Studies, FD-Sal/Wages OT, PW-Dump Truck Lease/Purchase, PH-Road Paving/Maintenance, PM- Maintenance Projects, WE- District Relief.

IT- Selectwoman Gilman said she was concerned about the software deferrals. Vice Chair Chartrand said all department heads have approved these cuts with Mr. Dean. The Board agreed they agreed with this cut.

PL- Selectwoman Gilman had wanted to discuss this more but decided she, along with the rest of the Board, agreed with this cut.

FD- Selectman Ferraro talked about a 2007 report which advocated reducing OT to zero. He had a copy of the report which says to eliminate OT and reduce emergency recalls. Chief Corneau said he has never seen any elimination of OT. He referenced the minutes from the October 2007 meeting. He provided the Board with a handout which shows the Fire Departments History of Overtime. Selectman Ferraro asked if OT includes EMS. Chief Corneau said yes it does. Selectman Ferraro said he would like to defer this cut until he has the full report.

PW- Chairman Clement said the 6-ton dump trucks do all the work such as hauling. He said the Board is recommending buying the new dump truck. He thinks they should leave it in the budget. He said this dump truck needs replacing. The Board agreed they should leave it in the budget for now.

PH- Vice Chair Chartrand said he thinks the Budget Recommendation Committee did a good job with presenting the paving budget. He would like to leave the budget where they left it. Harry Thayer spoke, explaining how the Budget Recommendation Committee comes up with the paving budget. The budget was done differently this year and Mr. Thayer would like it to go back to the way it has been in the past; with \$650,000 in the budget and \$250,000 in the warrant. The Board decided they would leave the paving budget as it is and with no cuts.

PM- Selectwoman Gilman said the painting of the Rec building was last done in 2007 and they have been talking about repainting it for years. She does not feel comfortable taking money out of the maintenance budget. Selectman Ferraro and Selectman Quandt support the cut. Chairman Clement said a majority of the Board is in favor of the cut.

WE- Chairman Clement and Vice Chair Chartrand said this is important and to keep it in the budget.

So to recap, the Board decided all the cuts were good except paving, the dump truck, and direct relief. The total cuts are \$282,981.

Selectman Ferraro had a few budget cut recommendations. First, he does not think the Rayne's Farm roof being redone should be in the budget. Selectwoman Gilman said this is another deferral of maintenance that is going to cause damage. The Board does not support this cut.

Selectman Ferraro's next recommendation is to defer the hiring of the Economic Development Director. He said he was initially in favor of this position, but when he learned that the new Director would have to generate \$14.5 million worth of development in order to compensate for their salary, he changed his mind. Vice Chair Chartrand gave some numbers. He talked about how it was one of the Board's goals to have this position. He said they spent the whole year putting this in the budget. Chairman Clement said Exeter is in competition with surrounding towns. He says they need this position. Selectwoman Gilman agreed with Chairman Clement. No one on the Board wants to cut this out.

Selectman Ferraro also recommended cutting COAST money as some surrounding towns don't pay their share and Exeter shouldn't have to either. Selectman Quandt said they do need to look more at the transportation money, but the Board did not want to cut the COAST money.

Chairman Clement said they would bring the budget numbers to the January 21st BOS meeting.

Chairman Clement asked about the town warrant article. Selectman Ferraro asked if they are sponsoring an increase on the local option fee. Vice Chair Chartrand said the warrant is in fairly good shape. He wanted to defer going over the warrant until the January 21st meeting, unless there were any immediate concerns.

b. Old Business

Nothing at this time.

6. Regular Business

a. Bid Openings/Surplus Declarations

None.

b. A/P and Payroll Manifests

None.

c. Budget Updates

Already discussed.

d. Tax Abatements & Exemptions

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Selectman Quandt to approve three abatements for Map 68, Lot 2 in the amounts of \$285.66, \$292.90, and \$294.14. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to approve the Veteran's Credit for Map 71, Lot 85 in the amount of \$2,000. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to approve the following Veteran's Credits all in the amount of \$500 each: Map 64/Lot 4, Map 63/ Lot 167, Map 86/Lot 31, Map 104/Lot 79/Unit 130, Map 29/Lot 17, Map 90/Lot 18/Unit 8, and Map 74/Lot 32. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to reconsider the first Veteran's Credit motion regarding the \$2,000. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Gilman and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to approve a Veteran's Credit for Map 71, Lot 85 in the amount of \$500 and a Service Connected Total Permanent Disability of \$2000. Motion carried – all in favor.

e. Water/Sewer Abatements

None.

f. Permits

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to set aside the Town Hall for the UFO Festival on 8/29/14 and 8/30/14. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Gilman to set aside the Town Hall for Susan Drinker on 4/11/14 for a children's concert. Motion carried- all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Gilman to set aside the Town Hall for Karen Priar on 2/27/14 for a birthday party for Governor Hassan. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Gilman to approve the use of the Town Hall by Evelyn Oar and the Women's Club on November 23, 2014. Motion carried – all in favor.

Mr. Dean said there was a gentleman in attendance that has the Town Hall reserved for April 26 for an event and is requesting to serve alcohol at the event. A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to turn this over to the Town Manager. Motion carried – all in favor.

g. Town Manager's Report

None.

h. Legislative Update

None.

i. Selectman's Committee Reports

Selectman Ferraro had no meetings to report. He said Water/Sewer was meeting on Wednesday and Planning Board was meeting Thursday.

Vice Chair Chartrand had no meetings to report but wanted to thank Selectwoman Gilman for her involvement in the 375th Committee.

Selectwoman Gilman said Heritage Committee was to meet Wednesday. She also said there will be a tour on Portsmouth Avenue on January 15. The meeting place is 930 am at the Hampton Inn.

Selectman Quandt had nothing to report but wanted to thank Mr. Dean and the department heads for their work on the budget cuts.

Chairman Clement said there would be a Budget Rec. Committee meeting Tuesday at 6 pm and there is a River Study meeting Thursday at 9 am. He also said Conservation Committee would be meeting next Tuesday.

j. Correspondence

Chairman Clement talked about the following correspondence:

- A letter from Mitchell Municipal Group about rate increases
- EXTV Monthly Report

7. Review Board Calendar

Chairman Clement said the next BOS meeting will be January 21, 2014. At that time the Board will discuss the budget.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Quandt to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole McCormack
Recording Secretary