

Draft Minutes

Exeter Board of Selectmen

April 7, 2014

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman Julie Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices building. Other members present were Vice Chair Dan Chartrand, Selectman Don Clement, Selectwoman Anne Surman, and Selectwoman Nancy Belanger. Town Manager Russell Dean was also present.

2. Board Interview – Budget Recommendations Committee

The Board met with Stephanie Canty at 6:50 in the Wheelwright Room to conduct an interview for the Budget Recommendations Committee.

Brian Griset spoke, expressing his feelings on the Public Comment agenda item being pushed to the end of the agenda. He quoted Section 15 of the BOS Policy book, which he said says Public Comment is supposed to be at the beginning of the agenda.

A Motion was made by Selectman Clement and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to change the order of the agenda and open up public comment.

Vice Chartrand said he would like to see Public Comment moved to after New Business and Regular Business.

Mr. Dean clarified Section 15, saying it doesn't say Public Comment HAS to be at the beginning.

Selectwoman Surman said she thinks it is more practical to have Public Comment at the beginning of the agenda.

Chairwoman Gilman said she put it at the end because it offers the public a chance to engage in New and Regular Business.

With a Motion on the floor, the Board took a vote and carried the motion – all in favor.

7. Public Comment

Gerry Hamel spoke, saying people have come to the meetings for a something specific, because they have something to say. He said to make people sit through a whole meeting is

wrong. He thinks Public Comment should stay at the beginning of the agenda, where it has been forever.

Frank Ferraro spoke, saying it sends a chilling effect to people who want to come in to comment. He said the Boards purpose is to serve the public. He asked the Chairwoman to reconsider and keep Public Comment at the beginning also.

Brian Griset disagreed with Mr. Dean's representation of Section 15.

Brandon Stauber said he would like to be part of the voice to keep Public Comment in the beginning of the agenda. He thinks it makes it easier for the public to comment.

Chairwoman Gilman asked what the Board thought on this. Selectman Clement suggested putting it on next meeting's agenda for discussion.

3. Proclamations

None.

4. Bid Openings/Surplus Declarations

a. Regular Meeting: March 10, 2014

None.

5. Appointments

None.

6. Discussion/Action Items

a. New Business

I. Sherri Nixon – Town Meeting Article 22

Sherri Nixon gave a report on tar sands oil. She talked about how hazardous tar sands are and if they are transported through the pipe lines it could be really toxic for people and the environment. She talked about the pipeline that would transport the tar sands and where it goes. Article 22 was formed to prevent these tar sands oils from passing through NH.

A letter has been drafted saying the Town of Exeter passed Article 22 and "opposes the proposed reversal and altered use of the pipeline because of the toxic nature of tar sands oil and the age of the pipeline itself" and would be mailed to comply with the intent of the article.

The Board agreed with the letter and a Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger for Chairwoman Gilman to sign the letter in representation of the Exeter Board of Selectman. Motion carried – all in favor.

II. Sportsmen's Club Annual Report

Joe Kenick, of the Exeter Sportsmen's Club, introduced himself. He provided the Board with an annual report of the Club, of which he read and discussed with the Board. The report talked about the Kids Fishing Derby which will be on May 10, 2014. Last year's Derby set a new attendance record and he is hoping to set another record this year.

The Club conducted numerous NRA certified training classes and over one hundred students graduated in firearm-related disciplines.

They conducted their annual Flag Retirement ceremony on June 14 were all were taught the correct protocol for retiring an American Flag.

The Club closed their range to members for a number of days for Exeter Police training.

The Town obtained final approval from the NHDES and an agreement was negotiated to incorporate into the berm, the soil subject to the remediation order. Construction is to start later this month.

Mr. Kenick went through a couple other updates and information including hunter safety classes they conducted, granting free memberships to military personnel on active duty, and hosting cadets from the US Coast Guard Academy for a practice session.

Mr. Kenick said the Club is happy to help the Town.

Beth Brosnan, Exeter resident, had some follow-up questions about the upcoming sound testing. She asked if it is still next week and Mr. Kenick answered yes, it is. Ms. Brosnan asked the time and location and Mr. Kenick said he wasn't sure because it is the Town's doing. Ms. Brosnan asked what guns will be used and said the "largest gun" has been talked about and she thinks that would be best. She wondered when the data will be released from that and from who. Ken Berkenbush said he will talk to Gary Garfield about getting all that info on the website. He said after the testing is done a letter will come out from URS with the data.

Mr. Berkenbush asked the Board if they want written documentation of who does what. Vice Chair Chartrand said his concern with that is he doesn't want to sign anything as a town that undermines the lease. Selectman Clement said the Board approved to have an MOU at the February 10 meeting. Mr. Kenick said if there is a conflict with the lease there can be disclaimers in the new written MOU. Chairwoman Gilman said they need to write up a formal MOU. Frank Ferraro spoke and urged the Board to keep the MOU simple. Chairwoman Gilman said Mr. Dean and herself will work on the MOU.

III. Discussion: All Boards Meeting Topics

Mr. Dean said the date they are looking at is May 21. They are calling it the All Boards 2. Mr. Sinnott is available on the 21st.

Chairwoman Gilman said the minutes from the last All Boards Meeting are the packet and they should be in the line of communication for all the Boards. She said the May 21st meeting is at 6:30.

Brandon Stauber said little to no action has happened since the last All Boards Meeting. Chairwoman Gilman said 79-E was passed. Mr. Stauber said that a good chunk of the last discussion was about how all the Boards would work together to get stuff done.

IV. Review RSA 79-E Process

Chairwoman Gilman talked about RSA 79-E. It allows for renovations in certain areas, a tax relief of 15% or \$75,000, whichever is less. There is a sample application for 79-E in the packet. She recommended adding the tax map/lot to the application. She said there are several requirements to be able to apply.

Vice Chair Chartrand asked Mr. Dean if the sample application was something developed from a model from another town. Mr. Dean said the application is fairly uniform and he took a look at a few and put this one together.

Vice Chair Chartrand thanked the voters for voting yes on 79-E. He said it will grow the commercial real estate tax base.

Mr. Dean said the road map for 79-E is in the packet. He said business owners might wonder if they qualify and if they're in the right district to apply for 79-E. He said business owners can reach out to him to see if they qualify.

Selectwoman Surman asked if they could add to the districts. Vice Chair Chartrand said they should go with town counsel's approach and stick with the districts they recommended. Selectwoman Gilman agreed that these districts were the ones approved so to just stick to them and see how it goes. Selectman Clement said the RSA was designed to help downtown areas in despair.

Gerry Hamel asked if the tax relief is based on a flat rate. Mr. Dean explained how the tax relief will work and said it is current and based on value. If the tax rate increases on the baseline value then taxes are paid at that tax rate.

Selectman Clement asked who will review the applications when they come out. Chairwoman Gilman said it will be the Town Manger's job to process them for the time being. She said when the Economic Development Director is hired it could be their job.

b. Old Business

I. 2014-15 BOS Committee Assignments

Chairwoman Gilman went down the list, provided in the packet, of the new BOS Committee assignments. She said she would like to reinvigorate the Technology Committee.

Selectman Clement asked about a Selectmen’s rep for the Exeter Housing Authority. Chairwoman Gilman asked if he felt his being there was important and added to their discussion. Selectman Clement said it could go one way or the other.

II. Review Boards/Committees

Vice Chair Chartrand suggested forgoing this item right now as there is a survey going around about whether members would like to stay on their Commissions. Chairwoman Gilman agreed to forgo.

6. Regular Business

a. Review and Approve Minutes: March 24, 2014

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2014 BOS meeting. Motion carried – all in favor.

b. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements & Exemptions

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve the abatement for map 111, lot 5, unit 11 in the amount of \$398. Motion carried- all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve two veteran’s credits both in the amount of \$500 for the following map/lot/units: 68/6/534 and 68/6/542. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve the elderly exemption for map 90, lot 4 in the amount of \$236,251. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve the elderly exemptions both in the amount \$152,251 for the following map/lot/units: 70/4 and 27/6. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve the elderly exemption for map 65, lot 56. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve the elderly exemptions all in the amount of \$152,251 for the following map/lot/units: 95/64/90 and 95/64/139. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve elderly exemption for map 104, lot 79, unit 110 in the amount of \$236,251. Motion carried - all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve the elderly exemption for map 95, lot 64, unit 286 in the amount of \$152,251. Motion carried – all in favor.

c. Permits & Approvals

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to approve the permit for use of the Town Hall Stage by Katherine Roberts for student music recitals from 5/30-6/1. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to approve the use of the Town Hall by Albert Abramson for the Seacoast Annual Freedom Expo on Friday, April 25, 2014 from 4-10 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Vice Chair Chartrand suggested looking into the Town Hall as potential revenue and issues of out of town organizations using the facility.

d. Appointments

None.

e. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean provided his Manager's Update in the packet. He highlighted the following:

- He participated in an EPA conference call on March 27 regarding nitrogen tracking in Exeter

- Exeter Police has taken some speed reading of Swasey Parkway since the speed bumps were removed and a memo is in the packet.

- NHDOT TE calendar was adjusted by two months which will give committees involved with the baggage building more time to determine options moving forward.

- A portion of Powder Mill Road was closed after the combined heavy rain and snow melt last week.

- Work continues on both the wastewater facilities plan and the Portsmouth option review with Stratham and Greenland.

- Continued work with Parks/Rec and the Chamber of Commerce on a formal agreement regarding the Powder Keg Festival.

- The research on the 2008 warrant article regarding the Great Dam has been completed.

- Portsmouth Ave Sewer Line construction scheduled to start on April 7

- Flushing program underway Monday, March 31

The Board decided they'd like to have a discussion about Swasey Parkway.

f. Selectman's Committee Reports

Selectwoman Belanger had nothing to report.

Vice Chair Chartrand said he went to a TIF subcommittee group. He said EDC will meet tomorrow.

Selectwoman Surman had nothing to report

Selectman Clement reported the WISE group met and said they are doing a lot of nitrogen tracking.

Chairwoman Gilman reported no meeting but said the Train Committee is helping with Trainriders Northeast doing a survey. She also said it is time to organize the Memorial Day Parade and to contact Mr. Dean if you are interested in helping.

g. Correspondence

The following correspondence were included in the packet:

- Press release about dog licensing
- NHDES letter regarding the Great Dam
- CDFA memo regarding the availability of CDBG Planning Grant Funds
- Letter from Seacoast Mental Health
- Letter from Child and Family Services thanking the town for \$12,000
- Letter from Big Brothers Big Sisters thanking for a recent \$9,000 pledge
- Letter from SNHS thanking Exeter for an \$11,000 appropriation
- Letter from Families First thanking for an anticipated \$3,000 grant

- Letter from Murray Movitz thanking the PW Dept for their work over the winter
- Planning Department Quarterly Report
- Parks and Rec monthly report
- Letter from Danziger & Markhoff LP
- Appointment Application for Budget Recommendation Committee
- Appointment Application for Economic Development
- Appointment Application for River Study Committee
- Letter from Jaime Lopez about her resignation from the Heritage Committee
- 2015-16 Legislative Policy Initial Issues List
- Letter from Jennifer Mates about upcoming construction
- American Independence Museum reception on April 30
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8. Review Board Calendar

Chairwoman Gilman said the next BOS meeting will be April 21, 2014. At which time they will discuss where Public Comment should go on the agenda, the fire truck lease documents, and get a brief presentation on tax abatements on solar systems installations. She also said the Goal Setting Session is set for April 19 at 9 am in the room off the art gallery of the Town Hall.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole McCormack
Recording Secretary