

Final Minutes

Exeter Board of Selectmen

July 28, 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, Selectwoman Nancy Belanger, Selectwoman Anne Surman, and Selectman Don Clement. Town Manager Russell Dean was also present.

2. Board Interviews – Economic Development Committee

The Board conducted an interview at 6:50.

3. Bid Openings/Award:

None.

4. Public Comment

James Knight, an Exeter resident, spoke about the town's water. He gave the Board two gallons of water. One was clear and was bought at Shaw's, and the other was cloudy and was taken from his tap one night last week. He said there was no notification that the water was going to be discolored. Nothing was said on the town website about a water alert. He said he talked to Exeter dispatch and he said a lot of people had called about the water. He told Mr. Knight that the water treatment plant had some issues that they were trying to sort out. Mr. Knight said he was advised not to drink the water. He said it would have been helpful if all the correct info was provided for residents.

Chairwoman Gilman said they have been working on a way to get that info out to everyone.

Brian Griset spoke, saying he was concerned that he did not see the Stonybrook issue on the agenda. He said it was supposed to be on there. He said he hoped the Board would have a discussion about it since there was something in the Town Manager's report about it. Mr. Dean said he will talk about it when he goes through his report.

Dennis Grady spoke about the town's water. He explained his water filtration system and said he sees a lot of sediment in the water. He also spoke about the nomination process

for the Budget Rec. Committee and said he hopes the voters stay in charge of nominations, and not the BOS. Vice Chair Chartrand spoke, saying this is not an initiative of the Board, but an idea from the Budget Rec. Committee.

5. Minutes and Proclamations

a. Proclamations/Recognitions

None.

b. Regular Meeting: July 14, 2014

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to accept the minutes of the July 14 BOS meeting. Motion carried – all in favor, with one abstention from Vice Chair Chartrand.

6. Appointments

None.

7. Discussion/Action Items

a. New Business

i. 2014 FEMA Map Update - Review

Doug Eastman showed the updated Coastal Flood Insurance Rate Maps. He said FEMA has done a new mapping for Exeter's flood zones. He went over the maps and explained the sections that were changed. He said there are minor changes as to areas that will flood. He said they are being proactive with working on this. He is trying to get the word out to residents. He said info flyers will be available in his office for the residents. The maps haven't actually been adopted, and he explained the adoption process. He said the end of August until November is the appeal period. FEMA people will be hosting many public sessions to teach public officials how to give the residents information on this.

Selectman Clement said many communities have challenged the maps because they are coastal so Exeter can challenge them if needed. The new mapping did not take into consideration the new climate change data. CRS is a very good thing to do. He said there are things they can do to help citizens lower their premiums on their insurance.

Mr. Eastman said they are more prepared now to answer citizen's questions than they were a couple months ago. He said there will be more meetings about this.

Brian Griset spoke and said he thinks a third party tech should review the maps.

ii. Quarterly Financial Report – Finance Department

Ms. Ravell was absent so Mr. Dean gave the report. He said the budget is tracking and the revenue has an uptick in the motor vehicle registration and highway aid. All of the general fund is tracking well. Two areas of concern are natural gas and snow and ice budget. Snow and Ice is over 100% spent which was used in the earlier months of this year.

Water Fund is tracking.

Sewer is tracking and very consistent as well.

Revolving Funds are tracking.

Accounts receivable is doing well in water/sewer and property tax. There are no real problems.

iii. NH Charitable Health Grant

Ken Berkenbush said they applied for a grant that works with a Substance Misuse and Prevention Program.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Clement that the Board accept a grant in the amount of \$20,000 from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Said monies will be used to support the substance misuse and prevention program. Motion carried – all in favor.

iv. Health Ordinance – First Reading

Chairwoman Gilman said this was the first reading for the changes in the Health Ordinance for section 1204. Judy Jarvis, the town's Health Officer, was there to answer any questions and gave a brief description of all the changes.

Selectwoman Surman read all the changes, word for word.

b. Old Business

i. 2014 Classification Plan

Chairwoman Gilman went briefly over the Classification Plan again. Vice Chair Chartrand said he was not at the last meeting, but he is in favor of the plan. He said everyone has done a good job with putting it together.

Selectwoman Surman talked about a current plan that was adopted in 2009. Mr. Dean said there is no Classification Plan in place now, only a pay scale that was adopted in 2009. He said the Classification Plan is only for non-union employees.

Selectwoman Surman asked if they have compared with all other towns before this plan was done. Mr. Dean said yes, that was part of the final report.

Selectman Clement applauded this whole process but said he was uncomfortable with some of the position grades. He is also concerned about the pay plan. He talked about doing this effective July 14, 2014 and it affecting the budget. He suggested starting it in 2015. Vice Chair Chartrand asked if there is money in the current budget for the increases. Mr. Dean said there is money in there for non-union increases.

Selectwoman Surman asked why there is no grade 9, 15 or 19. Mr. Dean answered those are spaces for new positions.

Selectman Clement asked when the scoring was done. Mr. Dean said it was a continuous process over 12-18 months. He also mentioned this process has an appeals process. Selectwoman Belanger asked what the time frame is for the appeal. Mr. Dean said there is not usually a time frame; it could be done once a year or something like that.

A resident spoke, saying there was always a plan and appeals office. He was on the Board in the past and explained how they came up with pay scales in the past. He said the Board is doing a good job on salaries. He said by adopting the new plan, they are going backwards. He said the new plan is the one they got rid of in 2009.

Jerry Hamel spoke, and gave the Board a chart he made of different salaries over the past few years. He said they need to reclassify everyone; union and non-union. He said let's finish what was started in 2009.

Mr. Dean said historically, the town did have all groups grouped together, but bargaining changed that. The bargaining process is a very regulated process by state law. Non-union employees have no collective bargaining process. He said non-unions were not classified in 2009. There was no system that went with the 2009 pay plan so that is why this Classification Plan is for non-union employees.

Ken Berkenbush said if the plan is adopted to let some time for appeals. He said on the fire side of things came out low.

Brian Griset said he hopes the Board does not adopt the plan and hopes they put it out for further study.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger that the Board of Selectmen adopt the Classification Plan as recommended by the Town

Manager, Human Resources, and MRI Consultants. Selectman Clement said he does not have a problem with the Classification Plan, but the problem is where some jobs have been slotted. He went through his particular concerns. Tom Stanick spoke, and said to pass the plan just so it can be appealed doesn't seem right. He urged the Board to take their time to put things in place. Vice Chair Chartrand said he is not adopting something he thinks needs to be changed. With a Motion on the table, the Board voted 3-2, with Selectman Clement and Selectwoman Surman voting nay. Motion granted.

ii. Review NHMA Policy Positions

Chairwoman Gilman asked the Board to go through the policy and bring back two points that they felt strongly about. She asked the Board who would be interested in being a delegate for Exeter. The meeting for this is November 26. Vice Chair Chartrand asked to push this agenda item until the next meeting, given the hour. Chairwoman Gilman agreed.

iii. Permits Policy

Chairwoman Gilman said she wanted to push this agenda item off until the next meeting as well, as she did not feel they had all the information.

8. Regular Business

a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements & Exemptions

A Motion was made by Vice Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to approve the Intentions to Cut for the following map/lot number: 46/3, 46/1, 56/3/1, and 46/4. Motion carried – with a 4-1 vote, Surman a nay.

b. Permits & Approvals

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to approve the application for the use of the Town Hall by Keryn Kriegl for a concert fundraiser on April 11, 2015. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to approve the application for use of the Town Hall by Milton Martin for the Seacoast River Festival to have multiple events from September 3-7. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to approve the application for use of the Town Hall by Milton Martin for auditions of Seacoast Idol on April 17-19, 2015 from 8 am to 6 pm. Motion granted – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to approve the application for use of the Town Hall by Milton Martin for Seacoast Idol event on May 3, 2015. Motion granted – all in favor.

c. Town Manager’s Report

Mr. Dean talked about the following:

- Initiated review of “brown water” release from July 19 at the Water Treatment Plant
- Met with the Town Clerk to review suggestions for night hours for the public
- Met with the Chamber of Commerce and reps to discuss the Christmas Lights Program
- Received correspondence from town counsel supporting position of not charging additional sewer charges to Stoneybrook account per RSA 362:4
- Visited Fuller Lane tank site in response to a complaint

d. Selectmen’s Committee Reports

Selectwoman Belanger had nothing to report.

Vice Chair Chartrand had nothing to report.

Chairwoman Gilman reported Historic District Commission and Form Base Code Subcommittee met.

Selectwoman Surman had nothing to report.

Selectman Clement had nothing to report.

e. Correspondence

The following correspondence were included in the packet:

- A letter from Tranquility Salon and Skin Care
- A letter from Joanna Pellerin
- A letter from NHDOT
- A Consent Decree in the matter of Local Government Center, Inc
- A letter from the Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels Program

5. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole McCormack
Recording Secretary