

Final Minutes

Exeter Board of Selectmen

September 22, 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. Bid Openings/Award:

The following bids were given for the Folsom Station Generator:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1) Gemini Electric Inc. | \$27,850 |
| 2) Power Technologies Electrical Contractors | \$22,104 |

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Clement to refer these bids to the DPW for a recommendation. Motion carried – all in favor.

3. Public Comment

John Donell, an Exeter resident, gave the Board a list of questions he had pertaining to paving Main Street. Chairwoman Gilman said this is an agenda item and they will try to answer his questions when they talk about it.

4. Minutes and Proclamations

a. Proclamations/Recognitions

None.

b. Regular Meeting: September 8, 2014

Chairwoman Gilman had a couple amendments to the minutes. The first was on page 2, paragraph 2, changing the third sentence from “He said she had...” to “She said she had...”, and the second was on page 3, paragraph 5, changing the first sentence to say “Chairwoman Gilman said there is a proposal from MRI for \$105,000 for doing an annual contract starting in 2015.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014 BOS meeting, as amended. Motion carried – all in favor.

5. Appointments - Seacoast MPO TAC

Mr. Dean said he had not heard back from the Town Planner about her position on the Seacoast MPO TAC. He said he would be willing to give up his position as alternate if Don Woodward is appointed.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to appoint Don Woodward to the alternate position for the Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Advisory Committee. Motion carried –all in favor.

6. Discussion/Action Items

a. New Business

i. Review of 2014 MSI

Scott Marsh, from Municipal Resources, Inc., talked about the MSI report. He went through a memo, in the packet, which compares this year to last year. He said there is roughly a \$4.5 million increase taxable exemptions. He said there is a form in the packet that needs to be signed. Chairwoman Gilman thanked Mr. Marsh for all his work on this.

Vice Chair Chartrand asked if there is a reason Mobile Home and Commercial decreased. Mr. Marsh explained that mobile home properties were found to be over assessed. The Residential increase is due to new construction. The Commercial decreased a little and he wasn't exactly sure why. There are a couple commercial properties doing construction that were incomplete at the time of the last report.

Selectman Clement asked if they will see a slowdown in growth because of the economy. Mr. Marsh said that there is less than a 1% growth overall because of the current market conditions.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Clement to accept the MSI report for the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration as submitted by Scott Marsh, Municipal Resources, Inc. Motion carried – all in favor.

ii. Report: Sportsmen's Club Berm Project

Ken Berkenbush said the Sportsmen's Club and the Town of Exeter are working together to complete the berm project. He said most everything is complete, but he was unsure if the field had been seeded. He said there were twice as many clay projects to remove then they had originally thought. He said they took lead bearing soil and put it in the berm. Then, they

took soil samples, of which everything came back clean. Then, they started building the berm. They asked to build the berm a little higher for sound. It is 9.5 feet high instead of 8 feet. The berm has been seeded. The second round of sound testing will be done the third week of October. They hauled more truckloads of soil from Simpson Pit. Vice Chair Chartrand congratulated Mr. Berkenbush and the Club for making this happen. Selectwoman Belanger asked about the sick Hemlock trees and Mr. Berkenbush said there doesn't appear to be any more of them.

iii. High Street Paving/Sidewalks Project

Jennifer Perry said she was there looking for the ability to use capital fund reserves to pave High Street and install concrete sidewalks along the corridor. She said if she gets the Boards concurrence they will start Monday, October 6, and it will take four weeks to complete. There will be 4-5 days of detour at the beginning of the project and 1 at the end. She said there is a real need for paving on High Street. It's in poor shape. They had to wait until all the utility work was done before they could pave. She said this would be a capital reserves fund withdrawal which needs to be approved by the BOS. The project would need about \$80,000.

Chairwoman Gilman asked if they could somehow reuse the granite curbing that they have, and get it polished. Ms. Perry said the price they have reflects new curbing. Jay Perkins said the curbing they have is a mixture which isn't standard, and he never heard of polishing. He said they would have to find a lot to do this project. Chairwoman Gilman asked where the old granite went and Mr. Perkins said it's in Simpson Pit.

John Donell asked where the engineering plans are for this project. Jay Perkins said there is no plan to see, but he explained how things are going to go. There was discussion about Mr. Donell's property, which will be slightly affected by the project. Mr. Donell said there is a planter in front of his house that he has maintained for years and he would like it to be untouched.

Selectman Clement asked if the paving on High Street is from the paving budget. Mr. Perkins said yes, it is.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Clement that the Board approve the withdrawal of \$78,000 from the Capital Reserves Fund that was set up last year by the town's residents. Motion carried – all in favor.

Selectman Clement said he wanted to set up a time to do a site walk on Mr. Donell's property. He got Mr. Donell's contact info to set that up.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger that the Board approve the Chair to sign a letter to support the project. Motion carried – all in favor.

iv. Section 106 Discussion: Great Dam Removal

Chairwoman Gilman said there will be a subcommittee appointed to handle Section 106 of the Great Dam Removal. They will look at what can “lessen the loss” of the Dam being removed. Selectman Clement the subcommittee will talk about one of the processes of 106, saying the Town needs to come up with a way to memorialize the Dam. This subcommittee will bring that all together, and will bring the public in.

Lionel Ingram, from the Exeter River Study Committee, said this subcommittee is to perform for the Town, not just the River Study Committee. It will be an organization the BOS puts together. He said they need to get started on this.

Vice Chair Chartrand said he likes the suggestion in Selectman Clement’s memo. He asked if there is any money or budget for this. Mr. Ingram said there is money, but there may not be enough. Chairwoman Gilman said there is around \$30,000 which was on the warrant.

Selectman Clement suggested leaving it to each Committee to come up with someone for this subcommittee. He said if there is anyone in the public interested, to contact them.

A Motion was made by Selectman Clement and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger that the BOS appoint a subcommittee to come up with historic and cultural mitigation recommendations that will memorialize the Great Dam and its role in Exeter. The subcommittee will be comprised of a representative from the Exeter Historical Society, the Heritage Commission, the Exeter Historic Commission, and the River Study Committee, in addition a member at large from the public should be appointed. Motion carried – all in favor.

v. FY15 Preliminary Budget Request

Mr. Dean said the first round of budget for FY15 has been talked about. FY15 runs January-December. He went over his 2015 Exeter Town Budget Request, in the packet. He said the total general fund preliminary budget is \$17,709,431, which is a 3.7% increase over FY14. Of the additional \$634,386, the first year debt service for the Great Dam removal is responsible for 38.6%, or \$244,968. He went on to say health insurance is up 10%. There is nothing substantial in revenues. Highway Aid will increase due to SB367.

He went on to highlight some things on pages 5-9. IT requested additional assistance. FY15 is the first full year for the Economic Development Director, the Health Officer, and a full-time custodian. Police are asking for money for cruiser repairs. He went through DPW and Human Services numbers. He said there are the following six Warrant Articles for consideration: Human Services Agency funding up from last year, street sweeper lease/purchase, Fire Dept alarm truck lease/purchase, Town Hall egress staircase, Town Hall Office wiring replacement, and Library Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. The total general fund appropriations are \$18,115,481 which is a 4.2% increase.

Under Bond Issues – General Fund, sidewalks are at \$1,180,000. There were many deferrals which he discussed, along with a couple other topics including the Welcome Center/Baggage Building and the Kingston Road bike paths.

vi. Discretionary Easement: 32 Hampton Road

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve the Discretionary Preservation Easement for 32 Hampton Road. Motion carried – all in favor.

b. Old Business

i. Assessing Agreement Proposal FY15-FY20

Mr. Dean said the Agreement covers until 2020. He provided the updated Agreement in the packet. He asked the Board if they had any comments or questions. Vice Chair Chartrand said he is ready to roll on this but doesn't want to rush the Board. Selectman Clement asked if there was a deadline on this. Mr. Dean said the sooner it is accepted the better. A Motion was made by Selectwoman Surman and seconded by Vice Chair Chartrand to accept the MRI Professional Services Agreement as written, with the amendment to Section 3 changing 15 days to 30 days. Motion carried – all in favor.

7. Regular Business

a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements & Exemptions

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to deny the appeal by 5 Thornton Street for reduction of their water/sewer bill. Motion carried – all in favor.

b. Permits & Approvals

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to approve the application for the use of the Town Hall by Jim Conant for an Exeter Historical Society Lincoln Marking unveiling on October 4 from 11:30-1:15pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to approve the application for use of the Town Hall by Carol Murray for the Boy Scouts rummage sale on November 7 & 8 from 4-10 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

c. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean said budget was the dominate thing on his list.

d. Selectmen's Committee Reports

Selectwoman Belanger reported Water/Sewer met, and she said the water meter replacement project was completed.

Vice Chair Chartrand had nothing to report.

Chairwoman Gilman reported Historic District Commission met, and gave an update on the new Loaf and Ladle building.

Selectwoman Surman had nothing to report.

Selectman Clement reported Planning Board, Rockingham Planning Commission, River Study, and Transportation Committee met. He mentioned that he was troubled that the Board was never told about the implementation of the bi-weekly pay scale. He is concerned that the Board is not involved in all the decision making processes.

e. Correspondence

The following correspondence were included in the packet:

- A letter from HealthTrust
- HealthTrust Proposed Amendments
- Letter from the Dept of Environmental Services
- Letter from Jen Perry to Roger Wakeman

8. Review Board Calendar

The next meeting will be October 6. The following will be discussed: Affordable Health Care and the Town car policy.

9. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Clement go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A (3)(2)c. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole Piper
Recording Secretary