

Final Minutes

Exeter Board of Selectmen

November 3, 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 – Section 106 Great Dam Committee

The Board reconvened from an interview for the Section 106 Great Dam Committee.

3. Bid Openings/Awards:

None.

4. Public Comment

Peter Francese, local Demographer, said some new data has recently come out. He said demographic trends have serious consequences. He is the co-author of a book that came out about demographics. He passed out a handout to the Board showing Statewide Demographic Trends and another showing Exeter's Demographic Trends.

He went on to say that NH is the third "oldest" state age-wise. It is one of the most rapidly "aging" states, tied with Maine. He gave some statistics on age groups and what's attributing to the rapid aging. He is concerned with school enrollment over the next decade. He said it will decline. He said only 1 in 5 households have children living in them. Age-restricting housing is a huge problem. It is providing parents with less affordable places for families with children to live. The state median age is 42. Exeter's median age is 45. He said the last thing Exeter needs is more age-restricting housing. Building more age-restricting housing would send a message that no young people are wanted. Vice Chair Chartrand asked if it was true that Exeter's elementary schools have a good population. Mr. Francese said they do, but surrounding towns do not. Vice Chair Chartrand suggested considering asking the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board to not approve any more age-restricting housing. Going forward he would like the Board to make that suggestion. Mr. Francese would like to urge that as well. He said Exeter needs to welcome families with children.

Chairwoman Gilman said she has the same concerns as Mr. Francese, and has for a few years. She doesn't want to see a ghost town. Developers have to have an incentive to not build age-restricted housing.

Selectwoman Surman said it was a wakeup call to her when she realized all these facts. She agreed with Vice Chair Chartrand and Chairwoman Gilman. She is concerned with seeing the young people leave. They go off to school and don't come back because there's no work here. She said Mr. Francese's book/film put it all in perspective and she totally agrees with what he is saying.

Selectman Clement said they need to go back and look at their zoning. He said he wasn't sure if declaring a moratorium could be enforced. It's about the legality. He does agree that they should do things within the town to increase the density.

Selectwoman Belanger said she believes in a balanced community. She agrees with all of this as well, and says there needs to be more affordable housing.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger that diversifying the housing stock and not having age-restricting housing is the desire of this Board. Motion carried with a 3-2 vote, Surman and Clement vote nay.

5. Minutes and Proclamations

a. Proclamations/Recognitions

None.

b. Regular Meeting: October 20, 2014

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to accept the minutes of the October 20, 2014 BOS minutes as submitted by Nicole Piper. Motion carried – all in favor.

6. Appointments

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Clement to appoint Scott Ruffner to the Arts Committee with a term to expire April 30, 2017, replacing Lauren Chuslo-Shur. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to move Kevin Keveaney from a voting member with a term expiring April 30, 2016 to an alternate member with a term expiring April 30, 2017. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to move Cynthia Field, an alternate member with term ending April 30, 2017, to a full member, with a term ending April 30, 2016. Motion carried – all in favor.

7. Discussion/Action Items

a. New Business

i. TAC/MPO Grant Update: Kingston Road Bike Paths

Don Woodward said that there is roughly \$5.5 million worth of projects funding coming back to NH. Roughly \$17 million worth of funding Exeter would like to get funded. Exeter is looking to use about \$6 million to widen the shoulder width on Kingston Road for pedestrians and bicyclists. He said a lot of towns want to apply for money. One is Salem, who doesn't pay any dues to the Rockingham Planning Commission. He thinks it's fair that the towns that pay their dues get more money. Vice Chair Chartrand commented, saying Mr. Woodward's work on the Technical Advisory Committee is outstanding. Chairwoman Gilman asked about this versus the train station grant. Mr. Woodward said this grant has a better chance than the train station.

ii. Budget Recommendation Committee Procedures

Chairwoman Gilman put the procedures and policies on paper for all to be aware. She said she was just putting it out there. In the packet, there are the procedures of how they have been doing things in the past. Selectman Clement said he has some recommendations at the next Budget Recommendations Committee meeting.

iii. Clean Water Act/NHDES Great Dam Grant

Paul Vlasich said the Town is going to receive a grant for \$75,060 for the Great Dam Removal – Design, Engineering and Permitting. The breakdown of the grant is provided in the packet.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand to accept federal Clean Water Act funds and enter into a contract with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. The Board of Selectmen further authorized the Town Manager to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate this contract. Selectman Clement seconds the Motion. Motion granted – all in favor.

iv. Sewer Debt Retirement

Mr. Dean talked about three early debt retirements; outfall improvements, Langdon Pump Station Improvements, and Water Street sewer improvements. There are a couple years left on the last two, and several years on the first one. By retiring these early, the town can save \$37,505 in interest alone. It will cost \$335,680 to retire all these, and Mr. Dean said there

are plenty of funds in the Sewer Fund balance to do so. There is a multitude of reasons he thinks it's good to retire these issues early. The Sewer Fund is healthy.

Vice Chair Chartrand asked if the Water/Sewer Committee agrees with this. Mr. Dean said he talked to Bob Kelly and this has been discussed since last year.

Selectman Clement said they have done this before. This is always a good thing to do. He said they are fortunate to have a good fund balance.

Mr. Kelly said they had agreed not to go below \$500,000. He said they do want to be careful though. There are large projects coming up. They want to wipe out as much debt as possible. By taking these issues out, the sewer budget will probably be less next year.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger that the Selectboard approve paying down the principal due on the outfall, Langdon pump station improvements, and Train/Water Street projects in the total of \$335,680, thus saving \$37,505 in interest. Motion carried – all in favor.

b. Old Business

i. FY15 Budget Updates

Mr. Dean said this is a time to put some stuff out there to talk about at Wednesday's meeting. Chairwoman Gilman wants to talk about a goal for a budget increase over last year. The goal is a 2% increase. She asked if they should come up with a dollar amount or just a percentage in general.

Mr. Dean said the new tax rate was certified by DES. It is \$7.77, which is a \$.4 decrease set from last year. This is good news for the town. He said they are sending out tax bills soon. People should see them in their mailboxes in the next week or so.

8. Regular Business

a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements & Exemptions

None.

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, retroactively, by Beth Dupell of the Lights Committee for a Lights Committee meeting on November 3, 2014 from 5-7:30 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectman Clement to approve the Temporary A-Frame Sign Permit Application by Victoria Su of the CMS Music Boosters for a Livingston Taylor Fundraising Concert supporting music at CMS at the corner of Guinea Road and Hampton Road on November 10, 2014. Motion carried – all in favor.

c. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean pointed out the following from his report:

- Tax bills will go out on or around November 6 with a due date of December 12, 2014
- Employees will see the latest health trust reimbursements in their November 5th paychecks
- Sportsmen's Club noise testing was originally scheduled for October 27th, but was postponed until November 3. This is the post berm testing.
- Work continues with Stratham on discussing terms for a water agreement
- A resident had an issue has had issues with freight train whistles. There was discussion about a "quiet time" and Chairwoman Gilman and Vice Chair Chartrand said they would like to pursue this.

Mr. Dean also briefly went over the town projects and non-town projects that are going on.

d. Selectmen's Committee Reports

Selectwoman Belanger had nothing to report.

Vice Chair Chartrand reported Budget Rec. Committee last week. He said he would be at the polls all day tomorrow.

Chairwoman Gilman reminded everyone of elections on Nov. 4 and said the polls would be open from 7am – 8pm. She had no committee reports.

Selectwoman Surman reported the Swasey Parkway Board of Trustees met.

Selectman Clement reported the sound testing post berm had a good turnout with neighbors. He is not sure when the results will be in. Planning Board and River Study met.

e. Correspondence

The following correspondence were included in the packet:

- A memo from Bruce Johnson, Webster Selectman, regarding a warrant article request
- Letter from NH DRA regarding reversing a letter and readjusting the MS-2 form
- Letter from NH DRA regarding contract for general assessing and data verification
- Letter form Rockingham County Treasurer regarding 2014 Rockingham County Warrant
- State of NH Warrant of County Treasurer

9. Review Board Calendar

The next meeting will be November 17, where they will talk about sharing ambulance services.

11. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole Piper
Recording Secretary