

## Final Minutes

### Exeter Board of Selectmen

May 18, 2015

#### **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 Don Clement, Selectwoman Nancy Belanger, Selectwoman Anne Surman, and Selectman Dan Chartrand. Town Manager Russell Dean was also present.

Chairwoman Gilman rearranged the order of the agenda, so Public Comment would come before Bid Openings/Awards, due to the lengthy list of bid openings.

#### **3. Public Comment**

Andie Kohler, Town Clerk, awarded the winners of the Top Dog contest. This contest was put in place in an effort to bring awareness for registering your dog. There was a 17% increase in dog registries. She recognized and named several businesses that had donated to the cause. She announced the winners, and reminded there is still time to register your dog. You can register until June 20<sup>th</sup> to avoid any civil forfeiture costs.

Peter Francese talked about the TIF. He thinks there should be residential housing out there. He talked about how the property taxes would stay within the TIF. He thinks it is nonsense that the potential children that might live in the TIF district are going to significantly raise taxes because of schooling. He said the additional cost for schooling will be zero. He said it is a wash. He talked about the desperate need for families with children. He started a new project that shows families with children are a huge economic booster. Families with children spend money locally. Selectman Chartrand said he was in complete agreement. Mr. Francese said the burden of families with children on property taxes is non-existent. Selectwoman Surman said the notion of the TIF was to promote commercial development. She said it makes more sense for the first development out there to be commercial. Mr. Francese agreed that it was the intent, but said it won't be a burden on property taxes to put some residential out there. Vice Chair Clement thanked Mr. Francese, but said there are other statistics to debate about. He said they need to look at the type of development, i.e. age-restrictive housing. He said this debate will evolve. Jerry Hamel said the Junior High and High School is based on per student. As far as the tax impact, he disagreed with Mr. Francese. He said it is misleading to say it's going to cost the taxpayers zero. He said he has some facts that show differently.

Cleo Castonguay, of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul Exeter, talked about their services. He said he lives in a generous community, and the community center is proof of that. He talked about poverty, versus middle class, versus upper class. He said the poverty rate in Exeter is 8-

12%. The Society of St. Vincent DePaul helps ease financial burdens. He gave some statistics from the Society. He said they have no restrictive guidelines. They have helped 15 households from being evicted within the last year. They aided 35 homeless families. They help medically as well. He wanted to spread the word that there is help in town. They have 140 volunteers. He said they are looking for another collaborator to help with dentistry. He invited the BOS to come see the community center and how it is operated. He also thanked the BOS for all their help. Chairwoman Gilman thanked Mr. Castonguay and the Society for their services. She said this place is not just to aid with food, but with medical, tax preparation, etc.

## **2. Bid Openings/Awards – Town Office Wiring**

Chairwoman Gilman read off the following bids for the Town Office Electrical Upgrade:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Reilly Electrical Contractors, Inc. | \$66,600   |
| 2) Dependable Control Services         | \$70,714, with a performance bond included of \$2000 |

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

Chairwoman Gilman read off the following bids for the Street Sweeper:

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1) WCN Wood                               | \$225,000 after trade |
| 2) Donovan Equipment Co.                  | \$209,000             |
| 3) Howard Fairfield Municipal Specialists | \$239,815             |

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

Chairwoman Gilman read off the following bids for a Screener at Simpson Pit:

- |             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| 1) Bob Webb | \$100 |
|-------------|-------|

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Clement and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to accept the bid of Mr. Webb of \$100. Motion carried – all in favor.

## **4. Minutes and Proclamations**

### **a. Proclamations/Recognitions**

None.

## **b. Regular Meeting: May 4, 2015**

Vice Chair Clement had some amendments. The first was on page 2, paragraph 5. The amendment would change the first two sentences from "...discussion by Selectman Chartrand, who expressed his strong disagreement..." to "...discussion by Vice Chair Clement. Selectman Chartrand expressed his strong disagreement...". The second amendment is on page 6, last paragraph, changing "RJ's" to "Arjay's".

Selectwoman Belanger had an amendment on page 2, paragraph 7, changing "...when the Economic Development Director was hired the Board had been informed of his consulting business and..." to "when the Economic Development Director was hired, the Hiring Committee had been informed, through his resume, of his consulting business and..."

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Clement and seconded by Selectwoman Belanger to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2015 BOS meeting, as amended. Motion carried – all in favor.

## **5. Appointments**

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Clement and seconded by Selectman Chartrand to appoint Christopher Surrette to the Economic Development Commission with a term to expire on April 30, 2018. Motion carried – all in favor.

## **6. Discussion/Action Items**

### **a. New Business**

#### **i) COAST Route 7 Update**

Rad Nichols, Executive Director of COAST, gave an update on Route 7. He said they went through the public hearing process and there was a fantastic turnout of riders. He said they listened to compelling stories of riders (a lot of them disabled) who count on COAST for transportation. After this, he said, they went back to the drawing board. COAST is trying to keep communities linked together. They have come up with about 25 different options to do this with this year's budget. A couple options are a fixed rate service or having service just 3-5 days a week versus every day. They are not sure which days they would have, but would like to add Saturday and run from 9:30am-5pm. The bus would make departures every hour, which he says is radically different from now. They have also scoped down the geographical area. They are proposing looking at the focus of ridership for people who want to shop or have a medical appointment, not for employment purposes. The bus can make good connections with the Wildcat Transit, so they are looking to link this in. They can do this during the week or on Saturday. Most importantly, he said they would be able to offer service for those with disabilities in they need to go beyond Exeter, Stratham, or Newmarket with the Wildcat Transit.

Folks can switch to the Wildcat Transit in Newmarket. Basically, he said they have heard loud and clear that they've go to preserve something.

Mr. Dean said there is an understanding that Exeter and Newmarket are the two largest financial distributors. He said this route is designed to link up with Wildcat Transit. He said hopefully this will have some impact on ridership. They would be meeting multiple needs and he said Newmarket deserves credit for adding Saturdays. He said linking in with Wildcat will give the town something to market.

Vice Chair Clement asked if linking into Wildcat will have a cost. Mr. Nichols said it will, that there is a cost for the transfer. He said if you are a monthly pass holder, however, there is no additional cost.

Chairwoman Gilman said she appreciates the work to try to provide transportation in a very rural area. She hopes ridership grows so they can restore more services. Mr. Nichols said he appreciates the town for pushing for this route. He said only 30-35 communities in New Hampshire provide this.

## **ii) Parks/Recreation Needs Assessment Report**

Mike Favreau, Parks and Rec Director, said there have been a lot of hours put into this report.

Dr. Bob Barcelona, from the UNH Department of Recreation and Policy and Project Team Leader, had a PowerPoint to present and said he would take everyone through the study and key findings. He said he would try to stick to the big ideas. He started his PowerPoint presentation with the scope of practice and the process with the timeline. There were focus groups where the information derived from. He talked about a November 5, 2014 Public Input Meeting and said they did a town-wide online survey, which had a good response rate. He said the final recommendations will reflect the public's input. He went through the recommendations, which are the following: build a new indoor sports center with turf fields (the biggest need is fields), redesign and expand available outdoor recreation facilities and amenities at the Rec Park, focus on basic maintenances and upkeep of neighborhood park and maintenance of existing rec facilities, extend partnerships with the Exeter Conservation Commission and work to expand multi-model trail networks and connectivity throughout the town, work with Southeast Land Trust to repurpose Gilman Park as a place for passive outdoor rec and nature-based activities, and create and maintain partnership opportunities with relevant stakeholders including businesses and organizations that are aligned with and share value of the Town of Exeter regarding parks and rec provisions. He then asked the Board if they had any questions or comments.

Chairwoman Gilman has they have been talked with the Town Planner and a couple volunteers about bike paths and such and need to include Public Works.

Selectman Chartrand thanked Mr. Barcelona for the thorough report. He likes the Gilman Park recommendation.

Chairwoman Gilman said Gilman Park used to be a passive rec area. Mr. Favreau said the basketball court is barely used, so taking that out is an easy start.

Vice Chair Clement said it was a great report. He asked if this report will be incorporated in the Master Plan. Chairwoman Gilman said that is her intention. Vice Chair Clement said years ago they had created a Recreation Committee. Mr. Favreau said they had one until 2008, but one issue was they would get people who were looking to simply be on a Committee. They needed people with kids and it was hard to find them.

Vice Chair Clement asked how they would start putting some framework around these ideas. He doesn't want to hinder moving forward on this. Mr. Favreau said they need more fields. He said multiple teams have said they need the space.

Selectwoman Belanger said it was a great report. She liked the partnership ideas.

Selectwoman Surman thanked Mr. Barcelona for the report.

Vice Chair Clement asked who the stakeholders are. Mr. Barcelona said more focus groups like Conservation Commission, YMCA, Youth Groups, etc.

Mr. Dean said he wanted the BOS to digest this and figure out the top priorities. One thing is getting the costs. He liked that these recommendations came from the users.

Vice Chair Clement wants to look at this as a Recreation Capital Improvements Program. Selectman Chartrand recommended sharing this with the Budget Rec. Committee. Mr. Favreau said they should share this with as many groups and committees as possible. In terms of costs, he said, he would like to get a consultant on board and get some numbers. Selectwoman Belanger suggested seeing what kind of fees they can generate to help pay for this. Mr. Favreau asked if they should talk about impact fees. Selectman Chartrand suggested getting a recommendation of who to use as a consultant from the Town Manager. Vice Chair Clement said an indoor center is big. He said they need someone to look at that. Secondly, he said they need to look at the redesign of the Rec Park. He said these are things they need to study through a consultant. Mr. Barcelona said the challenge at the Rec Park is you can't access land that is needed. He said a landscape architect will be needed, or an engineer to look at this. Mr. Dean said they knew there are utility constraints and parking issues, so a qualified firm could look at that. Mr. Favreau said he would work with Mr. Dean and bring back a proposal.

### **iii) Approve NHMBB Documents: Sidewalks/Linden Street Culverts**

Selectwoman Belanger read the Certificate of Vote Regarding Authorizations of Bonds and Approval of Loan Agreement with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Clement and seconded by Selectman Chartrand that the BOS approve this Resolution. Motion carried –all in favor.

### **b. Old Business**

#### **i) Encroachment Agreement: Linden Common**

A Motion was made by Selectman Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to approve the Encroachment Agreement between the Town of Exeter and Patrick Breen and Sarah Bartolini. Motion carried – all in favor.

#### **ii) Blue Sign Request: Inn By the Bandstand**

Chairwoman Gilman said she had talked about this at the last meeting. She said they do not allow for signs to be put on town poles unless they have permission by Unitil. She said she would like to look at the policy a little closer.

Selectwoman Surman said this is a downtown location. It would not be hidden at all. She said she would not be in favor of additional signage.

Vice Chair Clement read the ordinance regarding this. The language says the Board should deny this.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Clement and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to deny the request of the Inn By the Bandstand for two blue signs. Motion carried –all in favor.

Mr. Dean said he would communicate this to the business owner and refer them to the ordinance.

## **7. Regular Business**

### **a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements & Exemptions**

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Vice Chair Clement to approve abatement for map 95, lot 64, unit 330 in the amount of \$578.53. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectman Chartrand to deny abatement for map 81, lot 22. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectman Chartrand to approve abatement for map 107, lot 1 in the amount of \$2426.19. Motion carried –all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectman Chartrand to approve abatement for map 72, lot 224, unit 1 in the amount of \$5624.37. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectman Chartrand to deny abatement for map 72, lot 224, unit 2. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectman Chartrand to approve an Intent to Cut for map 6, lot 2, and was then withdrawn by Selectwoman Belanger and Selectman Chartrand.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectman Chartrand to approve an Intent to Excavate for map 64, lot 52. Motion carried – all in favor.

A Motion was made by Selectwoman Belanger and seconded by Selectman Chartrand to approve a Timber Tax for map 69, lot 3 in the amount of \$502.38. Motion carried –all in favor.

**b. Permits & Approvals**

Chairwoman Gilman read a list of Town Facilities/Permits for May/June 2015 which is in the packet.

**c. Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Dean reported the following:

- He is working on finalizing the police contract
- The first half tax bills have been mailed
- Working on the bond anticipation note for the WWTF design
- A Primex leadership presentation last week. He said there were good speakers.
- A Master Plan meeting last week
- A COAST meeting
- The Town Planner has resigned to take another position

**d. Committee Reports**

Selectwoman Belanger reported a Conservation Committee meeting last Tuesday. She said there is a Fish Ladder Tour on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.

Selectman Chartrand reported an Economic Development Commission on the next day.

Selectwoman Surman reported a Water/Sewer Advisory Committee meeting. She said there are two meetings, on May 22 and May 29, both at 9am, to talk about the WWTF design and plan. Also, they had talked about hiring a rate consultant.

Vice Chair Clement reported a Rockingham Planning Commission meeting where they talked about the budget. He also had a Planning Board meeting where they approved a permit for the Swim and Racquet Club. They also approved a site plan and the YMCA came in for some tweaks. He also reported he went to the Exeter Sportsmen's Club for the annual fishing derby. He said it was a nice event.

Chairwoman Gilman reported that there is a Historic District Committee meeting on Thursday. Also, the Heritage Committee is going to apply for an L-CHIP grant. The Historic District Commission is hosting a workshop on May 29 at 6:30pm at the Historical Society. She also reminded of the Memorial Day Parade which starts in Swasey Parkway at 10am on Monday.

**e. Correspondence**

The following correspondence were included in the packet:

- A Legal Notice from the Planning Board
- Legislative Bulletin, of which Mr. Dean asked the Board to look at SB689
- State Aid Grant Project list

**8. Review Board Calendar**

The next BOS meeting will be June 1, 2015.

**10. Adjournment**

A Motion was made by Selectman Chartrand and seconded by Selectwoman Surman to adjourn the meeting at 9:28pm. Motion carried – all in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole Piper  
Recording Secretary