

1. Convene the regular meeting.

Chairman Ingram convened the Board at 7:00PM on the above date.

2. Introduce members of the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Ingram introduced those present: Robert Eastman, Paul Binette, William Campbell, Joseph Pace and Town Manager Russell Dean.

3. Minutes: December 5, 2005

No minutes were yet available from the December 5th meeting; Reading and approval will take place at the next meeting (12/19/05).

4. Bid opening: Chemicals for Water Treatment Plant.

Eight vendors supplied bids for the chemicals and bids were opened (results attached). ***Mr. Binette moved to refer the bids to the Town Manager and appropriate department and to report back with their recommendations; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.*** Mr. Binette inquired why only one vendor would/could provide a bid for Bid Item #2 (Activated Carbon). Keith Noyes (DPW Director) and Victoria DelGreco (W/S Supt) were uncertain but will check and report.

5. Meetings with the Board: Carol Cord, Save-A-House.

Carol Cord was present to request permission to close Green Street on December 21st in order to 'park' the Merrill House as part of its move from Water Street. The neighboring residents have been contacted and, based on the position of the house in the street, one neighbor has access to the lower entrance to Green Street; the other to the upper end. Police and Fire have been made aware of the proposed closure and she will be in contact with them on actual dates and times (actual move scheduled the 21st – due to weather may be delayed through 12/24). ***Mr. Pace moved to approve the closure of Green Street on either December 21, 22, 34 or 24, 2005 for the purposes of completing the Merrill House project; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

At this time, Chairman Ingram invited Mike Favreau, Parks & Recreation Director, to speak on the splash pad (out of sequence from item #8 (budget/warrant articles). Mr. Favreau reported an update on funds shows \$14,600 available from Recreation Impact fees and \$858 from a developer account. With these additional funds, the request for the splash pad would be \$9,000 rather than the original \$28,000 and was requesting the amount be placed in the budget vs. warrant article. The Board agreed this made sense but the vote would be taken under Item #8.

6. Presentation: Water Tank & Distribution Systems Improvement Project/Related Road reconstruction

Mr. Dean noted the Town warrant would include a request for \$8.26 million in bond authorization for the water tank and distribution system improvements project. The project would be financed with \$1.6 million in federal grants, \$2.45 million in general obligation bonds (20 year bonds) and \$4.18 million in loans from the State Revolving Fund. This \$4.18 would be paid by ratepayers and the \$2.45 on the general tax rate. Of the general fund portion, \$1.33 million is related to the water tank and distribution; \$1.15 related to cost of road reconstruction and drainage improvements. A power point presentation was made by Ms. DelGreco and Jay Perkins (Highway Supt). The tank proposed is an elevated steel water storage tank vs. the usual 'standpipe'.

Mr. Perkins noted the road improvements will include removing all concrete roadways, replacing asphalt with granite curbing, reclaiming the asphalt pavements, regarding and resetting castings. Mr. Noyes reported the timing would include: Town Meeting '06 approval, with design ready by 4th quarter 2006; bidding would take place in the 1st quarter of '07 with construction beginning in the 2nd quarter of '07. Completion would be set for 2nd quarter of '08.

Decisions to be made would be whether the rate payer (\$4.18 million) would see the charge toward the 'per gallon' fee or on the 'service charge'. Mr. Eastman stated the Board could influence the decision and he noted he would be against the project if the increase to the service charge is chosen as there are inequities on the water bill in relation to service charges.

The Board chose not to vote this evening but will await Water/Sewer Advisory Committee recommendations for funding through rate fees. Mr. Pace reminded the Board the Selectmen sets the rates, and the final decision of how to fund would be theirs.

7. Presentation: Downtown Historic Restoration Project.

Tracey McGrail, Executive Director of the Chamber, was present along with others from the Downtown Historic Committee to provide the power point presentation on the \$6.3 million project to fund Phase III. Ms. McGrail stated the Chamber has canvassed merchants and 28 signed the petition. She noted she has received no negative comments.

Sylvia von Aulock, Town Planner, walked those present through the presentation; Peter Dow reviewed the timeline, beginning in 1972. Discussion followed concerning the costs, why pursue now (road work set to be done soon, so handle all issues now), high cost of burying the utilities.

Mr. Campbell moved the Board of Selectmen support the warrant article for \$6.3 million for the Downtown Historic Project; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: 3-2.

8. FY06 Operating Budget & Warrant Articles.

Discussion was held on warrant articles for the 2006 budget. Mr. Pace asked whether this discussion was to consider whether an item should be in the budget or a warrant article but not to be construed as the Board's 'statement' to be shown on the warrant. The consensus was the vote would go on the warrant unless further discussion/review was needed.

The Board reviewed the Manager's notes and draft list of warrant articles (attached). [Note: the article numbers are draft only and may not be the final article number].

- #15 Holland Way/Hampton Road Intersection improvements: Mr. Campbell asked why the increase from \$55,000 to \$150,000 since last Town Meeting. Mr. Noyes replied the Town had planned on performing most of the work in-house under last year's proposal; that is not possible this year. **Mr. Eastman moved to support; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: 4-1.**
- #16: Stewart Park seawall repairs: **Mr. Eastman moved to support; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #18-19: Collective Bargaining agreements – still in negotiations with both Fire and DPW.
- #20: Street sweeper: Mr. Pace stated that with the default budget being 1.5% below the proposed budget, he would be comfortable placing the lease/purchase in the budget. **Mr. Pace moved to remove #20, 22 (Loader) and 23 (GASB 34) from the warrant articles and place within the budget; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #21 Engine 3 replacement: **Mr. Eastman moved to support #21; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #24 Pavement management program: **Mr. Campbell moved to support #24; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #25 River Study: **Mr. Pace moved to include; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #26 Garrison Lane/Pickpocket Bridge repaint: Mr. Binette asked if Brentwood had been contacted about sharing the cost, in order for them to also include within their 2006 budget. Mr. Noyes will pursue. **Mr. Eastman moved to support; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #27 Fire Alarm upgrade: **Mr. Pace moved to place within the budget; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #28 Mosquito Control: It was agreed the wording should be expanded to explain the program further, rather than just spraying. Mr. Ingram questioned “comprehensive”.
- #29 Splash Pad: **Mr. Pace moved to support the splash pad within the budget; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #30 Epping Road corridor design & engineering: Discussion followed concerning use of the fund balance. Mr. Pace stated he prefers putting the articles out to the voter, noting a portion of the fund balance will be used to reduce taxes, rather than wording the article that funds are from the fund balance – basically appearing to be a ‘free’ article. **Mr. Pace moved to endorse within the warrant articles; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #31 Train Station expansion: Mr. Dean stated he has been in contact with the owner of the property and all is on track for possible purchase. **Mr. Campbell moved to support as a warrant article; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #32 Capital Reserve Fund for arterial shoulders: **Mr. Eastman moved to support the article; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #33 Sick Leave Expendable Trust: **Mr. Campbell moved to support the article; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #34 – 39: Social Service agencies: **Mr. Pace moved to place the following on the warrant and to support them: Area Home Care, NH SPCA, SeaCare Health Services, Cross Roads House, A Safe Place, Sexual Assault Support Services; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #40 Bus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund: The Board will hold a vote till the 19th when a firm dollar amount could be included.
- #41 Easement on Town Property: Hold till a decisive agreement is made with Szanton Company for easements adjacent to the Town Hall.
- #42 Maintenance of Swasey Parkway: **Mr. Eastman moved to support the article; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- #43 Water Tank project: Decision placed on hold.

9. Request to expend water reserves for interim plant improvements.

Mr. Dean reported that in lieu of the no vote for a new water treatment plant, the current plant is in need of interim improvements (list attached). The balance through today is \$1,236,000. Ms. DelGreco noted the amount on the control systems stands at \$45,000 but this may lead to more necessary expenses in 2007. **Mr. Eastman moved to approve the use of \$300,000 of water reserves to fund the water treatment plant improvements as presented; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**

10. Request to expend sewer reserves for Langdon Avenue Pump station improvements.

The Board is asked to authorize a) amendment to the utilities account in sewer by decreasing the amount by \$25,000 and increasing the account for the SolarBees (aerating system) from \$80,000 to \$105,000 and b) to use \$177,000 from sewer reserves to handle two component for the Langdon Avenue pump station (\$32,000 for design and \$145,000 to acquire the remaining SolarBees.

Mr. Pace moved to authorize the under expenditure of the sewer utility account by \$25,000 and the over expenditure of the account for the aerators from \$80,000 to \$105,000; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous. Mr. Pace moved to authorize the withdrawal of \$177,000 from the Sewer Reserves for the design (\$32,000) and acquisition of additional SolarBees (\$145,000); second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.

11. Second reading: Amend Appliance Sticker fee.

Chairman Ingram read the proposed change for appliance stickers from \$6 to \$7. **Mr. Eastman moved to amend the fee schedule for Appliance Stickers from \$6.000 to \$7.00 effective December 12, 2005; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**

12. First reading: Amend Fee Schedule – Police Detail Pay.

The Board has received a letter from the Exeter Police Association indicating their 2006 detail rate paid to officers has been voted at \$35.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2006. Discussion followed concerning the Town's rate, an additional charge to vendors to cover the Town's costs for the officers' time, including NH Retirement and Medicare. An 'administrative fee' added to those would bring the total to \$40 per hour charged to outside vendors. The Board agreed and this was considered the first reading. Second and final reading will be next week. The Chief will be contacted to see if the rate for use of a cruiser should be raised from its current \$8/hour charge.

13. Town Manager's Report

The schedule for the Board's upcoming meetings is: December 19th, 2005, January 9th and 16th, 2006.

14. Permits:

- SST/DECA requested permission for use of the Town Hall, with stage, on January 7, 2006 from 12-5PM for a magic show/family event. The proceeds will benefit the Exeter Chamber's Children's Fund. **Mr. Campbell moved to approve; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**

15. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

- Mr. Eastman: Planning Board this Thursday, discussing zoning amendments. Mr. Ingram should attend in his place. Copies of the proposed amendments are available in the office.
- Mr. Binette: No reports but read a recent editorial from the Union Leader.
- Mr. Campbell: None.
- Mr. Pace: HDC this Thursday regarding expanding the historic district.
- Mr. Ingram: River meeting this Thursday at 9AM in the Nowak Room with discussion on the Town and State program matrix.

16. Public Comments:

Arthur Baillargeon, Tremont Street, asked if the mosquito control warrant article will be fully described at the deliberative session. Chairman Ingram noted a clear statement will also be available prior to that meeting.

Mr. Eastman moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 10:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Blenk
AA/HR Dir.

Attach.