

1. Convene the Meeting.

Chairman William Campbell convened the Board at 7:03PM on the above date in the Nowak Room. Also present: Lionel Ingram, Paul Binette, Robert Eastman, Joseph Pace and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of Selectmen's meeting of January 17, 2005.

***Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 17, 2005 as submitted; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous. Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes of the public hearing of January 17, 2005 as submitted; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***

3. Bid opening – Ambulance.

Chairman Campbell noted only one bid was received even with the 24-hour delay due to no mail reception on January 17<sup>th</sup> (Martin Luther King Day).

Mr. Eastman stated he wants it re-bid, noting there are many companies in the area. Mr. Binette wants the Chief to call the companies to see if they either received the bid package or are interested and just didn't get the packages back. Mr. Eastman stated it's hard to believe only one response was received for equipment at over \$250,000. Mr. Olson stated he had asked the Chief to check vendors and the Chief received no response from them, except one that is re-organizing.

Chairman Campbell suggested the Chief seek companies outside New England who may be interested. Mr. Olson stated there is no real time pressure. Mr. Pace asked about going outside the Town-approved vendor list, noting we would not want unqualified vendors just because the price is right. Mr. Eastman suggested going back to the original 6 vendors and have them respond in writing, even if negatively and not wanting to bid. Mr. Ingram suggested the Chief expand beyond the 6 but go with experienced vendors. The consensus of the board is to have the Chief seek others.

4. Addition to Town Ordinance – possession of drug paraphernalia – second reading.

Chairman Campbell read the proposed addition of Section 712. There have been no changes since the first reading. Third and final reading will be on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

5. Update on Town Manager search.

Chairman Campbell noted the process is proceeding and the Board should have an announcement within the next two weeks.

6. Discussion of petition warrant articles.

Chairman Campbell reviewed the articles for the Board to discuss and let the public know their feelings. The Board's statements would not be reflected on the warrant.

#42: (Mosquito Control) Mr. Ingram asked what happens if this passes. Mr. Eastman noted nothing as there is no money raised to perform the services. He stated Ms. Badolato submitted the petition late last year and wanted it on this year. It was explained to her several times that nothing would happen without money being raised. The only way to be successful would be to amend the article at the Deliberative Session and include funding.

#43: (Elderly Exemptions) Mr. Campbell stated he feels great sympathy for those on fixed incomes but noted the incomes listed here are in some cases higher than employees make with the Town. Mr. Pace noted the taxpayers would have to handle the excess.

Neil Therrien, Brookside Drive, asked about the “5 consecutive years” and whether someone could live in town for 20 years, move away for 2 and return and be eligible. The wording precludes that from happening (...”*at least 5 consecutive years preceding April 1 of the year in which the exemption is claimed...*”).

#44 (Property Tax cards): Chairman Campbell read a memo from Tax Assessor John DeVittori regarding this issue. In summary:

- A new State law requires the Town to notify taxpayers of any change in valuation due to an annual assessment update. Notification may be by individual letter of newspaper and is done in August/September each year at a cost of approximately \$2-3,000 to mail.
- The costs with mailing the assessment record with the tax bills consists of: Assessing Office printing out 6000 record cards and 6000 cover letters, at an estimated \$1-2,000 per year. The tax billing vendor (NDS) would then manually match the tax bill with the correct assessment record. This could delay the tax bill approximately 1 week and cost an additional \$1,000.
- The Town could provide Vision assessment software package on the Internet for all property owners to view or print. This costs \$2,800 annually.

Mr. DeVittori noted the petition article is only ‘advisory’, with authorization to implement decided by the Board. NH DRA states no other community in NH presently does this procedure.

Discussion by the Board followed.

Alan Bailey, Green Street, noted the card would satisfy the State’s requirement, listing all information including prior years’ assessments and current update. Conceptually, the Board understands the situation and will take under advisement and devise a plan.

#45 (Clifford Street): Mr. Pace noted he hesitates to take a collective stance on the issue, though he does not favor the change. Individual comments will be made at the Deliberative Session. Mr. Binette agreed noting he feels the Street should be left as it. He also stated Front Street should revert to parking on one side, particularly following the recent storms, with passage very tight by PEA.

#46 (Conservation Fund): The Board has already stated its thoughts at a prior meeting. Mr. Ingram noted if the town approves this, taxes will increase to cover the loss.

#47 (Bill of Rights): No comments.

#48 (Teen Center): Comments at last meeting.

#49 (Cable TV): Mr. Eastman asked if this was also advisory? Yes. He is concerned with the Board not having control over what is on the airways. Currently, Sam Bruno and the Town Manager decide what is aired, based on the policy of either Town- or School-sponsored.

7. Permits:

- Exeter Day School requested permission for a banner on Water Street from February 21 through March 5<sup>th</sup> to advertise their March 5<sup>th</sup> auction.
- New Outlook requested use of the Town Hall for a Music Show and Bands on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-11PM. Mr. Pace asked if controls are in place as they relate to other occasions in the past. Mr. Olson noted this group has not been problematic.
- Phillips Exeter Academy requested permission to park 3 coach buses on the east side of Elliot Street on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 11-2 to board students for end of school year travel, and have no parking on the west side of Elliot Street during that time. They will have officers provided.
- PEA requested permission to park 10 coach buses along the south side of Front Street (from Elliot to Elm Street) on June 9<sup>th</sup> to board students for the Sr. Prom. They also requested permission to post no parking signs “from 3:30-6:30PM today” on the sides of the road. Officers will be provided.

***Mr. Ingram moved to approve the permits as submitted; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.***

8. Town Manager's Items:

- Deliberative Session is February 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9AM at the Town Hall, till complete. Copies of the warrant are available on the Town's web site, in the lobby and at the Session on Saturday.
- The Town Report will be available after February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- On February 9<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6PM, residents may tape segments regarding their positions (pro and con) on various warrant articles. Taping will be in the Nowak Room.
- Town Boards and Committees have various terms expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>. Residents are encouraged to submit letters of interest to volunteer for the positions (copy attached).
- State RSA change concerning tax exemptions and credits: If applying for 2004 credits, residents must apply by March 1, 2005. Credits for 2005, residents must apply by April 15, 2005. Call the Assessing office for information on dates and credits/exemptions available.

9. Selectmen's Comments:

- Mr. Pace: HDC view the proposed project for the Citizen's Bank parking lot, noting it is quite fascinating. He suggested residents check dates for Planning Board, Zoning Board and HDC meetings to view the process, noting it will alter the characteristic of that area of Town.
- Mr. Ingram: Council on Aging met and made changes to their taxi program: now allow 30 tickets per month and may transfer between seniors. Any suggestions for program changes should be directed to Mike Favreau (Director) or Mr. Ingram at 772-0479. He also has a Safety Meeting Thursday.
- Mr. Eastman: Planning Board met Thursday but he was unable to attend due to illness.

- Mr. Binette: Recreation Advisory Board was scheduled for Tuesday but cancelled due to the storm. He apologized for not being able to attend the Deliberative Session on Saturday but he has another appointment with his wife... in Jacksonville, Florida (go Pats!).
- Mr. Campbell: Water & Sewer Advisory Committee met to review information for the Deliberative Session discussion.

10. Public Comments:

Alan Bailey asked the status of review of the information he presented last meeting in a binder. He asked if the Board was clear on what he is claiming and urged the Board to resolve the issue in their mind and as a Board as rapidly as possible. He requests the Board consider a moratorium to stop action proceeding on a similar nature, on documents being recorded.

Chairman Campbell noted the documents are being reviewed and they are proceeding, noting Counsel will also be reviewing. Mr. Bailey stated if he is interpreting the documents correctly, the titles should be returned to the Town or the return of the money to the Town. Mr. Pace stated these were not small transactions and the Board is proceeding to carefully protect the Town's interests, and the Board is not taking the issue lightly.

Discussion followed on whether the issue should, as yet, go to Town Counsel.

***Mr. Pace moved to resume in a non-public session per RSA 91-A; second by Mr. Eastman. Roll call vote: Mr. Campbell – yes; Mr. Pace – yes; Mr. Ingram – yes; Mr. Eastman – yes; Mr. Binette – yes. 5-0. Time: 8:05PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Blenk  
AA/HR Dir.

attach.

January 27, 2005

NEWS RELEASE: The Exeter Board of Selectmen has announced various openings on the Town's Boards and Committees, as terms expire April 30, 2005 (3-year terms unless specified). Any residents interested in serving on the following committees should send a brief letter to the Board indicating which board and any qualifications they may have. Volunteer applications are also available in each year's Town Report. Mail letters or applications to Board of Selectmen, attn: B. Blenk, 10 Front Street, Exeter NH 03833.

Planning Board: 2 regular positions, 2 alternate positions

Zoning Board of Adjustment: 2 regular positions, 2 alternate positions

Historic District Comm: 2 regular positions; 1 regular position for 2 years; 2 alternate positions for 1 year and 1 alternate position for 3 years

Conservation Commission: 2 regular positions; 2 alternate positions

Exeter Housing Authority (5 year terms): 1 regular position

Council on Aging: 1 regular position

Recreation Advisory: 2 regular positions; 2 alternate positions

Arts Committee: 3 regular positions