

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Campbell reconvened the regular meeting at 7:05PM in the Nowak Room with the following other members present: Lionel Ingram (V-Chairman), Paul Binette (Clerk) and Joseph Pace. Robert Eastman and Town Manager George Olson were absent.

2. Minutes of Selectmen's meeting of December 20, 2004.

Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Bid opening – Chemical bids:

Eight bid packages were received for the 2005 Chemicals purchase (see attached bid result sheet).

Mr. Binette moved to forward the bids to the Town Manager and appropriate department for their study and to return with a recommendation; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Board action on warrant articles:

Chairman Campbell noted there were three warrant articles discussed at the last meeting with the final vote on each to be held till this evening. They include:

a) Water Treatment Plant: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,100,000 for the purpose of constructing a new water treatment plant on Holland Way and associated facilities, by the issuance of bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NH RSA Chapter 33), with the understanding that \$600,000 if this amount will be paid from a grant from the Federal Government and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, with all expenses to be paid from rate payer fees.”.*

Mr. Pace noted the amount is not just for the plant but additional items. Keith Noyes (DPW Director) confirmed the price includes an upgrade to the river pump station and a low-life pump station at the reservoir to get water to the Plant. Mr. Campbell stated the bid opened a few weeks ago included just the plant. Mr. Noyes confirmed a contingency was added, as were engineering fees, bumping the price to \$17.1 million, though funds through federal grants are expected. He noted the Town plans to appeal for additional funds, over the \$600,000 and an additional \$346,000 to be received through Senator Sununu's efforts. ***Mr. Ingram moved to support the article; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***

b) Operating Budget: *“Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$15,760,121? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$15,052,819, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law, or the governing body may hold one*

special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.”

Mr. Binette noted if the budget passes at the proposed amount, there is a 7% increase. **Mr. Ingram moved to support the article; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**

c) Ambulance: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, \$192,415 from the general fund to be placed in the Ambulance Expendable Trust Fund. This amount is equal to the revenue raised in 2004 from ambulance transports specifically for the Ambulance Trust Fund. Passage of this article will not impact the tax rate.”*

This allows the transaction to take place. **Mr. Ingram moved to support; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**

5. Vehicle e-registration – Linda Hartson, Town Clerk.

Linda Hartson was present to discuss the proposed system and ask for authorization for the Town Manager, or Selectmen, to sign the necessary agreements. The program offers residents the chance to renew their registrations via an Internet program and issues have been worked out with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Motor Vehicles and the various Clerks’ offices who will be offering this service.

The residents can either mail in their checks once they have entered the appropriate information or pay via an electronic check, allowing the Town to deduct the fees from the user’s bank account. Credit cards are not involved.

Ms. Hartson noted an outlay of approximately \$350 to start the program, but the Town is losing no funds from this process. The office will continue to send out renewals each month, running between 800-1000 monthly. She estimates, however, that only about 15% actual mail back their renewals; the remainder still come into the office. Mr. Pace noted this new service will be great for those working out of town who have been requesting evening or Saturday hours.

Mr. Ingram moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the appropriate agreements; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.

Ms. Hartson noted some other pertinent information relating to her office:

- Effective 1/01/05, all State agencies, including DMV, vital statistics and the Secretary of State’s office, now require photo ID for any transaction. If none, other means must be utilized to procure the information. So, with any transaction at her windows requiring reference to those agencies, residents must provide proof of ID.
- Effective 1/01/05, adult adopted NH residents may access original birth records. Forms are available at the State and the process is handled by the State – not through her office. It takes about 3-5 weeks to authenticate the information and review files to be sure the information may be released. NH is the 5th state in the United States to open these files.

6. Permits: None.

7. Town Manager's Items:

- Mr. Campbell noted the changes to the winter parking ban, noting the three lots that now have designated parking spaces.
- Christmas trees will be collected the week of January 10th on residents' regular rubbish days, curbside by 7AM. They may also be taken to the Cross Road Transfer Station during regular hours.
- A public hearing will be held on January 17th to discuss bond issues, budget and warrant articles. Meeting begins at 7PM.
- Deliberative Session is February 5th beginning at 9AM at the Town Hall. This is voters one chance to speak on issues.
- Petition articles are due January 11th.
- Filing for offices is January 19 through 28th.

8. Selectmen's Committee reports:

Mr. Pace: None, but wished all a happy and prosperous new year.

Mr. Ingram: Exeter River Committee meeting on January 13th at 9AM.

Mr. Binette: None.

Mr. Campbell: If residents are new to Exeter, he informed them the Town is run by the 5-member Board of Selectmen, who take proposals and votes of Town Meeting to conduct business. They abide by the State's RSA's. They do need, however, to watch for the "Mayor of Exeter" who has been identified as Arthur Baillargeon, based upon a wonderful story by Chris Benard, reporter with Seacoast News, featured in Sunday's Portsmouth Herald. The Board congratulated Art, present in the audience. Mr. Baillargeon thanked them, but not at the microphone!

9. Public Comments: None.

Mr. Pace moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 7:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Blenk
AA/HR Dir.