

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Binette convened the meeting at 7:00PM and introduced the Board. Those present include Robert Eastman, William Campbell, Lionel Ingram, Joseph Pace and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of the Board's meeting of August 4, 2003.

***Mr. Pace moved to waive the reading of those minutes and to accept them as submitted; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: 3-0, with 2 members abstaining.***

3. Opening of RFP's for new Fire Station; Bids for Swasey Bandstand copper roof.

Design/Build: Five RFP's were received, though one was late (4:09PM) and opened (results attached). ***Mr. Pace moved to submit the bids to the Fire Committee for review and to report to the Board by the date previously designated; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Architectural Design Services: Five RFP's were received, though there was some confusion that three may actually be 'design/build'. (results attached). ***Mr. Pace moved to submit the bids to the Fire Committee for review and to report to the Board by the date previously designated; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Swasey Bandstand Copper Roof: Two bids were received (results attached). ***Mr. Eastman moved to submit the bids to DPW for review and to return with a recommendation; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*** Mr. Eastman asked the Town Manager to also inquire what will happen to the existing copper on the roof and to report with the recommendation.

4. Third and Final reading of ordinance to make Pleasant Street one-way.

Mr. Binette read a letter from the Trustees (attached) urging action for the one-way amendment. Mr. Eastman noted he remains opposed to the change and feels the issues are over-blown, particularly with the 'cut-through' traffic as reported. His concern is for the sharp left-hand turn from the lot and the visibility problem looking over the rise on Chestnut Street, as well as it being a 130+/- degree turn. He did suggest, also, a 'no left hand turn' exiting the lot should the ordinance pass.

Mr. Ingram prefers blocking off the road as last discussed and realizes it requires Town Meeting action to close the road. He feels the issue presents a safety problem and suggested denying this change and await Town Meeting action.

Mr. Pace expressed concern for fire/rescue apparatus getting close to the building should this road be blocked off. Chief Brian Comeau noted no apparatus goes under the building and if blocked off, it makes it more difficult to get to the hydrants (one being at the sluiceway off the park), as well as ladder access. Mr. Pace suggested a gate closure which may be opened in emergencies.

Hope Godino, Library Director, asked if the Board could implement one-way action till Town Meeting. She and the staff are very concerned an accident is waiting to happen for pedestrians entering and exiting the library. She liked the idea of closing the road, but there is too long an expanse till Town Meeting.

Mr. Campbell sees no problem with the left-hand turn, except maybe in winter with the snow banks, but that problem exists all over town.

Mr. Pace suggested speed bumps.

Art Baillargeon noted he visits every day and has seen no problems, though he did note the crosswalks cannot be seen. He questioned what the speed limit was on Pleasant Street and that there are no signs stating speed. He questioned whether calls have been placed to the Police Department concerning the speed issues and was the cut through traffic just associated with the bridge re-construction.

Mr. Pace suggested listening to the staff as they are there all day, every day. He thought installing speed bumps and signs (slow pedestrian) may help.

Mr. Olson noted the bumps present liability problems and, when questioned about the bumps in Swasey Parkway he noted those are speed tables. They slow cars down but he was not sure it would address the speed under the library. The 'bumps' may take out a transmission; tables allow a faster speed without doing this. The tables serve as a reminder to slow down. As a traffic control device, two readings are required.

After some procedural questions, ***Mr. Ingram moved to not make Pleasant Street one-way; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Mr. Pace suggested this meeting be the first of two readings to install speed tables at the Library and for Mr. Olson to provide information concerning the feasibility of the tables and associated costs of placing the tables, and how many, as well as the appropriate signs at either end. The Board agreed. Mr. Ingram also asked Mr. Olson to review the speed limit for the Library area.

5. Request to address the Board re signage & current traffic flow on Clifford St – K. Gallant.

Kathleen Gallant, owner of Blue Moon at 8 Clifford Street, gave a brief history of both the store and the area, noting she presently has 34 employees and the store has proven to be an "...essential component for a healthy community.." In 2002, during the bridge construction, Clifford Street was made one-way, the stop sign was placed at the Town Hall on Water Street and traffic was routed in a one-way pattern around the downtown. She noted that following eight years of growth to her business (some 10% each year), her growth stopped and it appears the one-way action on Clifford Street is dysfunctional.

In February, Ms. Gallant met with Mr. Olson and, subsequently, polled customers. In March, she reported to him that of 167 customers responding, 133 were dissatisfied with the traffic flow and 34 thought it was 'okay'. She has also met with Fire, Police, DPW and Chamber representatives, along with Mr. Olson, to discuss the matter.

She reported from national survey publications "Pedestrians at Risk on One-way Streets", noting many towns and cities are dropping one-way streets and returning to the two-way traffic as it appears motorists tend to speed up on one-way streets. She noted "Downtown Great Streets – Master Plans Ideas" state in order of importance to downtown vitality, people rank number 1, commerce second, parking third and through traffic is fourth. With one-way streets, delivery personnel are forced to many times cross busy streets, causing another safety issue.

Robert Sprague, a consultant for Ms. Gallant, noted he is not a native to Exeter but traveled its streets daily to drop off two children at Phillips Exeter. He stated the Blue Moon is the only 'green grocer' in Exeter and that Exeter is one of the strongest 'vital downtowns'. Each week, 3000 vehicles try to get to her, with 1600 from the east. With the traffic change, 12% less visits are made each week. He stated SEA (consultants involved in the bridge reconstruction) did not appear to be interested in 8 Clifford Street and the survey completed by customers.

Ms. Gallant urged the Board reconsider the traffic process and return Clifford to two-way traffic. There were no accidents during the 8 years prior the change, but many near-misses since, particularly with motorists traveling the wrong way, as well as now traveling through residential neighborhoods to get to her store and/or out of town. She noted the stop sign at the Town Hall has not been tested on its own to see if it helps handle the downtown flow, but certainly the blocking of Clifford increases the flow to downtown and the bottleneck at both the Bandstand and at Front and Court Streets.

Christopher Moutis, Franklin Street, noted he is an Exeter merchant but also lives on Franklin Street and has seen an increased traffic flow through the Franklin/South Street area where there are many children. Thirty years ago there was a plan to build a thru-way to by-pass the downtown to Court Street – by way of Franklin Street, though it did not happen. He does not understand the resistance to something that has been that way for years. The one-way on Clifford has not helped – people still go down Clifford the wrong way.

Mary Mielcarz, South Street, expressed concern of safety when pulling out of Clifford Street, past the stop sign, in order to see on-coming traffic particularly when the snow banks were so high. Speeds continue to be high in the area.

Mr. Eastman stated the bigger bottleneck at the Bandstand, is worse now and, perhaps, with Clifford as two-way, the Town Hall stop sign could help traffic flow easier. Mr. Ingram noted it is also worse at the Hotel intersection, from Front to Court but was not certain whether that is because of the one-way on Clifford.

Mr. Eastman recommended returning Clifford Street to two-way traffic, with Mr. Ingram 'seconding' his statement. No vote is taken till the third meeting. This is considered the first of three readings.

Mr. Campbell thanked Ms. Gallant for the information provided. He expressed concern that returning to two-way would get traffic 'out of town' when we actually want people in town, partaking in the commercial trade. He is also concerned that turning onto Clifford would cause a back-up on the Bridge, now that the Great Bridge has only two lanes.

Mr. Moutis noted that traffic turning down Clifford is probably heading out of town anyway and not traveling through for business. Now that Clifford is one-way, they are even more furious that they are forced into the downtown area and stuck at turns.

Mr. Binette asked Ms. Gallant about truck deliveries. She explained she has a plan worked out with Al's Automotive and will be able to get the delivery trucks off the road. Mr. Binette explained that having Clifford as two-way would remove her loading zone. Ms. Gallant noted she does not have the sole benefit of that space and it is used a lot for parking. She blocks it off for trucks when she knows a delivery is coming, otherwise vehicles park there. It is not enforced by the police.

6. Third and final reading of residential water meter ordinance.

Mr. Eastman encouraged the Board to vote no on a second meter until the issue of fees is handled. He noted the annual cost of \$153.28 would require 61,312 gallons to be used for irrigation or pools to break even. He feels there is no sense for a second meter and it is an unjust service fee. The water rate for the first meter includes service – what does the second meter do that would include that much of a service charge?

Mr. Pace noted the formula is based on “x” amount for usage and “x” amount for distribution charges. The second meter would pay less and it is not used as much, as well as possibly only being used seasonally. Mr. Eastman stated it's an unjust fee unless consumers are educated on its use.

Mr. Olson only confirmed the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee's recommendation for the second meter and the included service fee charges.

Jeff Bouvier, Hillside Drive, concurred with Mr. Eastman, asking why there was such a high service charge relating to the proposed second meter when all they need to do is read and enter into the computer. He stated he has been requesting this for three years, noting water for his irrigation system – not going through the sewer system – is being charged the sewer rate.

Mr. Ingram agreed there is a charge for services Mr. Bouvier is not getting but that happens in most instances in municipalities, noting he lives far enough from town that he does not have sidewalks and the fire trucks take longer to get there, but he still pays his fair share. There is a charge for service and for the whole system charge. The fee is straight across for all, which is fair in a complex world.

Mr. Bouvier polled other towns for their charges and most that he called allow a second meter. When he asked of fees, some commented “None, why should there be? It only takes seconds to read the meter and adjust the bill.” He stated one community had a flat fee.

***Mr. Ingram moved to adopt the ordinance; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: 3-1.*** Mr. Eastman noted this is the second time a fee has been enacted with the comment that “the fee will be enacted as is but if it proves too high or low and we need to adjust, we will in the future”. Why isn't this studied prior to enactment.

7. Second and final reading of change to fee schedule – Second water meter for residential use.

The recommendation is to add to Public Works – Water/Sewer:

Water new service hook-up for second meter (residential)	\$300
Flat rate for second 5/8" meter (irrigation purposes)	\$ 38.32 per quarter

***Mr. Campbell moved to adopt the change as stated; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: 3-1***

8. Second reading of ordinance change to limit parking on High Street & Hampton Road.

Current reading:

High Street: Both sides of street from Clifford Street to Portsmouth Avenue. North curb line from Portsmouth Avenue to Hampton Road. South curb line from 180' east of Gardner Street to #111 High Street. South curb line from Folsom Street to 250' east of Drinkwater Road.

Hampton Road: Northerly side, Recreation Center driveway to High Street.

Proposed:

High Street: Both sides of street from Clifford Street to Portsmouth Avenue. North curb line from Portsmouth Avenue to Hampton Road. South curb line from 180' east of Gardner Street to Hampton Road.

Hampton Road: Both sides of street from High Street to Exeter/Hampton town line.

Barbara Blenk noted a resident called today and asked why not from Portsmouth Avenue to Hampton Road on the south curb line, noting there is always congestion along that area. The resident, when turning into their residence, must cross two lanes of traffic from the east bound lane and, while doing, this, blocks traffic from the Portsmouth Avenue intersection as cars are unable to go around her vehicle due to cars parked. There appears to be off-street parking for the medical offices there. Mr. Olson will check on the Gardner Street reference.

9. Request to address the Board on the issue of lead at Sportsman's Club – J. Kenick

In response to the Board's letter to the Sportsmen's Club to stop using lead as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, Joe Kenick requested the Board rescind their request. He noted the Club voluntarily stopped using lead at the trap field in the '80's. The rifle/pistol range has 'dead sand' that is used and stops shots in the first 12 inches of that backstop. He reminded the Board that lead is not a hazardous waste but is, in many instances, recycled. Mr. Kenick stated that homeowners have more lead in their drinking water pipes than they will ever get from the Water Treatment Plant (both now and in the future).

At a meeting last year, the Board stated they wished for the Club to not leave Exeter and would actively search for a new location. The suggested site, unfortunately, had covenants in place that restricted anything but *passive* recreation. The April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting suggested another parcel, required to remain a recreational area for the next 30 years, might be used. The Club is willing and ready to negotiate.

The Club requires 8 acres and has pledged to develop the pistol/rifle range adequately for the Exeter Police to continue as a practice range. That is easily set up for safety and environmentally. There has been no response to the April suggestion for the use of that land. He noted the 50 acres would also be used for children's fields. He commented that sound abatement measures would be in place

but that the shooting would be no different than that of squeals of delight from children on the soccer and ball fields. He continued that voters at the 1997 Town Meeting showed their support by wishing the Club to continue in Exeter.

Mr. Binette thanked Mr. Kenick for his statements. He did note, however, that the signed lease from the Club has not yet been received. Mr. Kenick noted they are 'tenant's at will' and the signed year lease should be sufficient. Mr. Binette noted the lease for one month at a time was delivered to the Club and not yet returned. Mr. Kenick stated he would have it back within the week.

10. Request to address the Board re Festival of Trees – Bonnie Roth & Jan Russell.

Ms. Roth stated the Festival of Trees is held yearly at the Town Hall to raise funds for the Chamber's Children's Fund which gives vouchers for the purchase of children's clothing in the 10 area communities. Over the past years, many businesses have donated to the Festival, such as the trees, items for the raffle held, set-up, etc. As this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year, the Committee would like to hold a "Thank-you, invitation-only" evening on Wednesday of that week (The Committee has the Town Hall reserved for Monday through Friday) and are requesting a waiver of the 'no food and beverage' in the Hall as they would like to serve wine and hoers devours.

The Board asked the Committee to complete a supplemental application requesting the waiver specifically for that evening, for the next meeting.

11. Water & Sewer Advisory Committee – Exeter River Yield Study

Mr. Olson reported the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee met on the 13<sup>th</sup> to devise a recommendation for the Board re the Exeter River Yield Study as commissioned by Hampton Water Works (Aqurion). He noted this followed 1999 Board action creating a Special Committee to address the sale of water out-of-town. Their study resulted in the formation of Selectmen's Policy 00-31 (attached).

Robert Kelly, Chairman of the W/S Advisory Committee, was present and addressed the Board concerning the Committee's August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was recommended the Selectmen not consider selling water outside of Exeter at this time for the following reasons:

- a. Time and financial constraints;
- b. 'Exeter River Safe Yield Analysis' report data;
- c. Environmental impact consideration that need further exploration.

They did, however, recommend pursuing an emergency water connection with Hampton/ Aquarion.

Mr. Eastman asked if 'emergency' is spelled out in the first of several books provided by DCM? Yes, with costs estimated.

***Mr. Pace moved to bring more information on 'emergency water' connections to the Board for a final decision; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*** Mr. Eastman asked that Ms. Del Greco update the Board on this aspect the next time a water treatment plant update is planned.

12. Update on WTP design – Victoria Del Greco

Ms. Del Greco, W/S Superintendent, stated they are on track with 30% of the design reviewed in-house. The Steering Committee (including Selectmen Campbell and Eastman, Town Manager Olson) also received an update. Within the next month, they should hit the 60% milestone and receive an update on the cost of the project, as well as evaluate preliminary cost-effectiveness of the plans for the plant. A final report on the lead-shot analysis should also be ready. The latest graphics of the Plant should be ready by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

13. Request to address the Board re sale of sand and gravel – David Bruce.

Mr. Bruce, owner of Earthmovers and currently under contract for the reclamation of the Simpson Pit (which is 1/3 complete) also bid on the Lincoln Street storm water project. At the last meeting, the Board voted to not do a portion of the project, as Town Meeting did not raise enough funds, but to wait till next year when additional funds can be requested. As this is a timely project, he proposed the \$40,000 from the appropriation and the balance in materials from the Simpson Pit be used to off-set the project. He will give \$3/yard for the pit gravel and sand. He has the ability to acquire the manholes within 48 hours and the pipe within 72 hours and complete the job per specs of DPW.

Mr. Binette explained the Board cannot give approval for sale of Town property without Town Meeting approval. This could be done through either a citizen's petition or placed on the warrant by the Town.

Mr. Bruce noted the 50+ acres area will not have an ounce of top soil and for the next two months, ten acres of dust will be on the slopes. He suggested something be done to keep the area from eroding. Mr. Eastman stated that should have been part of the planning process but was obviously not. Mr. Bruce was thanked for his creative thinking.

14. Request for handicap space – Tan Lane.

Chairman Binette read a request from Phillips Exeter Academy to place a handicap parking space in front of the Phelps Science Center on Tan Lane. There will be a student attending classes in the fall and the space by the music building is too far away, requiring the student to travel down hill in his wheelchair to get to the science center. The PEA Safety Committee recommended a handicap space for this location. The matter has been discussed with Chief Kane and Director Noyes.

Mr. Eastman expressed concern that whenever PEA comes before the Planning or Zoning Boards for projects, the Town is asked to consider them as "one campus". Now they are asking for special considerations. They need to stop using the language of "one campus" and address the needs of each building.

Mr. Campbell wondered why they wouldn't use the parking lot on Tan Lane, next to Jeremiah Smith Hall.

This is the first of two readings. The Board asked Mr. Olson to ask why there and not the lot for the next meeting.

15. Acceptance of 2003 audit.

***Mr. Pace moved to accept the audit for the purposes of review; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.***

16. Permits:

- Tom Blenk, on behalf of the EHS Football Boosters, requested permission for their annual Gold Card Blitz on August 22, with sales from August 15 through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. ***Mr. Eastman moved to approved; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous;***
- William Theroux, of Levine & Theroux, requested permission to have beer & wine in Town House Common in relationship to their Business After Hours, Chamber of the Commerce event on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30PM. The event will be held on their back lawn of 14 Front Street but may filter into the park and wanted advance permission. ***Mr. Ingram moved to approve pending receipt of a Certificate of Insurance; second by Mr. Pace. VOTEL Unanimous.*** [Note, Certificate received 8/19/03 AM].
- Lee Dawson, on behalf of the Exeter Firefighters, requested permission to block off parking spaces by the Bandstand as they hold their annual MDA Boot Drive on Saturday, August 23 from 8AM to 12 noon. ***Mr. Eastman moved to approve; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***
- Carter Siegel, Pine Street, requested permission for a Block Party on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-6PM on Grove Street, blocking off that street. ***Mr. Eastman moved to approve; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***
- The Chamber of Commerce requested use of the Town Hall on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 3PM for a 'Product Business Expo'. Some of the businesses featured may be giving samples of their products, including food or beverages, so the Chamber requested a waiver to 'no food or beverages in the main hall'. ***Mr. Eastman moved to approve the use if the floors are covered in designated areas; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***
- Project Prom/Graduation requested permission to use the Town Hall on October 16, 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> for their annual Yard Sale. The event takes place on the 18<sup>th</sup>. ***Mr. Campbell moved to approve; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

17. Town Manager's Items:

The Town's offices will be closed on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> for Labor Day. The Board's next meeting is September 8<sup>th</sup>.

A Work session will be held on September 15<sup>th</sup> to review the High School project.

Volunteers, specifically coordinators, are being sought for the Town's Christmas Parade. Anyone interested in assisting the current core group should contact Barbara Blenk at the Town Office.

18. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Pace: HDC meetings Thursday at 7PM;

Mr. Ingram: The Linden Street School Committee researching the re-use of the High School met to discuss the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of concerns – from the neighbors; the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will include the public's interests.

Mr. Campbell: Tuesday he attended a TRC meeting to review the High School's plans, as well as the Conservation Commission reviewing their wetland's application, noting they are already requesting to fill over 4 acres – the largest request he has ever seen. The Commission is filing a



letter of concerns with DES. Tuesday, there is a Prime Wetland Hearing at the Voc School to discuss another process at the school site. Wednesday, the W/S Advisory Committee discussed sale of water, which was reported on this evening.

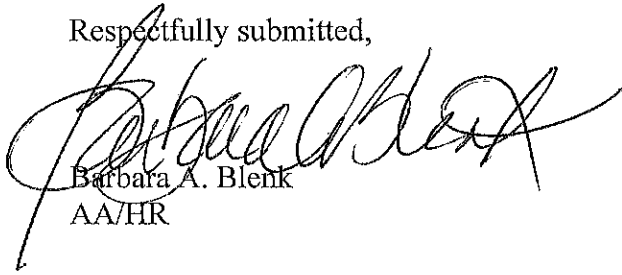
Mr. Eastman: None.

Mr. Binette: The Fire Station Committee continues to meet each Wednesday. They will be reviewing the RFP's opened this evening.

19. Public Comments: None.

***Mr. Eastman moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 10:02PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara A. Blenk'. The signature is written over the typed name and title.

Barbara A. Blenk  
AA/HR

attach.