

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Eastman convened the Board at 7:00 PM in the Nowak Room of the Town Office and introduced other members of the Board: Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Lionel Ingram, Mr. Joe Pace, Mr. William Campbell, and Mr. Russell Dean, Town Manager.

2. Public Comment

Mr. George St. Amour referenced a letter he sent to the Board of Selectmen, and he wanted an answer to his question. He said two to three years ago, Chairman Eastman reformatted the list of salaries printed in the Town Report and organized the list by department. He felt this was well prepared and made sense. In last year's Town Report, it was formatted in a way that Mr. St. Amour described as out of this world. He felt the way it was done this year made it difficult to decipher. He wondered the reasoning behind changing the format. He thinks no one would run a business in this fashion, and he believes the Town should be no different. He also pointed out that the total payroll was over \$7 Million, and of that total over \$700,000 was in overtime. He felt this is not the way a business should run. In the past, you could see how this amount was broken down by department, but in the current format there's no way to determine where these amounts were coming from.

Mr. Mike Lambert also approached the microphone and said he has received emails and phone calls from Town employees regarding Ms. Victoria Del Greco's staying out of work since early February. He said Public Works employees are concerned about the example being set. He said this drama has been playing out in the papers, and he hopes the Town is addressing this. Going back to George's point, he agreed that this Town should be run like a business.

Mr. Lambert also asked about a situation regarding the Town prosecutor and her hasty departure from the Town. He felt it seems to be that the majority of personnel issues deal with female employees. He's heard from many people that management is not gender-neutral, and he feels our Town employees should be provided an environment of equality in which to work.

Mr. Lambert's final comment was that last week he reviewed the Comcast file and found out that for the past 11 years, 1% of fees have been put aside into a fund for the Town, and that fund is now in excess of \$60,000. He hopes that they will put this money to good use, hopefully for an upgrade of the current equipment.

Mr. Pace confirmed that the information Mr. Lambert discovered on the fund was correct, and he said things have been in flux since they have not known where the meetings would be held in the future. They did not feel right investing money in equipment for a particular building in the event they may not continue having meetings in this building. Mr. Lambert and Mr. Pace discussed this issue and whether it was relevant at this time, since there is still no plans for the Town Offices.

3. Minutes

Mr. Campbell moved to waive the reading of the minutes of March 26th, 2007 and accept the minutes as presented; second by Ms. Gilman. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Appointments

a) 2007 Town Board Appointments

Mr. Campbell moved to reappoint Langdon Plumer and Kenneth Knowles as regular members and Anthony Zwaan as an alternate member of the Planning Board, terms to expire April 30, 2010; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell moved to move Hank Ouimet from alternate to regular status on the Zoning Board, term to expire April 30, 2010; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell noted that both of these Boards still have openings for alternates. If anyone is interested in volunteering, they can certainly use the help.

Mr. Campbell moved to reappoint Anna Hardy-Evans as a regular member, to move Judy Rowan from alternate to regular status, and to move Fred Kollmorgen from regular to alternate status of the Historic District Commission, terms to expire April 30, 2010; second by Ms. Gilman. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell moved to reappoint John Henson and Donald Clement as regular members and Peter Waltz as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, terms to expire April 30, 2010; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

Again Mr. Campbell noted that both of these Boards have alternate openings for any interested volunteers.

Mr. Campbell moved to reappoint George St. Amour to the Exeter Housing Authority, term to expire April 30, 2010; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell moved to reappoint James Reardon and Sandra Cross as regular members and to move Diane Kollmorgan from alternate to regular status of the Council on Aging, terms to expire April 30, 2010; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell noted that the Rockingham Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday and will be making their recommendations at that time. He will wait until the next Board of Selectmen meeting for this appointment.

Mr. Campbell moved to move Norma Roberts from alternate to regular status on the Recreation Advisory Board, term to expire April 30, 2010; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Campbell said there are both regular and alternate openings on the Rec Advisory Board.

Mr. Campbell moved to reappoint Judy Rowan as a regular member, to reappoint Peter Smith as an alternate member, and to switch Julie Gilman to the Selectmen's Representative on the Heritage Commission, terms to expire April 10, 2010; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

b) Water & Sewer Advisory Committee

Mr. Campbell moved to appoint Michael Drunsic to the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee, term to expire April 30, 2010; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

c) RPC Representative

Mr. Campbell asked to wait until the next Board of Selectmen Meeting for this appointment.

5. Discussion/Action Items

a) Fairpoint/Verizon Update (Representative Henson)

Representative Hanson was present and wanted to give the Board an update after attending a meeting regarding the status of Fairpoint's acquisition of some of Verizon's assets. He described Fairpoint's intent to purchase Verizon with the exception of their wireless division. He asked them when they planned to come speak with the communities about their cable services, as Verizon had been pushing their cable network in this area. Fairpoint is concerned their Unions will have technical problems, but the bottom line is that they will be looking to expand in areas of Southern New Hampshire with dense populations. They anticipate it will probably not be until next year at the earliest.

Mr. Lambert said he has read a bit on this issue, and he thought Fairpoint was only interested in the phone lines. Mr. Hanson reiterated Fairpoint would be purchasing everything but the wireless network.

Mr. Dean also pointed out that later this year Comcast will be holding negotiation meeting for their contract with the Town, and we will be having ascertainment hearings as they draw closer.

b) Realignment of Seacoast MPO (Forest Griffin)

Mr. Forest Griffin, Rockingham Planning Commission Representative, has asked the Board to approve a resolution which would realign the boundaries of the seacoast MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of metropolitan transportation planning and land use planning in the RPC region. Mr. Griffin introduced Mr. Cliff Sinnot, Executive Director of the RPC, to discuss this idea.

Mr. Sinnot said that the RPC is in the process of redesignating the transportation side of what they do. 30 years ago, there were strange quirks in how an MPO was formed. These conditions have now changed, so now there is an opportunity to realign the region. After researching this, they realized it's a wise thing to do. He explained the RPC is not the same as the county. The regional planning districts were established by the State, and ours and Strafford County's are the only ones that transportation and land use take place along the same boundaries.

Cliff showed a map of Southern New Hampshire and pointed out the different urbanized areas. They are proposing to change the boundaries of the Seacoast and Salem-Plaistow-Windham MPO regions so that there is one MPO for the Rockingham Planning Commission and one for the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, in an attempt to help make their operations more efficient. Mr. Sinnot said he was here tonight to answer any questions the Board may have. He explained that the Governor designates MPOs and what he needs is 75% of the Towns impacted to approve and support these changes.

Mr. Campbell read the following resolution into record:

RESOLUTION

**TO REALIGN AND REDESIGNATE
the
SEACOAST METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
and the
SALEM-PLAISTOW-WINDHAM METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

Whereas the Town of Exeter is a member of the Rockingham Planning Commission and either the Salem-Plaistow-Windham MPO or Seacoast MPO; and

Whereas the Rockingham Planning Commission region is presently divided into two separately designated MPOs, the Salem-Plaistow-Windham MPO and the Seacoast MPO, and shares transportation planning responsibilities in the Seacoast MPO with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission; and

Whereas the present division is no longer mandated by Federal urbanized area designation; and

Whereas the Commission finds that a realignment of the MPOs in accordance with the established planning commission boundaries and as described in the document "Realigning Regional Planning And MPO Boundaries in the Seacoast And Southern Rockingham Regions of New Hampshire, (revised through April 2006) will improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of metropolitan transportation planning and land use planning in the RPC region; and

Whereas the Rockingham Planning Commission has committed to ensure continued equitable and proportionate division of MPO planning resources and consideration of project priorities between the municipalities formerly part of the Seacoast MPO and the municipalities formerly part of the Salem-Plaistow-Windham MPO; and

Whereas both the existing Seacoast and Salem-Plaistow-Windham MPO Policy Committees, the Rockingham Planning Commission and Strafford Regional Planning Commission have approved the proposed realignment and redesignation and have authorized their respective Commissions to seek approval of the redesignation from the governing bodies of the municipalities within the existing MPO and RPC regions in accordance with 23 CFR 450.310, as amended; and

Whereas the New Hampshire Department of Transportation has endorsed the MPO redesignation as proposed.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Selectmen (governing body) of the Town of Exeter hereby endorses the realignment and redesignation of the existing MPOs such that the Town will be part of a single MPO that is co-terminus with the planning district of the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Mr. Campbell moved the Board of Selectmen sign the resolution as presented, endorsing the realignment of the Seacoast MPO; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

c) EMHA Sewer Lift Station (EMHA)

Mr. Eastman asked Mr. Dean if the agreement included in their packets between the Town and Exeter Meadows Homeowners Association has already been approved by Town Council. Mr. Dean confirmed the agreement presented is in its final form.

Mr. Bob Winn said two weeks ago, there were still a couple of things being considered, and he believed the main points of concern were surrounding the trigger points. They wanted an agreement that is simple yet thorough and comprehensive. Mr. Winn said he was ready to revise the language to

accommodate RSA 149-I if needs be, but he believes both sides feel the language as-is satisfies what they need to accomplish.

Mr. Dean said that this is a “best effort” agreement. He highlighted the three trigger points, and he said the Town is targeting August 1, 2007 to begin construction. Even if construction is delayed, he believes it looks very good that construction will be completed by mid-to-late September. It also says that if the Town chooses not to move forward with the gravity flow system, the EMHA is asking for notice within 10 days of the decision, and that the Town will take over responsibility of the lift station within 30 days of that notice. He also noted that the Town is constrained by the municipal budget law and both sides agree to work together to come to an agreement should the Town’s portion exceed \$100,000.

Mr. Ingram moved the Board of Selectmen authorize the agreement as presented; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Winn thanked the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Dean, the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee and the Department of Public Works employees for all of their hard work and efforts. The EHMA is very proud of the actions taken and appreciate all of the efforts of everyone involved.

d) 2007 Property Value Update (Town Manager)

Mr. Dean noted that the Board received information on the property value update. He said that the Town Assessor gave him an analysis of the costs of instituting an alternative valuation program, and if they choose to go to an annual revaluation of property, they will need to hold two public hearings to discuss this.

He also referenced the Warrant Article that passed in March. It did not have actual amount appropriated for this change, but the comparison shows the difference in cost for our current system versus the proposed method.

Mr. Pace said when a Warrant Article does not have any money appropriated with it, it’s more advisory for the Board. He stated he is materially opposed to this Warrant Article, and he wonders if they had attached a \$300,000 value to that Warrant Article if it would have passed. He feels the Board should continue as they have been doing, and if they want to put a price tag on this, they can come back next year with another Warrant Article.

Mr. Eastman felt in September they should put out a Request for Quotation on a total revaluation and they can decide at that time whether it is worth the expense or not, but for the remainder of this year they can continue as-is. Mr. Eastman thought it could be done either as part of the budget or as a Warrant Article.

Mr. Campbell asked for clarification of whether it would impact taxes in 2008 or 2009. Mr. Dean said the current process would be frozen in place until it is replaced by a new process.

Mr. Ingram liked this approach, as it allows the Board of Selectmen as well as the Budget Committee to completely review the process and then decide how to proceed. He feels this is a good approach. Mr. Dean noted that Mr. DeVittori, the Town Assessor, will be scheduling these soon so stay tuned for more information.

6. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings this evening.

7. Permits & Approvals

a) Abatements & Exemptions

Mr. Campbell moved the abatements in the packet be read into record; second by Mr. Pace.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Veteran's Tax Credit Application

Map	Lot	Unit	Credit Amount
68	6	317	500.00
104	79	310	500.00
87	18	3	500.00
82	27		500.00
104	79	613	500.00
62	25		500.00
Total Credit:			\$3,000

Disability Exemption

Map	Lot	Unit	Exemption Amount
95	64	304	125,000
Total Disability Exemptions:			\$125,000

Elderly Exemption

Map	Lot	Unit	Exemption Amount
104	79	125	175,000
87	8	C-15	175,000
72	117	4	145,000
104	79	321	145,000
Total Elderly Exemptions:			\$640,000

Abatement Application

Map	Lot	Unit	Abatement Amount	Refund	Interest	Total Refund
70	16		94,800	1,825.85	0	1,825.85
Total Abatement Refunds:			\$1,825.85	0		1,825.85

b) Permits

The Town Manager presented the following permits for approval:

- The American Legion requested to have a raffle every Saturday night to support high school scholarships. A representative from the legion was present to speak to this permit. He said last year all of the money raised supported little leagues. He noted that the Legion is not looking to make a profit – all of the money taken in is put right back out to veterans for fuel and other assistance. He's trying to get more organized with the community and make sure

they have all of the required permits in place, which was not something they put much emphasis on in the past. The Board was very appreciative of his efforts.

- Boston Ladder & Scaffolding requested to put a structure (staging) on the sidewalk on Water Street for roofing from April 16th through May 16th. This will depend on the roofer's schedule and the scaffold should be up for five days during that time period.
- The Exeter Arts Committee requested to use the Nowak Room on May 19th from 9:30 am to noon for a lottery and for Hanging Day.
- Musical Arts requested to use the Town Hall – Main floor with stage use on June 6 – June 9 from 10 am to 8 pm for student recitals.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve all permits as advised; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

The representative from the American Legion Post 32 said there is only one handicap spot in front of their office. He wanted to know the proper procedure to have additional spots changed to be used for handicapped parking. Chairman Eastman told him to send a letter to Mr. Dean, and Mr. Dean stated that he has already received a letter from the Legion. Chairman Eastman told him they would have Mr. Dean look into this.

8. Reports

a) Town Manager's Report

- Last week the Spring Bulky Pick-up was moved back one day due to the weather. They recovered well and there were no issues.
- They are moving closer to ground breaking on the Water Tank project.
- Under Correspondences, there is a request from Bell & Flynn to extend their paving contract for one more year. The Department of Public Works says they're doing a very good job and all sources say other companies will come in much higher if they were to go to bid. Mr. Campbell asked if they needed a motion for Bell & Flynn, and Mr. Pace said he was nervous about approving things not officially on the agenda. He asked if they could add this to the next meeting. The Board agreed.

Chairman Eastman reminded the Board and Mr. Dean that they should get together with residents to discuss Walter Scott Way.

b) Selectmen's Committee Reports

Mr. Pace: The Arts Committee has a new event starting on April 27th. Their spring show is called "Blossoms" and the grand opening is on April 27th from 7 pm – 9 pm.

Mr. Campbell: The Conservation Commission meets tomorrow and the Planning Board meets on Thursday.

Ms. Gilman: The Recreation Advisory Board was postponed until tomorrow to discuss the revolving fund. The Zoning Ordinance Review Committee is meeting on Friday. They came up with language for conversions. They have also done work on Accessory Dwelling Units. Their next meeting will be on April 19th and they will have two speakers who are specialists on affordable housing.

Mr. Ingram: The Rockingham Planning Commission is meeting on Wednesday.

Mr. Eastman: The Water & Sewer Advisory Committee is meeting on Wednesday also.

9. Public Comment

None.

Mr. Pace noted that although the Winter Parking Ban has been lifted by ordinance, he reminded residents that if it snows, the parking ban will be reinstated and he wants them to please be aware of this.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to move to non-public session under RSA 91:A to discuss a personnel issue; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:17 PM.

Mr. Campbell did roll call. Ms. Gilman – Yes. Mr. Ingram – Yes. Mr. Pace – Yes. Mr. Campbell – Yes. Chairman Eastman – Yes. The Board then moved to non-public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A Lund
AA/HR Director