

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Eastman convened the Board at 6:45 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. Bill Campbell and Mr. Russell Dean, Town Manager.

**2. Public Comment**

Proclamations were given to the State Champion Exeter Blue Hawks Varsity Football team and State Champion Exeter Blue Hawk Girl's Soccer team and certificates of achievement were given to the members of both teams and their coaches. Coach Carl Robertson and Coach Megan Curran expressed their thanks to the Board as well as the Town of Exeter for their support of these teams. A proclamation was made for International Human Rights Day. Ilsa Andrews thanked the Board for their recognition of Human Rights Day.

**3. Minutes**

*Mr. Campbell moved to waive the reading of the minutes of December 3, 2007 and accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.*

**4. Appointments**

None.

**5. Discussion/Action Items**

- a. Town Warrant Article; Conveyance of Gilman Park to Town- Mr. Dean states that the current trustees of Gilman Park are no longer in the position to continue to care for the park. Martha Pennell and Jody Pellerin appear to answer the Board. Ms. Pellerin notes that the Town has cared for the park for many decades, and the liability issue has facilitated the need to convey the land to the town. Mr. Eastman asked if dogs are allowed in the park, and Ms. Pellerin says that dogs are allowed, but that the intention of the trustees is not to make this a dog park. The easement document is not complete yet.

*Mr. Campbell moved to support the warrant article. Mr. Pace seconds. Vote: Unanimous.*

- b. FY08 Budget and Warrant Articles:

Transportation Fund- Mr. Ingram spoke about the need for elderly transportation in the Town of Exeter. The Exeter Area Transportation Committee is trying to resolve this problem. Scott Bogle, a Transportation Planner from the Rockingham Planning Commission appeared to speak with the Board about this issue. **(Handout)** Mr. Bogle reviewed the current needs of the region and what each town can do to help. He also notes that these solutions could potential help residents, not just senior citizens. Mr. Bogle suggests a surcharge on automobile registrations at the Town level of up to \$5.00 per vehicle.

With a \$5.00 per vehicle charge, the Town could potentially appropriate over \$50,000 for this effort. Donna Schlachman also appeared as a member of the Exeter Area Transportation Committee. She says that other towns are included in this effort, but they are not progressing as quickly as Exeter. Mike Lambert asks if any of the nursing homes or Riverwoods allow for contracting. Ms. Schlachman says that she spoke with many of these services but none of them contract out. They are for the residents of their facilities only. Mr. Pace says that the intent of the funds collected must be very clear. Mr. Campbell thinks the amount should be lower. The Board will revisit this item on January 7.

Mr. Dean presented the current warrant articles. The planning articles (1-13) will be discussed by the Planning Board later in the week. The bond articles begin with Article 14. Mr. Pace thinks the Board should wait to vote on the Warrant Articles prior to the public hearing in January. Mr. Campbell suggests the review the articles. Starting with Article 13, Mr. Pace invites the public to volunteer for the Budget Recommendation Committee.

c. Downtown Project Update:

Mr. Campbell wishes to speak about the Downtown Project, but Joanne Park is not in attendance yet. Mr. Ingram asks Mr. Dean why many of the warrant articles use the wording of “to authorize the Board of Selectmen or Town Manager”, and Mr. Dean says the RSAs permit it and internally it can be dealt with through policy. Joanne Fryer arrived **HANDOUT** and spoke about the attempts to reduce the cost of the Downtown Project. She is most concerned about the utilities and has looked at not changing the locations, which would eliminate \$685,000 from the project, but the proposed trees would have to be changed due to the poles. The second option is to eliminate a portion of the utility changes but there would still be underground utilities in a portion of the Downtown (less \$205,000). The last option is to maintain overhead service for a larger portion of Downtown, but more trees would be lost (less \$220,000). Ms. Gilman says that the CIP contains plans for roadwork, and wonders if that has been consulted for this project. Ms. Fryer also proposes the sidewalk width from 8 to 6 feet (less \$13,000), and reviewed the type of trees (less \$9,600). The bollards and chains were to be removed (less \$15,840) and the kiosk will be removed (less \$10,000), and the light fixtures have been reviewed and there is an opportunity to reduce the cost (less \$48,500). The plantings around the bandstand would be eliminated (less \$7,200) along with a walkway at the Inn by the Bandstand (less \$4,000), and the metal garbage can would be replaced with a wooden one (less \$2,670). There are 2 other deductions that are percentages of the overall cost (less \$15, 896). The total is now \$1,174,000. Mr. Mike Lambert thinks that the police should enforce J-walking laws to improve the pedestrian flow as well as traffic flow. Martha Pennell asked about the left turn lane going from Front Street to Court Street. Ms. Fryer says that this problem was addressed but there was no solution to that problem because of the geometry of the intersection.

b. Warrant Articles- Returning to warrant article discussions, Mr. Ingram addressed the Watershed issue. He believes that this is an important to get a full understanding of the needs of the River and surrounding waters, and how to improve the buffer. The idea behind the warrant article is to provide some funds for the project and then the State would be willing to include more of the River in their study. Don Clement says that the geography of the river would be looked at in detail, and after this study is complete the Town would be open to receiving grant money from the State. The funds that the town would provide a study from Pickpocket Road to Downtown, which would have been left out of the study. Mr. Clement is working on the wording for the warrant article.

Mr. Campbell asked about a recycling revolving fund (article 21). Mr. Dean is asking the Board if they are interested in sponsoring a warrant article for recycling. Mr. Pace is not interested in the creation of this warrant article if it is not well thought out before it is presented to the voters. Mr. Campbell does not support this idea, and thinks it should be removed from the warrant articles.

***Mr. Campbell moves to not support Article 21 from the warrant list at this time. Mr. Pace seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.***

d. FY07 Year End Encumbrances:

Mr. Dean presents a list of Encumbrances. **GET LIST**

***Mr. Pace moves to encumber up to the balances stipulated provided that the appropriate guidelines are met and appropriate balances to be encumbered. Mr. Ingram seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.***

e. Planning/Building Fees:

***Mr. Ingram moves to approve the Planning and Building fees presented be approved effective January 1, 2008. This motion will be amended pending any action by Town Meeting. Mr. Campbell seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.***

f. Water/Sewer Update: Stratham Master Plan Subcommittee:

Mr. Eastman asked for this item to be added to the agenda because Stratham had implied that they were in talks with the Town of Exeter for Water and Sewer extensions between the towns. Mr. Dean says that he has had many superficial conversations regarding the possibilities of joint Water/Sewer projects between neighboring towns. Mr. Eastman would like to keep the resources of the town focused on Exeter and not given to other towns. Mr. Lambert is opposed to any Water/Sewer association with the Town of Stratham, and would like the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee meeting televised and the minutes updated and numbered. Mr. Clement agrees that the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee should be televised. Mr. Pace would like to reiterate that there is no underhanded activity going on. The Board agrees that the process of submitting minutes of Board and Committee meetings to the Town Clerk and to the website is not functioning well and must be organized. Ms. Gilman points out that the Board cannot control what another town chooses to write in their agenda or the verbage that is used. Mr. Eastman agrees that the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee should be televised even if it is delayed.

## **6. Public Hearings**

a. Water/Sewer Rates:

Mr. Dean presented the list of new rates. This is the second reading. Bob Kelly of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee appeared to answer questions regarding the rate changes. Mr. Clement asks if the new rates are published anywhere. Mr. Dean says that they are available on the website.

***Mr. Ingram moves to approve the FY08 Water/Sewer rates effective January 1, 2008 billing. Mr. Campbell seconds. VOTE: Unanimous.***

## **7. Permits & Approvals**

**a) Abatements and Exemptions**

*Mr. Campbell moved to approve the abatements and exemptions as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded.  
VOTE: Unanimous.*

**b) Permits**

None.

**8. Reports**

**a) Town Manager's Report-**

Thank you to all of the Public Works employees for all of their hard work with plowing and snow removal. Snow removal continues tonight. There are still a few days left to submit December tax bills. The trash removal issues are continuing to be discussed with Waste Management. The Town Clerk Supervisors of the Checklist will be in the Town Office on Saturday for the last day to register to vote in the Presidential Primary. The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be January 7, 2008.

**b) Selectmen's Committee Reports**

Ms. Gilman: The Heritage Commission will meet in Wednesday and the Historic District Commission is meeting on Thursday. The Town Building Advisory Committee is still looking for one more member and have begun touring Town Buildings. They are also working on a survey to learn about the needs of the town in the Town buildings. The Energy Committee will begin meetings in January and will begin an energy audit.

Mr. Ingram: Nothing more to report other than the River Committee and Transportation committee items that were spoken about earlier this evening.

Mr. Pace: Contract negotiations continue, and Mr. Pace wishes everyone a Happy Holiday and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Mr. Campbell: The Conservation Committee heard a presentation from the Boulders regarding the surrounding wetlands. The Planning Board had a public meeting regarding zoning amendments next Thursday.

Mr. Eastman: Nothing to report.

**9. Public Comment**

None.

**10. Non Public Session-**

None.

**11. Adjournment-**

*At 9:40 PM Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Geis  
AA