

1,2. Convene Regular Meeting, Interviews: Recreation Advisory Board.

The meeting convened at 6:45 PM in the Selectmen's Office. The Board interviewed Dawn MacArthur for a position on the Recreation Advisory Board. She noted that she had been involved in Recreation for years, and then she left Exeter for about ten years and has recently returned. Chairman Binette commented that they have had a difficult time keeping people on the Rec Board, and they have been light in membership.

The Board let her know that she will be hearing from either the Town Manager or his assistant.

3. Introduce Members of the Board.

Chairman Binette reconvened the televised portion of the meeting at 7:00 PM in the Nowak Room of the Town Office and introduced other members of the Board: Mr. Lionel Ingram, Mr. Bob Eastman, Mr. Joe Pace, Mr. William Campbell, and Mr. Russell Dean, Town Manager.

Before they moved on to the agenda items, Chairman Binette had an award that he wanted to present, although the recipient was not present, due to the fact she is a Town employee. He explained that last year, when Ms. Barb Blenk left, we were left wondering who would handle the project of creating the Annual Town Report. Ms. Carole Mitchell, Receptionist, stepped up and put her heart and soul into this project. The result is a wonderful Town Report, and he wanted to recognize her for the outstanding job she did. He and Mr. Dean would be presenting this award to her in the morning, and he asked residents to congratulate and thank her when they saw her.

4. Meetings with the Board: John Hammond, Riverwoods/Lifelong Learning Program.

Mr. John Hammond, Exeter resident at Riverwoods, wanted to share some good news with the Board. A small group of volunteers from Riverwoods have been meeting with Granite State College to help provide adult education programs.

He explained that Granite State College first started offering OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) classes in Manchester and Concord. Through the efforts of this group of volunteers, they now offer OLLI classes here in Exeter. This spring will begin new classes at these three locations. He believes it's a real feather in the cap for Exeter. He brought some catalogs and read some of the classes being offered. He also distributed copies of the catalog to the Board.

Mr. Hammond said catalogs would be available at the Town Office and soon will be available at the Library. He instructed interested residents to call 513-1377 or visit [www.granite.edu/olli](http://www.granite.edu/olli) for further information.

Chairman Binette then wanted to speak about a plaque that the Town had received. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Chairman Binette, Mr. Eastman and Mr. Dean went to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and attended a plaque-hanging ceremony and met the crew of the USS Hyman G. Rickover, which is in the process of being decommissioned. The Town of Exeter will be hosting the crew of the Rickover over the next year while they are in port, and the crew will be volunteering their services to help the Town in a variety of ways.

5. Meetings with the Board: Exeter Meadows Homeowners.

Mr. Bob Winn, past President of the Exeter Homeowners Association, recalled that he was first before the Board on September 25<sup>th</sup>, discussing who should have ownership of the lift station. At that time, there was a great deal of discussion on the issues surrounding the lift station. At that meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to “take ownership of the Exeter Meadows lift station contingent upon the completed negotiations after a successful site survey and assessment, to be done by December 31, 2006.”

Mr. Winn stated they were there this evening to give a progress update on this process. Members of the EHA have met with Mr. Dean and other Town employees, and they’ve also met with Underwood Engineers. They feel they have not made enough progress in meeting the goal of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. They are only now almost ready to put the project out to bid. At the meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Pichini gave the Town a progress report, and he feels that the progress is dragging very slowly.

After reviewing the minutes and tape of the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, they are confident that it was the intent of the Board to take over the management of the lift station and replace it with a gravity lift station.

Mr. Winn feels that the EHA has submitted figures to the Town, which the Town has not felt are acceptable, but he has not been given any feedback or counter-offer. The members of EHA are flexible and willing to work with the Town, but they have not been given anything to work with. He is asking the Board to immediately take over management of the lift station and to set some deadlines so they can move forward on this project in a positive direction.

Mr. Dean felt Mr. Winn hit on all the points. He said right now they are punting around a lot of numbers but it’s hard to determine an exact number until the actual bid number is done. Mr. Dean’s suggestion is that the EHA share the \$17,000 needed to get ready to go to bid, and then that amount could be applied to the \$126,000 they proposed on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Campbell asked if they should authorize Underwood Engineers to move forward on preparing the bid package. He asked Mr. Winn how he felt about this.

Mr. Winn said he is concerned because it’s his understanding that it will take 4-5 months for this package to be prepared. He feels this is being dragged out and he does not understand why the process is taking so long. We are already six months from when they initially came before the Board, and each day that passes, they continue to provide a service to the Town without charging a fee.

Mr. Dean said he would put together an amortization table with a projected cost of \$250,000 at 4% over 10 years. Depending on the total cost of the project, they may have to dip into the Sewer Fund to help pay for this. He also noted that anything over \$100,000 has to go before the Town as a Warrant Article.

Mr. Winn said he doesn’t disagree, but he reminded the Board that their initial figures have always been just a proposal. They have made it clear that they are open to negotiations but they have never received any counter-proposals, other than talk around this Warrant Article. He feels it’s important to

set specific deadlines on when these things will need to happen. He feels we need to separate the lift station from the gravity flow system.

Chairman Binette felt there is still a lot of information that they don't know, including whether or not \$250,000 will be enough. Mr. Winn agreed. Chairman Binette said they also don't know if the 4% interest rate will land. He felt the Board may have been a bit too aggressive with the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, since they can't always control how quickly the engineers work. Mr. Winn understood, but stated the point he's trying to get across is that they're willing to make it work financially and have not gotten anywhere. The EHA also feels that they need immediate relief from responsibility of the lift station.

Mr. Ingram agrees that we should separate the two issues. Mr. Eastman said the Board has made a good-faith effort in taking over management of the lift station. He thinks it's absurd that the Town does not already own it, but he does not believe the Town should take over 100% liability of the station. What happens if there are issues with the station one month after we take it over? Mr. Campbell agreed he did not feel comfortable taking over 100% liability.

The Board discussed various options of taking over the lift station. Mr. Pace thought it would still take 12-18 months to get the gravity flow station in place, so he thought it made sense to set deadlines in place to at least show a light at the end of the tunnel. He also pointed out there is no money in the budget for this size a project at this time.

Mr. Ingram asked if they should charge Russ with putting this timeline together to present to the Board in two weeks. Mr. Dean said he would sit down with Mr. Winn and put together some deadlines. He added that the lift station in its current state needs some upgrades. At this point he said they're still so many uncertainties, that's why they have not made any counter offers. Mr. Winn reiterated they are open to negotiations, but he feels leaving it open-ended will allow this to drag on and on. He would like to work together to put a timetable in place so these discussions can continue and they have a set timetable for things to happen.

Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Winn to confirm that it costs roughly \$3500 a year for maintenance, and he asked Mr. Dean to confirm what types of upgrades would be needed. Mr. Pace thought another question is, will we be able to operate the lift station over the next 12-18 months. Will it last over that time until the gravity flow system is in place?

Chairman Binette thought one problem is that the Town has a number of water and sewer issues of their own, plus this issue here. He feels they are placing too much on the Town Manager, so if they ask him to come back in two weeks, he needs to put everything else aside and focus on this project. Mr. Dean felt he would be able to come back in two weeks with this timetable.

Mr. Mike Lambert came forward and was glad this issue was being discussed. He receives a lot of questions on this subject and he wanted to have some questions answered for the public. He believes that these types of issues would normally be a warrant article and he feels there's not a lot of information coming out about how the Town is spending their money.

Mr. Lambert asked if these plans were originally approved by the Planning Board. Mr. Winn said these plans were submitted and approved, and the original plans said that the Town would be providing water and sewer. Mr. Eastman asked if the Department of Environmental Services

approved the lift station. Mr. Winn said DES was not in favor, nor were DPW. They also thought there was ledge in that area that would prohibit them from putting in the gravity flow station.

Mr. Len Pichini, member of Exeter Homeowners Association, read the following chronology of events:

### **EMHA Gravity Sewer vs Lift Station Chronology of Events**

- May 29, 1996 NHDES letter approval for a gravity sewer design.
- December 27, 1996 Town DPW memo states: “The original gravity design is feasible and technically possible to construct. The Public Works department would prefer a gravity system to avoid the added cost of yearly operation and maintenance of a pump station.” Given the gravity sewer approval six months earlier, why was a lift station solution pursued by the developer; probably to reduce his costs. DPW tried to hold the line on the gravity sewer solution.
- January 24, 1997 Town planner letter to the developer states: “Given the expense, the time involved, and the uncertainty of whether all parties would agree regarding the assumptions needed to do a financial analysis, you may decide to proceed with a private lift station.” Does that statement support the Town DPW statement of a month earlier? I don’t think so. In fact I think the Town planner is promoting a private lift station solution.
- February 3, 1997 Developer letter to Town planner states: “The pump station is the only economically feasible alternative at this time because of excessive ground water and ledge encountered.” Today we know this assertion is not based on fact. Please note the developer wasted no time to respond to the Town planner’s invitation to install a private lift station.
- February 19, 1997 NHDES letter to Town DPW states: “While the pump station solution is technically feasible, a gravity sewer connection would appear to be preferable for long term operation, maintenance and reliability concerns.” Amen brother.
- April 23, 1997 NHDES letter approval for a sewerage pumping station.

Mr. Pace said some things have changed since 1996. He thought the step they could take would be to charge Mr. Dean to come back in two weeks with a more specific proposal to outline a timeframe and cost specifics. Mr. Campbell agreed.

***Mr. Pace moved the Board of Selectmen instruct the Town Manager to return in two weeks with a more formal proposal for the Town to take over operation of the pump station and also the split of liability for obligations of maintaining and operating costs for the remainders of the year; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Winn how he felt about splitting the cost. Mr. Winn said they are going to end up paying for it in one way or another, but he does not like the fact that they will not have control over the process, receipt of information, and what will be done with that info. He felt he would be more inclined to ask the EHA to contribute for the remaining piece if they applied the remaining

amount from the \$15,000 the Town authorized in September, of which only \$3500 was used towards the boring tests. Chairman Binette asked Mr. Dean if he felt he would have this figure also ready in two weeks. Mr. Pace was confused what he was figuring out. Mr. Dean said he would have this figure in one week, and the Board agreed.

6. Minutes: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007

***Mr. Eastman moved to waive the reading of the minutes of February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and accept the minutes as presented; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

7. Bid Opening: Structural Fire Attack & Water Supply Hose.

Chairman Binette opened bids for the fire hoses:

Bid Item #1: **Total Price Quotation for “Structural Attack Hose”**  
Bid Item #2: **Total Price Quotation for “Water Supply Hose”**

*K&T Environmental Equipment Corp., Island Falls, ME*  
Bid Item #1: \$2,064.00 Bid Item #2: \$8,373

*Admiral Fire & Safety, Scarborough, ME*  
Bid Item #1: \$2,217 Bid Item #2: \$6,777

*C&S Specialty, Inc., Smithfield, RI*  
Bid Item #1: \$2,047 Bid Item #2: \$6,078

*American Fire Equipment Co., South Easton, MA*  
Bid Item #1: \$2,250 Bid Item #2: \$7,140

*Firematic Supply Co. Inc., Sterling, MA*  
Bid Item #1: \$2,356 Bid Item #2: \$7,644

*Fire Tech & Safety, Londonderry, NH*  
Bid Item #1: \$2,310 Bid Item #2: \$6,360

*Station House Supply, DBA The Fire Barn, Peterborough, NH*  
Bid Item #1: \$1,911.20 Bid Item #2: \$6,930.60

***Mr. Pace moved the Board of Selectmen refer the bids to the Town Manager and appropriate departments for a recommendation of award; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

8. Bid Award: Water Main & Road Improvements, Main Street & Epping Road.

Mr. Dean said the bids were reviewed by Public Works and Underwood Engineers, and the recommendation is to award the project to Park Construction Corporation. He noted the bid does include \$20-25,000 for sidewalks.

Chairman Binette asked what the estimates were for each portion of the project. Mr. Noyes stated the Water Line Replacement estimate was \$1.7 Million, and it came in at \$1.6 Million. Road and drainage both came in over the estimate, but the tank came in much more favorably than the estimate. The Board discussed how the bids compared to the original estimate.

Mr. Campbell asked if the sidewalk was to be done, because Mr. Dean said it was included but in the same breath he said it was optional. Mr. Ingram expressed concern because a few weeks ago, they were shown plans that he believed included sidewalks. Mr. Dean stated he is correct, that project included sidewalks.

Mr. Noyes said the sidewalks were optional and could be pulled. The project they were shown a few weeks ago was upgrading existing sidewalks. He believed the Board had asked him to include this as an option. He was hoping the Board would provide some guidance as to whether or not they would like to spend the money to solve this problem.

Mr. Ingram felt this would be a cost-effective solution to deal with this. He also expressed concern that some of the issues brought forward by residents that night will not be addressed. Mr. Noyes said they could not address those concerns directly in this bid and still stay on schedule. He said they can still look into those issues and submit change orders to address those problems.

***Mr. Pace moved the Board of Selectmen approve to award the bid for the Water Main & Road Improvements, Main Street and Epping Road to Park Construction Corporation in the amount of \$2,721,525 including the alternates as presented; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.***

9. Third Reading: Parking Ordinance Amendment: Temporary Parking Regulations.

Mr. Dean noted that this was the third and final reading for the Parking Ordinance Amendment. He asked the Board if there were any further questions on this, and there were none.

***Mr. Campbell moved the Board of Selectmen approve the parking ordinance amendments as presented; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

10. Board Appointments: Conservation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board.

There was some discussion among the Board as to which candidates they were prepared to appoint at this time.

***Mr. Campbell moved to appoint Jeff Geary as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, term to expire April 30, 2009; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

11. Amend CATV Committee Charge.

Mr. Pace said that the Cable TV Committee has been busy since their initial charge has been updated. The two major changes to the charge regard membership. The first is they need a member from the Library. They're asking to amend the charge to include a Library employee with no term limit. The second change is that they're looking to remove the term limit for the School member. In addition, he would like to appoint Pam Darlington to the committee.

***Mr. Pace moved the Board of Selectmen accept the revised charge for the Cable Television Committee charge as presented; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

***Mr. Pace moved to appoint Pam Darlington as the Library member of the Cable Television Committee and also Sam Bruno as the School member of the Cable Television Committee; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Mr. Pace also updated the Board on two topics they've been working on. The CATV Committee has been negotiating the cable TV contracts. There will be two ascertainment hearings to allow citizens to be involved in this process as well.

Also, work has continued on the public access component. They are still developing policies on public access. Mr. Lambert asked Mr. Pace if anything is planned to upgrade the equipment. Mr. Pace said they are also looking at upgrading equipment, both for audio and broadcasting.

12. Town Manager's Report.

- The next Board of Selectmen Meeting will be next week, March 19<sup>th</sup>, and the primary reason for this meeting will be to swear in new officials.
- Tomorrow is Town Meeting. Voting will be held at Talbot Gymnasium/SST. Residents are asked to enter through the atrium.
- He read a memo from the Fire Department regarding inspections of multi-family homes, which will begin very soon. This was prompted by a recent fire in Berlin, NH.
- Last week, Mr. Dean attended Riverwoods to have discussion on the Warrant Articles. They had very fruitful discussions.
- He reminded residents of the new Parks & Recreation line – 418.6495.
- The new Parks & Recreation brochure is out. Staff did a great job again this year, and these brochures are available at the Town Office and at Parks & Rec building.
- Spring bulky pick-up will take place on your normally scheduled trash day the week of April 2-6.
- They will have exit polls regarding transportation needs at the Talbot Gym. Residents can stop by to fill out this two-question survey.
- There was concern raised last week at the Water & Sewer Meeting – he wanted to alert viewers that the Larry Lane Well has not been used since February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- He received an update on the arsenic issue from Underwood Engineers. He will have an update on this topic shortly.

13. Permits.

Mr. Dean presented the following for action:

- Exeter Rotary Club is requesting to hang a banner across Water Street on May 21<sup>st</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup> to advertise for Audition Event Info.
- The Exeter Brass Band is requesting to use the Town Hall – Main Floor with Stage Use as a rain site for their concerts on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The Exeter Brass Band is requesting to block off parking spaces near the bandstand and block off Front Street from the Bandstand to Court Street for their concerts on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, from 7-9 am.

- The Exeter Brass Band is requesting to use the Bandstand for their concerts on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, from 7-9 am.
- Rockingham Planning Commission is requesting to use the Nowak Room on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm for census addressing.
- The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is requesting to hang a banner across Water Street on September 10<sup>th</sup> through September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The banner will say “Walk to Cure Diabetes, Exeter High School, Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007”
- The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is requesting to have a road race/walkathon on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7 am to 2 pm. This is a Walk to Cure Diabetes, starting at Exeter High School.
- The Father’s Family Church is requesting to hand a banner across Water Street on April 15<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, advertising for Unity of the Bands at Exeter High School, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

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

14. Selectmen’s Committee Reports.

Mr. Ingram: Nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Eastman: Nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Pace: Nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Campbell: The Planning Board approved a lot line adjustment to allow the Town to swap land with the Peterson’s to build the water tank.

Mr. Binette: Nothing to report at this time.

15. Public Comments:

Mr. Lambert had a few items to address. First, he said in June we will be coming up on the one year anniversary of the termination of a Town employee. He hopes the Town is doing their best to move quickly on this, because this person’s license is in jeopardy.

Next, he expressed his disappointment with the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee for not allowing the cameras into their meetings. Especially considering all of the recent concerns arising in this area, he does not see why they shouldn’t be held to the same standards of every other Board.

At the tail end of last meeting, it was announced that the State is considering a piece of land off 101, near our Public Works Department. He hoped Mr. Campbell pushed to have them not have a courthouse there. He doesn’t see why they would want to make this a busier intersection. He asked if anyone out there agreed, to let them know. He did not agree with the Board regarding making a courthouse more convenient for everyone.

He also did not agree with sliding in \$10,000 to paint the water tank. He felt that money could have gone to much better use. He feels that painting the town name on the water tank is something they do out in the mid-west, not here in historic Exeter. He feels we have plenty of other, more beautiful signs and does not feel we need this one.



Finally, he referenced an article in the Globe, calling the Squamscott River the Exeter River. He feels people need to correct this, as this is something he sees and hears frequently.

16. Adjourn.

***Mr. Eastman moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 9:09 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A Lund  
AA/HR Director