

3. Reconvene regular meeting – 7PM

Chairman Ingram reconvened the Board following a non-public session held under RSA 91-A regarding 3 personnel matters. He explained the Board will conduct business relating to the Public Hearing for the budget, warrant articles and bond issues, followed by regular business.

4. Introduce members of the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Ingram introduced the Board members to the audience (Cable and present): Robert Eastman, Paul Binette, Joseph Pace, William Campbell and Town Manager Russell Dean.

5. Town Warrant: Review Articles.

Chairman Ingram noted the one article for the Town Meeting warrant remaining to be discussed is that of the Heritage Commission. Carol Aten, Lincoln Street, was present to speak to the article, recapping the information John Merkle presented at the last meeting. Ms. Aten reported the Heritage Commission would provide new abilities to protect the Town's resources, outside those of the Historic District and Conservation Commission. This would include a town-wide scope and activities. The role of the Commission would be advisory and educational and would have little to no impact on Town staffing.

Chairman Ingram noted the article is being presented as a Board article vs. that of a petition article. The Article would read as follows: *"To see if the Town will vote to establish a Heritage Commission in accordance with the provisions of RSA 673 and RSA 674, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint up to seven citizens as members of the Heritage Commission pursuant to the provisions of RSA 673:4-a and 673:5, and to appoint up to five additional citizens as alternate members, or take any other action relating thereto."*

Mr. Pace moved to recommend the article for placement in the Town Meeting warrant; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.

6. Public Hearing: FY06 Budget including proposed Bond Issues & Warrant Articles

Chairman Ingram opened the Public Hearing at 7:15PM and proceeded to read each article (from the attached draft warrant) for review.

#1 has no action as it regards election of officers; #2 through #10 are zoning amendments and the public hearing has already been conducted; #11 is to choose all necessary officers.

#12 Water Tank & Distribution System Improvements: (\$8,260,000 for constructing new tank on Epping Road with associated distribution system improvements, including road reconstruction – issuance of bonds or notes). Bob Kelly, Chairman W/S Advisory Committee, spoke on the article. He noted with the criteria developed for the water plant article and its subsequent failure at the polls, it was necessary to propose infrastructure improvements to maintain/improve water pressure for fire flows and water quality. Review of the Capital Improvement Program showed one project to be moved up 5 years to help with the improvements: Main Street road reconstruction. By incorporating

this project with the Water Tank (and associated system improvements), the original plan of ‘snaking’ the pipes through a more direct route to Epping Road could be adjusted to go more mainstream up Main Street to Epping Road. Along with this, the project could be partially paid through taxes as it will improve fire flows.

Arthur Baillargeon, Tremont Street, asked if the funds include demolition of the old tank. Yes.

Mike Lambert, Locust Avenue, suggested careful consideration of improvements to the Epping Road Corridor, as the Epping Road Corridor Study is not yet complete, and areas to look at would be Columbus Avenue intersection, increased traffic due to the new school, purchasing land to widen the road, rights-of-way changes, etc. Mr. Noyes reported that the bulk of the road reconstruction will be Main Street, from Swasey Parkway to Brookside Drive. Past that area there will not be much reconstruction needed. Brian Griset, Cullen Way, noted the savings on that project could be \$2.7M over 2 years. Mr. Noyes noted the \$1.6 in bonds already approved relating to the Water Treatment Plant could be used as they are labeled for “water system improvements”.

Mr. Pace questioned the funding. Mr. Dean estimates about 95 cents per 1000 gallons. The Board has requested the W/S Advisory discuss this and they met last evening. It was noted the service charge will not be raised but a sub-committee has been formed to study the rates in general. ***Mr. Eastman moved to support the warrant article; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

#13 Downtown Historic Restoration Project: \$6,300,000 for the purpose of funding improvements in the downtown and issue bonds or notes.

Mr. Griset asked who was responsible for the cost of changing services within the buildings, as the burying of services takes place. Peter Dow, member of the Restoration Commission, explained the relocation of the meter boxes to the services will come from the funding; any inside work being done by the owner will not be paid from Town funding.

Mr. Baillargeon asked who benefits most from the project. He noted that safety at the crosswalks is being stressed, but there are no laws that state people must cross at crosswalks. He also stated joggers run in the road and there are few lights at night. The burden of this project is on the taxpayers, particularly the elderly and with the bonds from various project accumulating he can not support this. Mr. Dow stated pedestrian safety will be improved with lighting improvements, particularly at crosswalks. The improvements being made will last well past the cost of the 20-year bond. Half of the cost is for the utilities, but once complete, the utility company will maintain. He noted the fire department will gain access to buildings easier with no wires at the building, and sited several area towns where this has been done. Mr. Baillargeon stated he didn’t care what other towns were doing or paying for. Once the poles are down and the new poles are placed, they become our cost.

Mr. Down stated the timing of the project works with the reconstruction of Water Street planned. In 1999, when the sewer separation project took place, the repaving was only temporary and no curbing was changed.

Mr. Lambert stated he continues to wrestle with the aesthetic look vs. the need. He feels the use of brick is over used in New England. As part of the project, he asks what is being done to preserve the buildings in the downtown – i.e. are they hardwired to the fire station. He feels more strongly at preserving the historic buildings vs. enhancing the sidewalks. Also, will the vaults/boxes at the

sidewalks be protected against high voltage (commenting on recent stories in Massachusetts whereby animals have been electrocuted when stepping on the boxes.)

#14 Holland Way/Hampton Road intersection improvements: The amount has been decreased to \$130,000, from \$150,000, taking into consideration the \$20,000 in reserves received from the developer. There was no further discussion.

#15 Stewart Park seawall repairs: Mr. Baillargeon questioned how ‘emergency’ is the project as the temporary work seems to be holding up well. Could this project be delayed till next year? Mr. Noyes stated the temporary supports are plywood and are only propped in place. We are not sure how the freeze/thaw cycle will affect the supports. Mr. Dean explained that Appledore Engineering has estimated \$60,000 for the permitting process, based on their past work in the area. The lifespan of the project should be over 20 years.

Mr. Eastman questioned whether this should be a bond or a straight vote, noting a bond will require 60% passage. Mr. Noyes stated the temporary fix could hold till next year and hold off the bond, but there are too many variables (ice, frozen dirt behind the pilings, sheet ice taking the temporary fix down river) and, the price will most certainly increase. Mr. Dow suggested separating the design and permitting costs from the construction costs, in order to start the process in case the bond does not pass. Mr. Noyes noted we have had problems in the past with designs completed (costs expended) and the project has not passed (i.e. fire sub-station, Park St. Bridge, water treatment plant).

Mr. Pace stated the Town has presented a sufficient alarm for this project, noting the Board went to the Department of Revenue Administration to request use of the fund balance for needed repairs, which was denied. He feels it would be easier to convince the project is needed by use of the bond if the payments are spread out over the 10-year period. This is really a “gotta have” project vs. a “wouldn’t it be nice” project.

Mr. Campbell suggested reversing #15 and #16 – bond issues usually listed in descending order.

#16 Town Operating Budget. No discussions

#17 Firefighters Collective bargaining agreement: Mr. Dean reported some of the particulars of the proposed contract: increased health contributions, elimination of longevity payments, continuing with the Pay & Classification Plan, fire shifts from a 10/14 hours shift to 24 hours (1 year test for this). No further discussion.

#18 Public Works/Town Ofc/Recreation Collective Bargaining Agreement: Mr. Dean reported this is similar to the firefighters minus the 24 hour shifts. Even though not yet signed, the figure meets the submission date for posting. No further discussion.

#19 Engine 3 replacement: The Board’s recommendation was added to the article. No further discussion.

#20 Pavement Management Program: No discussion.

#21 Exeter River Study: Chairman Ingram clarified this is for the internal phase 2 of Exeter’s plan, outside of the State’s activities. No further discussion.

#22 Garrison Lane/Pickpocket Bridge repaint: Mr. Noyes followed up on a previous question that the Selectmen of the Town of Brentwood have agreed to pay their half of the bridge painting cost. He noted the Town would spend what is needed of the \$60,000 and the contract will include protection from contaminants. He noted any 'glitch' would deal with more deterioration that is expected. Donald Clement, Conservation Commission, asked of the time. He noted the area is a popular spot for fishing, with spring being the opportune time.

#23 Mosquito Control: Assistant Chief Berkenbush stated Mike Morrison (Municipal Pest Management) will be present at the Deliberative Session to explain the process proposed. Most of the program will consist of larviciding, then seeking specific types of mosquitoes and testing, with a small amount used to spray if necessary. Phillips Exeter Academy, RiverWoods and the School District have all contracted with Municipal Pest Management to coordinate the program for the Town. They will, however, supply their funding for their programs. All treatments will be done by Mr. Morrison as he holds the license and the program will be viewed by the Health Department. ***Mr. Eastman moved to support the program; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: 5-0.***

#24 Epping Road Corridor Design & Engineer: No discussion.

#25 Train Station Expansion: No discussion. Mr. Pace updated the Board on the process of legislation to reimburse the 'host' towns with operating costs. It has proceeded to the House Committee and will be discussed on Tuesday evening. Towns should send representatives to testify. It's listed as House Bill #1743.

#26: Capital Reserve Fund – Arterial Shoulders: No discussion.

#27: Sick Leave Expendable Trust: No discussion.

#28 – 33 – Social Service agencies. Except to add "vote to" following "To see if the Town will" to each of the articles, there was no discussion.

#34 Discontinue Bus Replacement Capital Reserve Fund: No discussion.

#35 Maintenance of Swasey Parkway: No discussion.

#36 Easement on Town Property: Mr. Pace noted that Citizens Bank is not currently the owner of the property but merely the tenant. Additional language was added to read: "... (currently *the location of the Citizen's Bank Drive-Up*)". No other discussion.

#37 Land Swap – Water Tank Project: No discussion.

#38 Heritage Commission: No further discussion.

#39 Petition Article: Birch Road Municipal Trail: No petitioner was present to explain. Discussion will follow at the Deliberative Session if present.

#40 Petition Article High Street Historic District: This is also listed verbatim in the Zoning Articles. [Note: further clarification on Thursday, January 12, 2006 revealed the main petitioner had withdrawn the petition after appearing on the Zoning ballot and the Board has taken reference off as a petition article.]

#41 Petition Article: Conservation Land Fund (will be new #40):Mr. Clement apologized to the Board for not being prepared enough to come before the Budget Recommendations Committee for their support. He explained the funds would be used mostly for the Raynes Farm barn, including continued stabilization in order to protect the Town's resource, as well as some for the Open Space Committee to review any possible acquisitions (for legal, surveys, etc). It was determined after this first year, maintenance items, such as trail maintenance, mowing of fields, etc., will go through the budget process and included in the operating budget. Funding for land purchases, etc., would continue as warrant articles. **Mr. Eastman moved to support the article; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**

#42 Petition Article: Blue Bag User Fee: No selectmen's statement is required as there is no funding associated with the article.

Mr. Eastman reverted to Article #26 noting as a Capital Reserve Fund, the Board of Selectmen should be delegated to act as agents. Language ("..and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend monies from said fund") will be added.

Chairman Ingram closed the public hearing at 9:14 P.M. and opened the regular meeting.

7. Minutes: December 19, 2005

Mr. Pace moved to waive the reading of the minutes and to accept them as submitted; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: 4-0, with Mr. Eastman abstaining.

8. Bid Opening: Loader.

Two bids were received for the 3.5 yard 4-wheel drive loader:

Southworth-Milton Inc., Milton MA	No bid
NorTrax, John Deere, Pembroke, NH	\$145,700 (5-year lease at \$32,420 annually)

Mr. Pace moved to pass the bids along to the Town Manager and DPW representative for review and return with a recommendation; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.

Three bids were received for the replacement Street Sweeper (DPW sought bids from dealers).

C.N.Woods, Woburn, MA	\$176,820 w/options; \$173,020 minus trade.
Tennant Company, MN	\$181,200 (5 year lease offered)
Howard Fairfield, Skowhegan, ME	\$196,500 w/trade = \$176,500

Mr. Binette moved to have the Town Manager and DPW Representative review the bid specs and return with a recommendation; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

9. Bid Award: Chemical Bids.

Mr. Dean recommended the low bidder in each instance. The budget is tight but Mr. Noyes reported we should be close. ***Mr. Pace moved to award the chemical bids to the companies recommended at low bid by the Town Manager; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

10. Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Dean provided the Board with a proposed list of selectmen's meetings for the coming year. It was noted there are a couple listed that are observed holidays by the Town. Discussion will follow at a later date.

11. Permits:

- Community Action Head Start requested use of the Wheelwright Room for Policy Council meetings on January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17 and June 21, 2006 from 9AM to 12 noon.
- Request for an auction on April 1 at 5PM at the High School Annex. The permit fee has been paid.
- Permits for the 2006 Exeter Holiday Parade have been received: Use of Bandstand on December 2nd (rain date 12/3); Parade permit (same dates); blocking off parking by the Bandstand from 12:30 to end of the parade.
- NH Connections requested the Wheelwright Room on January 19th from 9-11.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the permits as presented; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

12. Selectmen Committee Reports.

- Mr. Pace thanked employees and officials involved in the collective bargaining processes for their efforts on behalf of their fellow employees, noting he feels these are good contracts.
- Mr. Campbell: None.
- Mr. Eastman: None.
- Mr. Binette: He asked residents interested in becoming Budget Recommendations Committee members to contact the office or him directly in order for him (as Vice Chairman) to present the slate of officers at the Deliberative Session on February 4th.
- Mr. Ingram: Safety Committee meeting Thursday morning; River Committee next week.

13. Public Comments: None.

Mr. Eastman moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 9:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Blenk
Admin. Asst./HR Dir.