

1, 2. Convene the meeting/Non Public Session.

Chairman Binette convened the Board at 6:15PM. It was moved and seconded to adjourn to a non-public sessions under RSA 91-A to discuss a personnel matter (board interviews).

3, 4. Reconvene regular meeting – 6:59PM.

Chairman Binette reconvened the Board at 6:59PM in the Nowak Room of the Town Office and introduced other members of the Board: Mr. Joe Pace, Mr. William Campbell, Mr. Lionel Ingram, Mr. Robert Eastman, and Mr. Russell Dean, Town Manager.

5. Minutes: April 17th, 2006.

Mr. Pace moved to waive the reading of the minutes of April 17th, 2006 and accept the minutes as presented; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

6. Proclamation: National Police Week (w/ Peace Officers Memorial Day), May 15-19, 2006.

Mr. Pace read a proclamation declaring May 15-19, 2006 as National Police Week and May 15, 2006 as Peace Officers Memorial Day. The proclamation addressed the importance of the public service that the Police provide on behalf of the citizens of Exeter. It also recognized those police officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice or become disabled in the performance of duty.

7. Proclamation: National Bike to Work Day, May 19th, 2006.

Mr. Pace also read a proclamation declaring May 19th, 2006 as National Bike to Work Day. The proclamation encouraged residents to leave their cars at home and bike or walk to work on this day. It also addressed the importance of being physically fit and how it decreases the amount of sick time taken annually.

Mr. Scott Bogle, a Senior Transportation Planner for the Rockingham Planning Commission and a member of the Seacoast Area Bicycle Routes, was present to discuss the background of Bike to Work day. Mr. Bogle told residents to join them at the Bandstand for a Bike to Work Breakfast, and also invited them to Phillips Exeter Academy for a Bike to Work Fair with lunch and various activities.

8. Bid Opening: Full Depth Pavement Reclamation.

Chairman Binette opened the sole bid received for the Full Depth Pavement Reclamation. The bid received was from Bell & Flynn, Inc., of Stratham. The bid was: \$6.00/square yard for reclamation, including fine grading and compaction, installation of injected asphalt stabilized base including fine grading and compaction; \$2.80 per gallon for liquid asphalt emulsion; \$2.00 per square yard for roadway stone and cobble pulverizing via Hammermill; \$3.00 per sample for asphalt extraction test; \$2.50 per sample for gradation test; and \$2000 for Marshall mix design.

Mr. Campbell questioned how many bids were sent out. Mr. Binette stated that they could recommend to put the bid out again. Mr. Pace said that was no longer an option since the bid had already been opened.

Mr. Perkins explained that not many companies do this type of work, and thus why they did not have a high response rate.

Mr. Campbell moved to refer the bids to the Town Manager and the Department of Public Works and to report back with their recommendations; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

9. Bid Opening: Raising and Lowering of Castings (Paving & Reclamation).

Chairman Binette opened bids received for the raising and lowering of castings (paving and reclamations).

The first bid was received from TAC Construction, Inc., of Leominster, MA. Their bid was: \$185 each for Bid Item #1 (Remove and plate existing castings necessary (total depth not to exceed 12”), \$300 each for Bid Item #2 (Raise castings to final grade (total depth not to exceed 12”), \$175 for Bid Item #3 (Adjust castings for paving (total depth not to exceed 2½“), and \$180 each for Bid Item #4 (Additional 6” increments lower/raise masonry).

The second bid was received from RJ & Sons, LLC, of Fitchburg, MA. Their bid was: \$200 each for Bid Item #1, \$250 each for Bid Item #2, \$170 each for Bid Item #3, and \$250 each for Bid Item #4.

The final bid was received from C&Y Construction, Inc., of Westminster, MA. Their bid was: \$100 each for Bid Item #1, \$180 each for Bid Item #2, \$180 each for Bid Item #3, and \$150 each for Bid Item #4.

Mr. Eastman moved to refer the bids to the Town Manager and appropriate departments and to report back with their recommendations; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.

10. Bid Opening: Public Works Copier.

Chairman Binette opened bids received for the Public Works Copier.

The first bid was received from Cameron Office Products in Amesbury, MA. They gave two options for their bid. The first option included one year of free service and supplies, up to 60,000 copies. This option would cost \$4985. The second option did not include one year of free service and supplies. This option would cost \$4505.

The second bid was received from Imagistics International, Inc., of Bedford, NH. This bid was for \$4681 plus service.

Mr. Campbell moved to refer the bids to the Town Manager and appropriate departments and to report back with their recommendations; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

11. Bid Award: Garrison Lane/Pickpocket Bridge Painting.

Mr. Dean reviewed the bids with the Department of Public Works, and Mr. Perkins checked references on each company. They recommend to award the bid to Prime Coating of Salisbury, MA, which will actually be a savings for the taxpayers.

Mr. Binette questioned how Brentwood's portion of the bill would be paid. Mr. Binette noted that in the past, Exeter has paid for Brentwood's portion of projects and have had problems collecting their portion of the bill. Mr. Binette asked Mr. Noyes to clarify how this arrangement will be handled.

Mr. Noyes stated that Brentwood would be paying for their portion of the bridge painting directly, and that Exeter has received a letter from the Brentwood Board of Selectmen declaring their intent.

Mr. Campbell moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the award of bid for the painting of Pickpocket Bridge and Garrison Lane Bridge to Prime Coatings, Inc. of Salisbury, MA for a sum total of \$59,000, with \$16,000 of the project to be funded per agreement with Town of Brentwood; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

12. Meetings with the Board: George St. Amour.

Mr. George St. Amour read the letter that he submitted to the Board on April 1, 2006.

“Dear Selectmen: After reviewing the 2005 town report I have a few questions that you may be able to answer in regards to services provided by the Exeter Fire Department.

Exeter as well as numerous fire departments throughout the Seacoast area often respond to mutual aid and at times require mutual aide to assist them. I am inquiring into the charges associated with such aid. When we respond to another town, is that town sent a bill from our department, and if so, what is the bill based upon? Is it based upon usage of our equipment and the rate in which our firemen are paid? If we required the assistance of other towns, are they billing us similar to what we are billing them? Are we taking into consideration during the billing process the cost of wear and tear on our vehicles as well as the cost of rising fuel prices?

I appreciate your assistance and time addressing this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.”

Mr. St. Amour explained that now, with mutual aid, we travel to other towns around the area. Mr. St. Amour questioned if we could afford to continue this year after year. He also pointed out the amount of overtime this causes.

Mr. St. Amour gave an example of this past Sunday. There was an ambulance call here in Exeter, and the Police, Ambulance, and a Fire Truck responded. The majority of them had nothing to do when they arrived, and on-call personnel had to be called in. Mr. St. Amour feels it is up to the Board to do something about this.

Fire Chief Brian Comeau responded that yes, there is a lot of overtime from the Fire Department, but explained it is not caused by mutual aid. Chief Comeau agreed that they did respond to a higher number of mutual aid calls last year, but he outlined how that number broke down. 57 ambulance calls were out-of-town, and they billed each one of those calls. 66 fire calls were out-of-town, and the majority tied up the trucks for 15-20 minutes. They also received 73 ambulance calls **in our** community, and each of those Exeter residents were billed for those calls.

Chief Comeau explained that we belong to an association that provides mutual aid for 44 town in this district, south to Newburyport, north to Rochester and Kittery. Chief Comeau distributed a map to the Board that defined the range that the Seacoast Mutual Aid covers. He also noted that many towns

come to *our* aid when needed, to show that Exeter also receive help when a problem occurs. Chief explained that this is a valuable tool for the department and has worked well in the past.

Mr. Ingram pointed out one piece of information missing is how many vehicles and how many firefighters respond to these calls. Chief Comeau said we only respond with one engine, one ladder, or one ambulance.

Mr. Binette questioned why Stratham would call for mutual aid when they have 2 full time ambulances. Chief Comeau said that we may be called in for "pain control." He also explained that mutual aid seems to come in cycles. Stratham does not have full-time staff. They *did* have daytime staff at one point, and they were rarely receiving calls to go to Stratham at that time, but they are seeing a trend of receiving calls from Stratham more often these days.

Mr. Eastman expressed concern because last year he had asked for an updated copy of the mutual aid agreement and was told the most recent one was from 1984, but the Board received an updated copy in their packets for the meeting tonight. Mr. Eastman asked that the most recent copy be given to the Town Clerk.

Mr. Eastman also mentioned that the agreement stated towns do not have to respond to this aid, and Chief Comeau stated that they often do that also.

Mr. Ingram also noted that fire management is currently being reviewed so issues will be addressed in more detail down the line.

13. First Reading: Amend Water/Sewer Ordinance: Meter Replacements.

Mr. Dean stated that this ordinance came to us 1-2 weeks ago based on a discussion at a Water/Sewer Meeting. The Water/Sewer Committee is recommending the ordinance be updated to make it a bit more structured so that they can notify homeowners that are not responding to requests.

Mr. Campbell questioned the timeline of when people would receive this notice and when they would actually have their water turned off. Mr. Keith Noyes clarified that this would not be their first notice. By the time residents have received this final warning, they will have already received a number of prior notices asking for their compliance. This final letter would be more to address the 100+ residents that are not responding to previous correspondences so that the Water/Sewer Department can then take action.

The second reading to amend the Water/Sewer ordinance regarding meter replacements will be at the next Board of Selectmen Meeting on May 15th.

14. First Reading: Amend Parking Regulations: Epping Road Extension.

Mr. Dean said that this would simply add the Epping Road Extension to the list of roads that no parking is allowed.

Mr. Binette explained that this is the section of Epping Road that starts after the Comcast office and comes out to the mini-mall on the left-hand side. Mr. Eastman wondered what the purpose of adding the extension to the list was.

Mr. Perkins told the Board that there is an auto-body shop on one end of the road, and they park their cars on both sides of the road, which causes a major problem for vehicles trying to pass through. Mr. Binette added they put "For Sale" sign on these cars, using our town roads as a sales lot.

Mr. Dean also added they are trying to be proactive in order to avoid a zoning complaint down the line.

The second reading to amend the parking regulations will be at the next Board of Selectmen Meeting on May 15th.

15. Review of Water/Sewer.

Mr. Dean acknowledged that they had the initial meeting with St. Michael's Church at a previous meeting, and representatives from St. Michael's will be coming forward again tonight to review their plans. Mr. Dean wanted to give the Board an opportunity to address any general questions regarding Water/Sewer before they get into their presentations.

Mr. Pace suggested they deal with St. Michael's Church as a 'one-off' situation versus dealing with this against standard policy.

Mr. Ingram brought attention to an issue that has arisen in the past, which is how do you address residents of other towns using our pipes?

Mr. Noyes stated that by the time the new Church is built, our new water tower will be built and we will be able to meet the needs without being detrimental to our residents.

Mr. Campbell asked if the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee has seen anything about this request yet, and Mr. Dean said they are aware of this but have not yet discussed the situation.

Mr. Campbell also stated that the previous Water/Sewer Committee, before being disbanded, advised that we should not sell sewer services to other towns. Mr. Noyes pointed out that it also stated that could be reviewed again in the future, which they are currently doing.

Mr. Eastman agreed with Mr. Campbell and thought St. Michael's Church should have this discussion at the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday night.

Mr. Dean said that Father Mark had written a letter back in December, 2005, which was presented to the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee at that time.

16. Appointments with the Board: St. Michael's Church.

Mr. Dan Blaze, Consultant from TF Moran, felt it would make more sense to wait until after they've had a chance to meet with the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee before proceeding with discussions.

17. Appointments: Boards, Committees, Commissions.

Mr. Pace noted there was nothing to report yet. Mr. Ingram explained that they did not have enough time during their first non-public session this evening and would be returning to a non-public session at the conclusion of the regular meeting tonight.

18. Begin Annual Review of Boards, Committees, Commissions

The Board went through a list of Boards, Committees, and Commissions to discuss if any were obsolete or should be disbanded.

Exeter Development Committee – Mr. Eastman was not sure that they *could* disband this committee. Mr. Dean said they are still researching this committee and will get back to the Board with further details later.

Affordable Housing Committee – Mr. Eastman questioned when it had been disbanded. Mr. Pace thought it was an inactive committee but was unsure if it had officially been disbanded. Mr. Campbell had a list that showed it had **not** been disbanded and that there were still four current members (if those members even know they are active!), and since the committee was created by Town Vote, he thought it may only be able to be disbanded by Town Vote.

Mr. Dean clarified that on the list they were reviewing, if it was listed as ‘Not Active’ that simply met they were not actively meeting, not necessarily disbanded.

Fire Station Committee – ***Mr. Eastman made a motion to disband the Fire Station Committee; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Mr. Ingram also noted that by disbanding committees, it is nothing against the current members but simply means we need to reorganize the group and in some cases create a new charge.

Planet Playground Committee – Mr. Ingram asked if there was any reason to keep Planet Playground, and Mr. Eastman replied that this project was completed years ago. ***Mr. Ingram made a motion to disband the Planet Playground Committee; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Train Committee – Mr. Pace asked if we should consider disbanding the Train Committee. Mr. Binette felt Mr. Bob Hall was instrumental in this committee. Mr. Dean said that he and Mr. Hall have had regular conversations and Mr. Hall still helps with the current new project. Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Dean to ask Mr. Hall his thoughts before proceeding.

Winterfest Committee – Mr. Ingram asked Mr. Dean if they would be adding an agenda item to discuss where to put those funds. Mr. Jack Sheehy, Finance Director, said they are still in discussion of what to do with the money left in the Winterfest Fund. Mr. Eastman noted that this is all money that has been raised, and Mr. Pace suggested possibly putting it towards another ‘Town celebration’ fund as they are similar in stature. ***Mr. Ingram made a motion to disband the Winterfest Committee; Second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Telephone System Committee – ***Mr. Eastman made a motion to disband the Telephone System Committee; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Mr. Ingram noted that he regularly meets with the River Committee and they were omitted from the list. Mr. Campbell brought up a list from Ms. Barb Blenk from January, 2006, which has other committees listed. Mr. Binette asked Ms. Julie Lund to consolidate the two lists for the Board.

19. Town Manager's Report.

- Next Board of Selectmen Meeting will be held on May 15, 2006.
- He received word late on Friday that the Swampscott Block received grant funding, so the project will become a reality and they will be breaking ground in late summer.
- The Town Office/Town Hall Improvement Group has asked SMRT, the architecture firm we have been utilizing, to look at the bottom level of Town Hall to create some synergy.
- The Capital Improvement Process (CIP) started last week, and Ms. Sylvia von Aulock, Town Planner, went through instructions, forms, etc., with all department managers.
- We are scheduling a day for the Department of Revenue Administration to spend with the Board. Also there will be an assessing workshop on May 11 or May 16 to get recertification info.

14. Permits.

Mr. Dean presented the following for action:

- The American Legion Auxiliary requested to sell poppies in the downtown area at various locations on Saturday, May 27 from 10 am – 2 pm.
- The Exeter High School Key Club requested to put a structure on the sidewalk to hold a Bake Sale in front of Town Hall on May 13 from 10 am – 1 pm.
- The Rockingham Planning Commission requested to use the Bandstand on May 19 from 6:30 – 10:30 am for a free breakfast for Bike/Walk to Work Day.
- The Rockingham Planning Commission requested to hang a banner across Water Street on May 15 – May 19 to promote the Seacoast Bike/Walk to Work Day.
- The Exeter High School – Project Prom/Project Graduation group requested use of Town Hall on Saturday, May 20, from 7 am to 2 pm for electronics and computer recycling to raise funds for Project Prom/Project Graduation.
- Kiwanis requested to block off parking spaces next to the Bandstand to sell hot dogs on June 3rd
- The Seacoast Criterium requested to have a Cycling Road Race on June 27th from 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- The New Outlook Teen Center requested to hang a banner across Water Street from June 5 – 9 to promote a Dessert/Wine Tasting & Auction on June 8
- H.E. Pike and Sons, Inc. requested to block off parking spaces on Front St. to put a 60 foot lift in order to do some cleaning and painting at the Major Blake Hotel.
- The Ioka requested to block off 3 parking spaces in front of their building on May 20 from 3 pm – 1 am.
- The Ioka also requested to block off 3 parking spaces in front of their building on May 2-5 to put a dumpster in.

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

17. Selectmen's Committee Reports.

Mr. Pace: Nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Campbell: Nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Ingram: The Council on Aging needs more volunteers. They are also in the process of testing the new transportation system for the elderly and residents can call the Recreation Department for additional details of this program.

Mr. Ingram also asked Mr. Dean to get an update on the mosquito issue at the next meeting. Mr. Dean said we have a brief update from Mr. Ken Berkenbush stating we are in the midst of a 130 year drought, and the Town is currently testing where larvae are coming from and they are looking for answers and solutions to this ongoing problem. More information will be coming soon.

Mr. Eastman: Water/Sewer is meeting this Wednesday, May 3rd.

Mr. Binette: No updates from his committees, but Mr. Binette did mention that the Tree discussed at the last meeting has been removed so canoes and kayakers can once again go down the river. Mr. Ingram added that students from Phillips Exeter Academy have offered to test the river twice a year and coordinate with DPW. They would like to use this as an opportunity for students to have a chance to see first-hand how town government works.

Public Comments: None.

Mr. Eastman made a motion to move to non-public session under RSA 91:A to discuss a personnel issue; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:50PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A Lund
AA/HR Director