

# FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MINUTES

December 1, 2008

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Joe Pace convened the Board for a non public session at 6:15 pm. He then reconvened the meeting in the Nowak Room at the Town Offices at 7:00 pm and introduced other members of the Board: Mr. William Campbell, Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Matt Quandt and Town Manager Russ Dean. Mr. Bob Eastman was excused because an illness.

- 2. Public Comment** – Mr. Jim Tanis, an Exeter resident, came before the Board to speak about the Town's water quality issues. His concern was for the new water treatment plant which will be started in 10years. He stated that the drinking water quality changes a lot in a 5 year time period and that any new plant will have to have a significant amount of ground water. He also expressed his concern with the SCADA system. Mr. Pace thanked Mr. Tanis for his statement and reported that the short term improvements to the treatment plant are not related to SCADA and SCADA has not been decided on yet. He also told Mr. Tanis that there will be a report online about SCADA.

**3. Minutes**

- a. Minutes of November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Mr. Campbell moved to waive the reading of the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 minutes and accept them as presented; Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.**

**4. Appointments - none**

**5. Discussion / Action Items**

**a. Awarding of Ribbons to Officers**

Police Chief Kane spoke of the thorough prompt and alert actions in the line of duty of two of Exeter's Police Officers. Officers Forbes and Driscoll responded to a call for a male in cardiac arrest on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Their quick actions gave the paramedics time to keep him alive. The Officers were graciously thanks for their efforts and Mr. Pace awarded them each with a life saving ribbon.

**b. Tax Anticipation Notes**

Don Brabant, Town Treasurer, requested that the Board sign tax anticipation notes in the amount of \$4.5 million. This will maintain the Town's cash flow while tax revenues are in transit. The tax bill will be mailed out December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The line of credit will come from Citizens Bank. Mr. Pace, who works for Citizens bank, stated that he would not be recusing himself from this action item because it is a matter of course for the Town.

**Mr. Campbell moved to approve the tax anticipation notes in the amount of \$4.5 million from Citizens Bank; Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.**

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## **c. Charge for Technology Advisory Committee**

Mr. Dean updated the proposed Technology Advisory Committee. The addition to the charge was a master plan to the goals. This Advisory will include a Selectman's representative, the IT Director and 5 citizens.

**Ms. Gilman moved to approve the charge of the Technology Advisory Committee; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.**

## **d. Water Supply Updates**

Jennifer Perry, Paul Vlassich and Ted Diers were in attendance to update the Board regarding water supply. Paul Vlassich was pleased to report that the Town does have many water supply options. The cost for the additional water supply could be replaced for \$8.25 million. He also reported that the river will still be there if the dam is removed. The Town will just need to get water a different way. Mr. Vlassich explained the different ways to do this. Some options are a fill intake pipe, Skinner Springs, the Drinkwater Road site, and many other bedrock sites as well. The Board had concerns about Skinner Springs since it is located in Statham. Mr. Diers spoke of the proposal from Weston & Sampson. It was broken down into these 6 parts: Water Intakes in the Exeter River, the Effect of Withdrawals, Skinner Springs, Water Conservation, Integrated Water Supply System, and Creating a Report. Mr. Pace asked to hear more about the plan about not asking the tax payers to pay for a big part of this. Mr. Diers stated that the Town would pay nothing for the Dam removal. He is committed to find funding for the project. The Board then discussed time constraints and running this by the Exeter River Study Committee. This topic should be brought to the River Study Committee before the December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Selectmen meeting when this topic will be on the agenda. Ms. Gilman asked how the Division of Historic Resources will interact in this project. Mr. Diers said that it is the next issue after water supply and he won't go ahead with it until the Town is 100% sure that dam removal should be done.

## **e. Authorize Wastewater Grant Application: Meadowwood**

The Meadowwood Gravity Sewer Project is eligible for a 20% (\$63,000) reimbursement by the State of New Hampshire. Board approval is requested to apply for the reimbursement.

**Mr. Campbell moved to authorize the Town Manager to apply for 20% reimbursement from the State of New Hampshire for the Meadowwood Gravity Sewer Project; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.**

## **f. FY09 Budget/Default Budget Review and Warrant Articles**

Mr. Dean updated the Board on the FY09 Budget. The anticipated revenues on 2009 projects are consistent year to year. High way block grant is anticipated to increase. Revenues are projected at \$5,687,530 with \$207,024 in surplus which is not as much in past times. There is a 1.7 % increase over FY08 in just the General Fund. Mr. Dean told the Board about some places where there could be some additional savings. The paving budget could be taken down to meet the default number. Limiting out of state travel for conferences and seminars is being considered. Also Mr. Dean would like to go through communications for cell phones or radios in departments to see where money can be saved. Mr. Campbell asked if the Police Department would consider keeping 1 car and only buying 1 new car. Chief Kane who was in attendance came forward and said that it is a possibility but it will only cost more in years to come if it is pushed off. This item will be scheduled again for next weeks meeting. Warrants will also be



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covered in at the next meeting. The vote on the final budget will be on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and then it will be forwarded on.

6. **Public Hearings** – none
7. **Permits & Approvals** –
  - a. Tax Abatements & Exemptions –  
Map 64, Lot 105  
Map 64, Lot 104


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

b. Water/Sewer Abatements - none

c. Permits –

A permit request to use the stage at the Town Hall for Exeter Methodist Church on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

A permit request to use the stage at the Town Hall for the Musical Arts group on February 2 – February 6, 2009 for evening recitals.

 Mr. Campbell asked who cleans up if there is food and drinks at the Town Hall after the activities. Mr. Dean said that the permit holder is responsible for clean up. The Board then decided to make sure the cleaning deposit is taken if there is food involved during the permitted time.

**Mr. Campbell moved to approve the permits as submitted with the provision of obtaining the cleaning deposit; Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.**

## 8. **Reports**

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

**Russ Dean:** The tax bills will be sent out to residents on Tuesday, 12/2/08. Payments must be made within 30 days of the date of on the bill. The Festival of the Tree Starts Thursday at the Town Hall 11:00 am to 8:00 pm. The Exeter Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 6th at 5:30PM. Rain date is December 7th at 5:30PM. The next Selectmen's meetings will be December 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be no meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### b) **Selectmen's Committee Reports**

**Julie Gilman:** There is an Energy Committee meeting on Tuesday.

**Matt Quandt:** nothing to report.

**Bill Campbell:** The Planning Board met on November 20<sup>th</sup> and continued discussion on the Hotel that is proposed for the McDonalds property. It will be discussed again this Thursday.

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**Joe Pace:** Mr. Pace went over the correspondence.

**c) Correspondence –**

1. Letter to Rockingham MOW requesting meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss transportation funding;
2. Memo from Mike Favreau Parks and Recreation Director re: FY09 budget options;
3. Letter from Deane K. Cira VP of Operations, Riverwoods, re: requests for Comcast contract;
4. Letter from Ellie Bernasconi, Chair, Resident Communications Committee at Riverwoods re: Comcast Cable Renewal;
5. Memo from Asst. Chief Ken Berkenbush, re: Sportsmen's Club;
6. Letter from Hillary Ireland, AIM Publicity Chair to Joe Pace, Chairman BOS re: request for an additional signboard outside the Town Hall;
7. Executive Councilor's Report from November 19, 2008.

**9. Second Public Comment –**

Mr. Joe Kennick of the Exeter Sportsman's Club came before the Board to express his concern. He recapped the actions between the Gun Club and the Town. He spoke of the long process it has taken to get the negotiated lease of the Gun Club and about the lack of response he has gotten from the Town. He believes there have been over objections from the Board. The Sportsman's Club had to have attorney involvement to get them to respond. The Club has responded to the Board's provisions to draft release and have said they would meet to negotiate. He doesn't believe the negotiation needs to be public. Mr. Kennick stated that if the Board does not respond to the provisions of the lease by the specified date, then Sportsman's Club will file suite. The Club will either prevail in court or expend entire treasury on litigation and close the club. He would rather this not go to court because it will cost tax payers more money for legal fees for the Town. It would also cost the town a million dollars in clean up for the lead bearing soil. Mr. Kennick believes the Board of Selectmen are biased for all too see. He also stated that Mr. Pace has a need for a roster of all the people who are members of the club and stated that it is none of his business.

Mr. Pace explained that he does not want the names of the members of the club. He would just like to know how many Exeter Residents are members of the club. The vote in 2008 was purely for the Board of Selectmen to be the negotiators for the lease of the club. The Board has no problem with the club being there. Mr. Pace stated that it is his responsibility to the Town as a whole to manage this the correct way. It is important to negotiate in a public meeting to give the residents a voice on the matter. He also said that he understands it has been a long time but that there has been a lot of progress in the last 6 months. This lease will continue to be negotiated and will be a near future agenda item. Residents are welcome to participate.

Mr. Allan Bailey asked if the 2007 audit had been received yet. Mr. Dean replied by saying that it has not yet been received but is expected shortly in draft form. The Town has changed auditors because they have not been pleased with the 2007 audit time progress. Mr. Bailey also mentioned that if the tax bills went out sooner, less would be needed in tax notes. Mr. Pace stated that we are behind and we are doing the best we can in this situation.

**10. Non Public Session – none.**

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## 11. Adjournment-

**Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm; Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Caruso  
Recording Secretary