

APPROVED MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MINUTES

October 6, 2008

1. Call Meeting to Order

The board convened at 6:45 pm to interview a candidate for the Conservation Commission. The board then reconvened for the regular meeting in the Nowak Room at the Town Offices at 7:05 pm. Chairman Joe Pace introduced other members of the Board: Mr. Bob Eastman, Mr. William Campbell, Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Matt Quandt and Town Manager Russ Dean.

- 2. Public Comment** – Mr. Alan Bailey, Exeter resident, came forward with a follow up question in regards to the 2006 audit. He asked the Board if they had met with the auditor yet and also what the status of the 2007 audit is. Mr. Dean replied by saying that a few of the Board members met with the 2006 auditor and that there are draft minutes written up and they are available to the public. The 2007 audit is underway.

3. Minutes

a. Minutes of September 29th, 2008

Mr. Campbell moved to waive the reading of the September 29th, 2008 minutes and accept them as presented, Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous

4. Appointments

Corey Stevens - Energy Commission.

Ms. Gilman moved to accept the appointment of Corey Stevens to the Energy Commission, Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

5. Discussion / Action Items

a. Great Dam Modifications

The River Study decided to forward the Selectmen an update of the modifications to Great Dam including asking the Board if it was in the Town's best interest to accept an offer by the NHDES to conduct a dam removal study of Great Dam. Paul Vlasich, who is on the River Study Committee, gave a synopsis on what has been done up to date. The Great Dam was inspected in 2006 with minor deficiencies and does not meet the NH safety standards. It is not a flood controlled structure. There are water condition concerns including increasing temperature and dissolved oxygen levels. The River Study can't find how to improve water quality without removal of the dam. A spillway gate would best control the dam and was voted most preferred. The costs of installing the 3 options of spillway gates in 2011 are estimated to be anywhere from \$ 1,137,000 to \$ 1,618,000. The removal of the dam in 2011 was estimated to cost \$ 962,000. The dam modifications will begin in late 2010 with most of the modifications happening in 2011. Water supply is a big part of this equation. With the dam removed the river would become very low reducing the Town's water supply. There are numerous alternatives for water supply that DES will consider during the dam removal feasibility study.

Ted Diers from NHDES was in attendance to speak about the possibility of the Dam removal. He stated that the Town has already made great progress on solving this issue. There are funds already allocated towards redesign and there are a lot of programs because of the habitat value.

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Mr. Dyers believes that these kinds of jobs usually will happen on someone else's dime. NHDES believes that the removal of the dam would alleviate the need to address spillway capacity and eliminate the ability to manipulate upstream water levels under all conditions. They also say that the removal would preclude the use of the river as a drinking water supply source and would eliminate need for fish passage at the dam site. The benefits of dam removal are fish passage, water quality, storage gained for flooding and avoiding costs on on-going repairs and maintenance. The challenges of removing the dam are the historic concerns, riparian landowners, water supply issues, water uses, and recreation. The next steps of evaluating the feasibility are to initiate discussion with landowners, evaluate historic concerns and begin the 106 process, investigate other water supplies, address local concerns and identify funding. NHDES would conduct the feasibility study of removing the dam.

Lionel Ingram, Chair of the River Study, spoke about Great Dam. He said that he can't talk for the River Committee because they have not made any decisions. Mr. Ingrams stated that to replace wells for added water supply would be very costly, around 4.5 million dollars each. He believes if we go this route, there will be 2 years of delay and the Town could potentially lose the dam. He can see the benefits with the particular aspects of dam removal but thinks the Town needs to handle the dam's problems first.

Mr. Quandt asked if any other communities are doing anything like this dam removal. Mr. Dyers responded by saying that Durham is going to be removing a dam soon but they have a greater range of options. Ms. Gilman stated her concern on the feasibility study is timing and cost. Mr. Dyer said that 50-60% of the study is complete and that water supply is the big ticket item. He suggests starting the historic process and look at the additional water supply. Mr. Dean said that if the study could be done in a timely fashion, the Board may consider it. Mr. Pace stated that the voters may vote nay for this and they will back to the beginning. Mr. Campbell was concerned with the delay that prices will just increase as more time goes on.

Mr. Don Clement made a comment saying that quality of the water is slowly deteriorating and that some of the quality is ok but is concerned about it 10-15 years from now. We really have the opportunity to look at the quality now and do something that will be beneficial to the Town in the future.

Mr. Arthur Baillargeon, an Exeter Resident, expressed his concern on the dam removal. He said that his home is on the river and he does all his recreation on it. He is very concerned with what the depth of the river will be and that this will significantly take away from the beautiful scenery.

Mr. Bailey, an Exeter Resident, asked if there has been any study on private residential wells supply. Mr. Pace stated that it has not been looked at yet and there are still many questions on that. Ms. Patricia DeBeers of Fremont, NH expressed her concerns on the regional impact. The quality of water going into Great Bay is really important and it greatly affects the commercial fishing industry. She suggests going on with the study and learning about Exeter's other water supply. Mr. Pete Richardson, a newcomer to the Town of Exeter, said the Town has an option to improve water quality and make a difference down stream. He urged the Board to go ahead and with the study.

Mr. Pace made the decision to have The River Study Committee work with DES and DPW to get information on what is needed to do this feasibility study.

b. Riverwoods Tax Agreement (Ridge and main facility)

This action item is postponed until next meeting.

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c. Autopulse Equipment request form EMS Capital Reserve Fund

Assistant Fire Chief, Ken Berkenbush, was in attendance to for the request of funds for a device that increases survival rates by 300% for a person suffering from cardiac arrest. This device called Autopulse has a lot of positive back up and works much better than what is currently out there. The Fire Department is looking to buy 2, one for each ambulance. Mr. Campbell asked how much training an EMT will need to use this. Mr. Berkenbush said that it is relatively easy to use and will take about 20 minutes to train someone.

Mr. Eastman moved to approve the purchase of Autopulse equipment for the Fire Department from the EMS Capital reserve Fund up to \$30,000, Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Berkenbush also gave a mosquito update. There have been no cases of Triple E or West Nile Virus in Exeter due to the mosquito treatments. Mosquito counts are down low and areas are still being treated. Next year's mosquito crops should be slightly less.

d. Energy Committee Warrant Article – Exemptions

At the 2008 deliberative session the Town approved a petition article recommending the Board study the issue of wind, solar and wood heating tax exemptions. Ms. Gilman stated that they are looking at exemptions on central heating systems that other towns put active. The designated amount of money on the warrant is not there. Stratham is up to 20,000. There is the concern on who inspects this. Someone has to go out and check to make sure it is used. Ms. Gilman asked the Board if there should be more research and reach out to other communities. Mr. Pace asked Ms. Gilman to find out if the Energy Committee wants to take this on as a project.

6. Public Hearings – none.

7. Permits & Approvals –

- a. Tax Abatements and Exemptions-
3 Abatements

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

b. Permits-

Request for permit for the Exeter Women's Club for an Antiques Sale on March 29th, 2009 from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm, June 5th, 2009 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, June 6th, 2009 from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, and June 7th, 2009 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the permit as presented, Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Reports

a) Town Manager's Report

Russ Dean:

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day was a big success. There were 404 more

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cars this year than last year. There were some traffic issues and there will be Police detail next year. Everyone's hard work is greatly appreciated.

The Chamber of Commerce has offered Mr. Dean to join as an honorary member. Mr. Dean feels that this will be a good experience for him and it will help him get direct feedback to help move ahead.

b) Selectmen's Committee Reports

Julie Gilman:

The Heritage Commission will meet Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

Matt Quandt:

Nothing to report.

Bob Eastman:

Mr. Eastman received an email from Mr. Dean about whether or not he could get an electronic copy of the 2008 budget. He would upload the copy to save time and put in his own numbers where he has concerns. Mr. Eastman said that Mr. Dean had some concerns on using the budget for his own personal use and didn't think this should be an issue.

Mr. Dean stated that he did not say that Mr. Eastman could not have the copy but that he is concerned with how long it has taken in previous years to reconcile to Mr. Eastman's numbers. Mr. Dean thinks that the budget should be reviewed with the entire Board and not just one individual. Mr. Pace thought that it would be okay for Mr. Eastman to have the copy and that the issue is to deal with the interaction between the Board and staff.

Mr. Eastman wanted to congratulate Scott Cook and Daniel Morrow in achieving Road Scholar One status.

Bill Campbell:

Nothing to report.

Joe Pace:

The next Selectmen meeting will be on October 20th.

c) Correspondence

1. Letter from Field Services Staff re: Seabrook Station siren demonstration on October 25th, 2008.
2. Letter from Shari Colby, Community Outreach Specialist announcing 2009 round of Land and Water Conservation Fund federal grant availability.
3. Letter from Kathryn Myers, Training Program Manager UNH Roads Scholar Program re: Scott Cook and Daniel Morrow have achieved Roads Scholar One Status.
4. Email from Joe Pace to Russ Dean and subsequent related correspondence regarding health benefits, pay plan and job description reviews.
5. Email from Joe Pace to Joseph Stone and Chris Moutis regarding Selectmen's Policy regarding holiday meetings, 9/19/08.
6. REDC session on Workforce Housing, October 21, 2008 and October 24, 2008.
7. Letter from Margaret C. Schoene, 9/23/08 regarding Town polling place for election.
8. Correspondence from DPW Director Perry to FCC regarding Kittery ME Police Radio Upgrade dated 9/3/08.

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9. **Second Public Comment** – none.

10. **Non Public Session** – RSA 91- a exception II (a) and (c)

11. **Adjournment-**

At 9:45 pm, Mr. Eastman motioned to move into a non public session on RSA 91- a exception II (a) and (c), Mr. Quandt seconded. Mr. Pace asked Ms. Gilman to call the roll.

Mr. Eastman: Aye. Mr. Campbell: Aye. Mr. Quandt: Aye. Ms. Gilman: Aye. Mr. Pace: Aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Aimee Caruso
Recording Secretary