

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Pace convened the Board at 7:00PM on the above date and introduced the members to the audience. Also present: Robert Eastman, Lionel Ingram, Paul Binette, William Campbell and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of Board meeting of April 1, 2002.

Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Request to speak to Board: Ron Tony Giordano, Community Liaison, Sen. Smith's Office.

Mr. Giordano was unable to attend due to a family crisis. He will reschedule.

4. Execution of Collective Bargaining agreement between the Town & Ex. Firefighters.

Mr. Olson noted the Agreement implements the new Pay & Classification Study results on July 1st and extends the current contract language through December 2005. Mr. Binette noted the review of the Study took a while and he thanked all for their patience. ***Mr. Binette moved to accept the Agreement between the Town and the Exeter Professional Firefighters' Association; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: 4-0, with Mr. Campbell abstaining.*** Present from the Association to sign the Agreement were: Lee Dawson, Donald Matheson, Donald Stewart and Paul Morin.

5. Third & final reading of removal of two-hour parking on portion of Front St.

Mabel Metcalf Cummings, resident and member of the Baptist Church, urged the Board to eliminate the two-hour parking on Front Street, noting the longer parking hours are needed when Church meetings run longer than two hours and also the need for spaces during funeral services and the get-togethers that follow. The removal of the ban takes off any burden of parking.

Frank Nylands, representing the Church, also urged the Board to remove the 2-hour parking ban permanently. The Church recently eliminated the grass in order to supply staff parking and there is no place else to go.

Mr. Eastman asked if there was a representative from Phillips Exeter Academy present to answer questions from the last meeting. No, though Mr. Olson was assured there would be. Douglas Eastman (Building Inspector) was present and Mr. Robert Eastman (selectman) asked him of any PEA expansion/construction that may affect the parking situation. Doug Eastman noted he has seen their Master Plan and there are plans to change/re-arrange parking on the campus to accommodate day students, noting smaller pods of parking will be placed throughout the campus.

Mr. Campbell was Ms. Cummings if the removal of the 2-hour parking ban wouldn't pose a problem for the church, noting early morning arrival of vehicles could block off those spaces for all day, rather than just the 2-hours now. She noted they had no problems in the past, prior to the construction workers parking there for during construction of the science building and did not anticipate any problem in the future.

Mr. Binette expressed concern over the removal, noting with all day parking the students from the High School would also 'creep' down Front Street, rather than utilize school parking lots. Currently, with no parking ban from the Inn to Tan Lane, there are cars parked all day long. With no ban, we have no control over who parks there and for how long. Ms. Cummings asked of the Board could return to the School Administration with the parking issue? Mr. Binette stated yes, but that had nothing to do with the issue this evening. She felt parking in that area of Front Street would not be an issue with EHS, as it's too far to walk.

Mr. Ingram felt the demand has been made for more than 2-hour parking, though the Historical Society has made their point in keeping the 2-hour parking by the Church and their building. He suggested 24-hour parking on the east side and 2-hour parking on the other [*actually south and north.*] Mr. Pace stated the Church contingency did not wish the 24-hour parking in that area. He stated it was a 'permanent solution to a temporary problem'. Mr. Eastman agreed with researching the idea of all day parking in one area and 2-hour parking in another and suggested waiting a week prior to a final decision. Mr. Pace asked why the Board would vote 2-hour parking in the 4 spaces by the Church, when the Church members are present and want the 2-hour parking ban lifted from that area? Mr. Ingram noted the Historical Society requested it, noting the Church could have the remainder of the street.

Mr. Olson stated the Board could not act on the new ideas this evening but could return with specifics on the 29th and pass the amendment on the 13th of May. Mr. Binette asked Mr. Olson to, again, contact PEA for a representative to be present to answer questions. Mr. Pace asked suggestions from the Board go to Mr. Olson by the Wednesday prior to the meeting. He requested a representative of the Historical Society also be invited.

6. Discussion of Ambulance Study Committee report.

Jeff Warnock, Chairman of the Committee, and Vincent Pascucci, Vice Chairman, were present to answer any questions. Figures were provided to the Board (attached) concerning the relationship between ambulance fees and ambulance expenses.

Mr. Eastman noted contradictions from last year's chart vs. this new information, with 59.9% of runs at ALS and 40% for Basic last year and the new information showing 4% for ALS and 90% at Basic. Assistant Chief Ken Berkenbush stated the new standards of Medicare have changed the life safety calls and have set the Basic calls at a higher standard. Mr. Eastman questioned the amount of funds budgeted for Training OT under Job Class 60, noting that 60% of the amount budgeted in the Fire Department was actually for ambulance.

Mr. Ingram noted the principal discussion is to decide the amount to charge for runs. It should be based upon need with adjustments made as necessary. We owe it to the taxpayers to cover costs, but to also cover those who cannot pay as much, or none, toward the amount owed. The fee structure should be based upon perceived expenses. Chief Brian Comeau stated it was a hard item to estimate. Anticipated construction for the next five years is being researched. He noted RiverWoods now accounts for 6% of their runs.

Chief Comeau note the Medicare program of fees can be phased in, with only 10% of the new rate charged in the first year and 80% of our old rate; 40/60 in the second year, with the old rate phased completely out in the fifth year.

Mr. Binette felt it should be a self-supporting entity. From the rates, all expenses, including salaries, should be covered. Chief Comeau stated the salary issue would be difficult to figure in. He noted instances where a fire truck and crew responds to medical emergencies when an ambulance is tied up or not going to be 'first on scene'. If all paramedics are out, the Assistant Chief may be called to action and he's salaried, with no overtime.

Mr. Campbell asked if the Chief anticipated an increase in paperwork and would a second secretary be necessary? Chief Comeau noted they currently file electronically and the software is geared to the program. He did note the collection rate may drop. The Assistant Chief gave a breakdown on insurance use, with 51% of calls having Medicare and 90% of those have a second insurance (AARP, Railroad, etc.). Private insurance accounts for 20%; 10% Medicaid and 19% with no insurance, though some of these are covered by auto insurance if a vehicular injury is involved. The industry standard for collection rates is 60-64%; ours is 80%.

Mr. Ingram suggested the fee be set in relation to Medicare charges but also keeping in line with the Department procedure suggested in the Charter. Mr. Eastman agreed, in principle, but suggested the rate be kept around \$150 and adjust up if necessary. Mr. Olson had suggested the Charter be taken to Town Meeting, as the fund was established at a prior Town Meeting and it's the public's conception that it should continue with their 'blessing'. If the funds are to replace the ambulance, Town Meeting should concur with that reason.

Concerning comments to the proposed Charter, Mr. Pascucci received only one from the Board, though it was philosophical and not a recommended change. Mr. Pace asked (under 'Purpose') what "...included but not limited to.." might mean? A.C. Berkenbush noted it allows for technological improvements, etc. It does not mean the Town could build roads, parks, etc., with the funds. Mr. Campbell noted he still has a problem with labor costs, noting this should be provided as that of fire personnel - it's a service provided without regard to costs.

Chairman Pace recapped, noting the Board should proceed with their thoughts, but expressed a desire to have all in place by budget time, thereby allowing the Chief to build expenses into his budget. Discussion will continue at the next two meetings. The Board thanked Mssrs. Warnock and Pascucci for their input, time and efforts.

7. Appointments to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Mr. Eastman moved the following appointments: Richard Bowen, Alternate till 4-30-02, Maurice Fremont-Smith, regular till 4-30-05, Michael Dawley, alternate till 4-30-05 and Lou Bernier, alternate till 4-30-05; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Request for stop sign at intersection of Buzell and Alumni Drive.

The Exeter Hospital has requested the installation of a stop sign at the end of Buzell Avenue (towards the Hospital), based upon recurring concerns from patients, visitors and staff regarding potential motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents at this intersection. Donald Tash, representing the Hospital, was present to answer questions. Mr. Eastman suggested the Hospital pay for the stop sign and installation labor, as it is not a public right-of-way and people will be required to stop as they enter the Hospital property. Mr. Ingram suggested we put the signs up, as we are stopping people on Town property before entering 'their' property. If we install the sign, they can add the '3-way stop' signs to be installed on top of the stop signs. Second reading is at the next meeting (4/29).

9. Speed limit signs on Exeter Farms Drive.

The Board had previously accepted the road with a few outstanding documentation needed. Once received, speed limit signs should have been installed and they were not. The Police Chief suggested 25 MPH signs on the road, noting the 20 MPH requested was not allowed and the current speed is 35. [Traffic control devices are discussed at one meeting and acting on at the next].

Mr. Binette asked where the signs are located. Mr. Olson thought they were in the sub-division but were not Town signs and not enforceable. Mr. Binette noted there are no other developments with signs and these should be placed at the entrances to the neighborhood. [Note: There are currently signs located in various sub-divisions – Westside Drive, Riverbed Circle – that have been officially accepted by the Board and added to the ordinances]. Second reading is April 29th.

10. Chamber of Commerce Lease for Town Hall space.

The lease issue came forth when questions arose over who provides custodial services. Mr. Olson noted the lease states the Chamber will; the Town has been for years. He had an analysis of area rents completed and it was noted this space could be leased for \$500 per month.

Tracey McGrail, President of the Chamber, spoke on what the Chamber does for the Town: Private, non-profit agency serving as a business advocacy promoting Exeter and surrounding communities. They provide maps, publications to promote the area along with providing the holiday lights, tree lighting, Fall festival, Spring Fling, started WinterFest, started Revolutionary War Festival, act as representatives on various Town committees (some at the Town's request), oral boards for Police & Fire Chiefs, parking task force, consultants to candidates for office (to grasp the pulse of the community), grants for Waterfront project, trees on Water Street, hitching posts to protect the trees, etc. The relationship with Exeter has a great deal to do with the location they currently maintain. They treat the space as if their own, noting rugs are replaced and walls painted as needed, making the space as useable as possible. She urged the Board to consider all the Chamber does when discussing their rent.

Mr. Binette moved to approve a one year lease at \$960 per year and the Chamber to be responsible for those items noted in the 1980 lease, providing janitorial service and to continue with Item #5 (pay for any and all renovations having approval by the Board); second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous. Mr. Pace asked Ms. McGrail how the space suits their needs: 'love it' though not as great with the closeness of the Court. If they ever move, they would certainly look for more meeting/training room space.

11. Renewal of District Court lease for use of Town Hall space.

The State has provided a proposed agreement for 2002-2003 showing no change in the rent for those years and calling for a 3-year term, and continuing with the current rental rate of \$19,663 per year. Mr. Olson recommended a 17% increase to \$23,183 per year in return for their requested 3-yr lease. The Court currently rents 2611 square feet of space. ***Mr. Binette moved to accept the Town Manager's recommendation of \$23,183 per year for a 3-year lease with the District Court/State of New Hampshire; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

12. Acceptance of Community Development Block Grant Management Plan.

This is a standard requirement for CDBG actions, this for the Apple Seeds Child Care Center. Jack Sheehy, the Town's Finance Director, has reviewed the paperwork and recommends acceptance. **Mr. Eastman moved to execute the Agreement; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.**

13. Permits:

- Romanian-American School of Exeter requests use of the Town Hall, main floor, for rehearsals on May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 5 from 3:45-5PM and for performances on June 7th & 8th from 5-10PM for their play "The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe". They requested waiving the rental fee; they will clean. The insurance certificate has been received. **Mr. Ingram moved to approve; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Exeter Kiwanis requested blocking off parking spaces by the Bandstand on Saturday, May 18th from 7AM to 3PM during the Alewife Festival to sell hot dogs. **Mr. Eastman moved to approve; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Barbara Cowan, representing the Exeter Arts Committee, requested use of the Nowak Room on June 1st and 8th for their quarterly lottery (where artists will hang their art at the Town Office) and hanging of art. **Mr. Eastman moved to approve; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Exeter Kiwanis requested placing a structure on the sidewalk on July 20th from 6-11AM for their Road Race registration. The application for the road race is with the Police Chief awaiting his approval of the route. **Mr. Binette moved to approve; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Douglas Dicey requested permission for a fireworks display on July 20ths (Revolutionary War weekend) at the Parkway. The application for the actual fireworks is awaiting the Fire Chief's approval. **Mr. Ingram moved to approve; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- The American Cancer Society requested permission for a walk-a-thon through Exeter on Sunday, October 6th. The Chief has approved the route. **Mr. Binette moved to approve; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- The Race to the Beach Relay, sponsored by the NH State Parks, will proceed through Exeter on September 28th somewhere between 7AM and 1PM. The certificate of insurance will be submitted once a tally of participants is obtained. **Mr. Binette moved to approve; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.**

14. Town Manager's Items:

The next meeting is April 29th; Spring Clean-up (Bulky items) is the week of April 29th on your regular rubbish day. Stickers are \$2.50 each.

15. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Ingram – none. Mr. Eastman – none.

Mr. Campbell: Conservation Commission met on 4/09 and voted to withdraw the funds to purchase the Raynes' property, noting the State's portion has been received. He also attended a well organized conference on Saturday pertaining to conservation options and discussed land, GPS and watersheds.

Mr. Binette: The Recreation Advisory Committee met, noting a member is leaving and they are seeking volunteers to serve.

Mr. Pace: Historic District Commission met on Thursday and the Master Plan Committee met Wednesday. He noted a shortage of baseball coaches in the Parks & Recreation program for 6-7 year olds' teams. There are lots of kids and coaches are needed.

16. Public Comments: None (no public).

Mr. Ingram moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Blenk
AA/HR