

MINUTES EXETER BOARD OF SELECTMEN AUGUST 12, 2002

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

1. Convene the meeting.

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

2. Read and approve the minutes of the Selectmen's meeting of July 29, 2002.

Chairman Pace recognized Mr. Olson for a change to the minutes. Mr. Olson noted that at the bottom of page 1, "Voter Registration Check list" should read "\$65 for one, \$40 each when the list requires 2 discs" **It was moved by Mr. Eastman, second by Mr. Campbell, to approve the minutes with the noted change. SO VOTED.**

3. Bid Awards: Public Works Office building.

Chairman Pace recognized Mr. Olson. Mr. Olson recommended that the low bidder Dazen Construction, at \$238,652, be awarded the bid to construct the new Public Works Building. **So moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Eastman. SO VOTED.**

4. Second and final reading of changes to Town fee structure – Planning, Town Clerk, Police and Public Works

Chairman Pace read the changes to the free structure for the second time. Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Olson about an inconsistency in his meeting notes compared to what had just been read. Mr. Olson responded that what was read was correct and that his note was incorrect. **It was moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Eastman, to make the noted changes to the fee structure. SO VOTED.**

5. Request to address the Board – Attorney Pelech – gift of Birch Rd. Trust land to Town of Exeter.

Chairman Pace recognized Larry Morse of NH Soils and asked him to come to the mic. Mr. Morse noted that he was representing W.S. Development and was at the meeting with Peter Dow, a member of the Rockingham Land Trust. Mr. Morse went on to note that W.S. Development is the party developing a large parcel at the intersection of 101 and 125 in Epping. As part of the plan to develop the land there is the requirement for wetland mitigation. The State has agreed that a piece of land, in part in Exeter, can be used to this end if it is protected from development. The Birch Road Trust now owns the land. W.S. Development is proposing to transfer the ownership of the land to the Town, with a development easement going to the Rockingham Land Trust. He explained that the parcel is between 35 and 40 acres in size, has 1,600 feet of frontage on the Fresh River and is adjacent to other conservation lands. Mr. Morse provided the Board with a map of the site and a copy of the proposed easement.

Peter Dow was asked to come to the mic. He explained that the Land Trust feels that it is appropriate for the Town to take ownership of the land since abutting land is also protected from development, referencing the Chapman's Brook Conservation Area and the Nature Conservancy's land. The effort to bring these pieces of land together has been ongoing since 1999.

Mr. Binette asked how much in taxes would be lost if the land came to the Town? Mr. Dow responded that since the land was in current use the taxes were likely in the \$60 a year range. Mr. Binette asked if the land was buildable. Mr. Dow responded that while much of it was upland it does not have a high degree of development potential since access is very difficult via a class 6 unimproved road from Epping. Mr. Binette asked how close the property was to the Birch Rd. aquifer. Mr. Dow responded that it was relatively close.

Mr. Campbell asked how the Town would access the parcel? Mr. Dow responded that access could be gained from the Chapman land or Birch Road. Mr. Campbell asked if the land would be surveyed prior to the Town accepting the land? Mr. Dow responded that this was difficult due to the absence of any monumentation between the Birch Road Land Trust property and the adjoining Winthrop Dow land. He indicated that the Land Trust hoped to acquire the Winthrop Dow land and at that time the boundary would be surveyed. Mr. Campbell asked who would pay for such a survey? Mr. Dow responded that the federal government would cover the cost of surveying the Winthrop Dow land. Mr. Campbell stressed the importance of a survey since without one the Town would not know what it owned. Mr. Dow responded that it was not economical to do such a survey just for the Birch Road Trust land. Mr. Campbell suggested that W.S. Development foot the bill for the survey since it was their responsibility to provide a mitigation plan. Once again he stressed the need for the Town to know what it was getting since there was no guarantee that the Winthrop Dow land would not be developed.

Chairman Pace suggested that the Conservation Commission, at its meeting of the 13th, look into the matter and make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Campbell, the selectmen's representative to the Conservation Commission, indicated that he would address the matter of the survey at the meeting.

6. Discussion of 2002 Warrant Articles 46, 47 and 48 relating to the content of annual Town reports.

Chairman Pace noted the recommendations contained in the three articles and asked Mr. Olson to address the matter. Mr. Olson read from the three articles, all of which dealt with the voters recommending that the Board provide certain information as part of the Town report. Mr. Olson reported that adding the recommended information to the Town report would add 27 pages to the report at a cost of approximately \$250. He went on to explain that while the articles having to do with pay and property were straight forward the article dealing with providing a list of contractors and suppliers was not clear. The Town does maintain a list of "vendors" that reflects the name of every individual organization and corporation that received a check from the Town, everyone from Unitil to recipients of tax abatements. He questioned the Board's wishes on the matter.

With some of the check amounts being very small, Mr. Eastman recommended that a \$1500 minimum be used. This would drop out about half of the list and thus reduce the number of pages to a more reasonable amount. Discussion followed on what the number should be. It was agreed that the number used to trigger bidding for services would be used and so noted in the Town Report. Mr. Olson was asked to update the Board at its next meeting on the amount. (Note: Selectmen's Policy 98-03 sets the amount at \$3000.)

7. Request that Board discuss blue bag policy – Lawrence Cellucci.

Chairman Pace asked Mr. Olson to report on this matter. Mr. Olson noted that he had received a number of letters from Mr. Cellucci on the matter, and that while Mr. Cellucci could not attend the meeting he did ask that the Board address the program. Mr. Olson then read a brief statement on the history of the program and how revenues are handled.

Mr. Eastman asked if the revenues received from purchase of the blue bags goes to pay for the bags and their disposal. Mr. Olson responded that the money goes into the general fund. Mr. Campbell asked how much is spent on rubbish disposal. Mr. Olson estimated \$250,000. Mr. Binette, after referring to a copy of the Town appropriation report indicated the number to be \$280,000. It was confirmed that the cost of recycling is paid for out of tax revenues and was not a part of the blue bag program.

8. Permits.

Moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Eastman, to authorize the Rockingham County Community Action Agency's Head Start Policy Committee to use the Wheelwright Room on August 21, from 9 to 10:30AM for a Policy Council Meeting. SO VOTED.

Moved by Mr. Eastman, second by Mr. Campbell, to authorize Karen Prior on behalf of Maggie Hasson for State Senate, to use the Town Hall steps on August 22 from 9 to 11AM to make a political announcement. SO VOTED.

Moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Campbell, to authorize Project Prom/Graduation to use the Town Hall main floor on October 16 through the 19 for their annual yard sale fundraiser. SO VOTED.

9. Town Manager items

Mr. Olson read a press release from Town Clerk Linda Hartson describing the manner in which absentee ballots may be acquired for the September 10th primary elections. He also reported on the paving of a portion of Front St. on August 13th, the closure of Town Offices on Labor Day, September 2, and announced that this year's Household Hazardous Waste Day will fall on Saturday, October 5.

Chairman Pace asked Mr. Olson how things were going with political signs in the right of way. Mr. Olson thanked Mr. Pace for reminding him and went on to report that the Town had received a very detailed letter from the Attorney General's Office describing the Town's authority in the matter of removing political signs from the right of way. Mr. Olson went on to describe how candidates can determine if their signs are in the Town's right of way and the importance of seeing that they are limited to private property. Mr. Eastman asked about a conversation he had with the Building Inspector indicating that only a police officer can remove political advertising from the right of way. Mr. Olson responded that that was his reading of the statutes but that the Attorney General's letter making it clear that this was not necessary and that Public Works' employees could do the job.

10. Selectmen's Committee reports.

Mr. Campbell reported on his August 1 meeting with the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee and its efforts in the area of rate setting. He noted tomorrow night's meeting of the Conservation Commission that he planned to attend as the Selectmen's representative.

Mr. Eastman reported on his absence at last Thursday's Planning Board meeting and Mr. Pace reported on his attendance at the Arts Committee meeting and the Committee's intention to come to the Board with a request that policies being developed be reviewed by the Board. He also noted that today was the first day of Seahawk football practice, thus his informal attire.

11. Public Comments

Mr. Binette, noting the long dry spell, asked Mr. Olson if there was a need to conserve water in Town. Mr. Olson responded that it was always wise to conserve but that no there currently was not a water shortage in Exeter that would lead to a ban on outside watering. Mr. Binette asked Mr. Olson to let the Board know if a water shortage did develop.

There being no other business, it was moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Campbell, to adjourn. SO VOTED. Time: 8PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George N. Olson', written over a horizontal line.

George N. Olson
Town Manager