

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

AUGUST 13, 2001

1. Convene the meeting

Chairman Scafidi convened the Board at 7:02PM. Also present: Joseph Pace, Robert Eastman, Paul Binette and Robert Rowe, along with Town Manager George Olson

2. Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting of July 30, 2001

Moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Eastman to accept the minutes of the July 30, 2001 meeting of the Board as submitted. SO VOTED.

3. Bid openings

Mr. Olson reported that no bids had been received for the Hampton Road shoulder widening project and that it would be re-bid.

Chairman Scafidi reported that the Town had received a single bid on the 1986 -rack body, long bed truck. The Board agreed that the single bid be opened.

It was moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Rowe to sell the subject truck to the single bidder, John Kutlowski, for \$4,359. SO VOTED.

4. Congratulation to Scott Butler, Operation Challenge, NE Water Environment Association

Chairman Scafidi invited Water and Sewer Superintendent Victoria Del Greco to come to the mic with Scott Butler. Ms. Del Greco explained to the Board that Scott was a member of a 4 man team that was off to Atlanta GA to compete in the national "Sewer Olympics", sponsored by the New England Water Environment Association and the National Water Environment Association. She explained how proud she was of the work Scott was doing and how it benefited the Town. Mr. Butler thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate and compete. Chairman Scafidi pointed out how Mr. Butler's efforts benefited the Town. The Board thanked Mr. Butler and wished him well.

5. Bid awards: Town Hall front steps and walk; Gale Park/Town Hall retaining walls, Town Office digital copier.

Chairman Scafidi asked Mr. Olson to report on bid awards. Mr. Olson recommended that the bid for replacement of the Town Hall front steps and walk be awarded to the low bidder (including a credit for the old granite), Riverbend Masonry of Exeter, for \$39,000. **So moved by Mr. Rowe, second by Mr. Pace, SO VOTED.**

Mr. Olson next recommended that the bid for the construction of the Gale Park/Town Hall retaining walls be awarded to the low bidder, State Line landscaping and Paving of Hampton Falls for \$20,850. **So moved by Mr. Rowe, second by Mr. Pace, SO VOTED.**

Mr. Olson next recommended that the bid for the digital copier for the Town Offices be awarded to Conway Office Products, as the only vendor who met the specifications. The bid award was \$8,595. Mr. Rowe asked the amount of money budgeted for the copier. Mr. Olson responded \$9000. **It was moved by Pace, second by Mr. Rowe to award the bid for the Town Office digital copier to Conway Office Products in the amount of \$8,595. SO VOTED.**

6. Presentation of Ambulance Study Committee Report

Mr. Jeffery Warnock came to the mic at the Chair's invitation. Mr. Warnock noted the Budget Recommendation Committee's continuing interest in the issue and the creation of the Committee by the Board last winter. He thanked the members of the Committee by name for their respective contributions. He stated that while the report addressed the charge of the Board of Selectmen, in the course of the Committee's work several important issues had arisen that the Committee feels need to be addressed at some point.

Mr. Warnock read the Committee's charge to the Board explaining that Vincent Pascucci, a member of the Committee, was prepared to explain the Committee's work in this regard. Mr. Pascucci came to the mic. He stated that the report contains specific recommendations, namely the establishment of a fund charter and related policies, the establishment of a formal written billing policy; the continued provision of non-billable services, creation of an estimate of when a 3rd ambulance will be needed as part of the Master Plan and CIP process, implementation of a billing policy to fund anticipated service volume growth and the acquisition of enhanced billing and tracking software as available.

Mr. Pascucci brought the Board's attention to a draft ambulance fund charter as prepared by the Committee and shown as Appendix I. He went over the charter in detail with the Board, explaining how the ambulance fund would be established and utilized, with an eye to reducing the amount of property tax used to subsidize the service. He asked that the Board consider adopting the charter.

Mr. Rowe asked Mr. Olson if establishing a new ambulance fund as described in the charter would need to go Town Meeting? Mr. Olson stated that it would be his recommendation that the Town Meeting act to establish the fund.

Mr. Eastman asked Mr. Pascucci to help him find the Federal Register details associated with the new policies on ambulance services. Mr. Pascucci agreed to do so.

Mr. Warnock returned to the mic to go over the details of the recommendations having to do with aspects of the service beyond that called for in the Selectmen's charge. He noted the need for the Town to consider at some point becoming involved with inter-facility transfers, transfers between home and medical facilities and adjoining community services whereby Exeter's ambulance service would become the retained service provider for towns with no service of their own. These potential roles for Exeter's ambulance service need to be investigated in detail since they would provide for additional revenue for the Town, revenue that would more than cover the cost of a third ambulance. Mr. Warnock noted that the report suggests that the provision of these new services could generate as much as \$350,000 a year for the Town. He went on to say that even without these added services, after 5 years of charging the new rates, the ambulance fund would have grown to the point where money would be going into the general fund.

Mr. Rowe noted that in the past when the Town looked to privatization of the ambulance service the vendor indicated that the Town would be required to pay a retainer and then a fixed cost for each run.

He suggested that this was an approach the Town should consider in the future if the activities of the ambulance service are expanded.

Mr. Binette asked when a third ambulance would be needed. Mr. Warnock stated that given the figures on runs it was likely that there would be the need for the third ambulance at some point. While he did not have, a specific date Mr. Warnock remarked that implementation of the fund charter would in all likelihood provide funding for a third ambulance without requiring the use of property tax money.

Mr. Pace suggested that the third ambulance could be used to implement some of the new initiatives described in the report and in turn provide for even more tax relief.

Chairman Scafidi thanked the Committee for its work and asked that the report be made a part of the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Request to work in the street: Verizon

Marty London, an Engineer for Verizon was asked to approach the mic. He explained the project involving trenching on Water, Spring and Front Streets. The purpose of the project is to provide for a second entrance to the "switch" on Center St. Currently if there is a problem in manhole 200 on Center St., the switch is isolated and cannot operate. With the work proposed there would be back up access via Spring St.

Mr. Scafidi asked if there was a way to get the service off the poles on Water St. Mr. London responded that this could be done with fiber optics but not with the copper wire, that provides the actual service.

Mr. Rowe asked the depth of the trenches to be dug. Mr. London responded, 3 feet. Mr. Rowe asked about the payment of additional taxes. No answer from Mr. London, but he did point out that the Town will get a new sidewalk. Mr. Rowe asked about oversight of the project. Mr. Noyes, Public Works Director reported that his department would provide oversight.

Mr. Binette asked how long the project will take. Mr. London responded that they should be finished by November 1.

It was moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Eastman to permit Verizon to work in the Town right of way to install the subject conduit. SO VOTED.

8. Appointment of the Conservation Commission

Following discussion it was agreed that the matter would be postponed until the next meeting to await written confirmation of the resignation of two members of the Commission.

9. Permits

Chairman Scafidi turned to Mr. Olson for the permits being requested.

Moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Binette to authorize the Head Start Program to use the Wheelwright Room from 9 until 11:30 AM on August 15, 2001. SO VOTED.

Moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Eastman to authorize the Exeter Professional Firefighters to hold a boot drive for the MDA by the Bandstand from 8 until noon on August 25, 2001. SO VOTED.

Moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Binette to authorize Exeter Historic Associates to use the Town Hall from 1 until 5 PM on September 30, 2001. SO VOTED.

Moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Eastman to authorize Stark's New Hampshiremen, Inc. to use the Town Hall from 7 until 10 PM on October 27, 2001. SO VOTED.

10. Town Manager's items

Mr. Olson notified the public that the Board's next meeting will be on August 27th, that Household Hazardous Waste Day was set for October 6, from 8:30 to 12:30 and that Fall Pick up week will be the week of October 29th.

11. Selectmen's Committee reports

Mr. Eastman reported on the approval of a subdivision off the Newfield Rd. at the Planning Board meeting of last week. Mr. Pace reported on the upcoming meeting of the Conservation Commission on the 14th, and that the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission will not take place due to the absence of applications. Mr. Binette indicated that he had nothing to report. Mr. Rowe asked Mr. Binette how the Pay and Benefit study was coming and Mr. Binette indicated that it looked very good and that a fine job was being done by the consultant. Chairman Scafidi reported that he had missed a meeting of the Parks Advisory Committee.

12. Public Comment

Mr. Binette reported that the Parks and Recreation Department was working on the Winter St. Park, installing woodchips. Mr. Rowe expressed concern that garbage had been dumped on the skateboard park and that those using the park had not pick it up.

Moved by Mr. Rowe, second by Mr. Eastman to adjourn. SO VOTED 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



George N. Olson
Town Manager