

MINUTES EXETER BOARD OF SELECTMEN JULY 1, 2002



1. Convene the meeting

Chairman Pace opened the meeting at 7:00 PM on the above date and introduced the Board. Present: Vice Chairman Paul Binette, Clerk Robert Eastman, Lionel Ingram and Bill Campbell. Also present, George Olson, Town Manager.

2. Read and Approve the minutes of the June 17, 2002 meeting

It was moved by Mr. Eastman, second by Mr. Ingram, to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2002 minutes as presented. SO VOTED with Chairman Pace voting and Messrs. Binette and Campbell abstaining.

3. Proclamation – National Aquatic Week

Chairman Pace turned to Mr. Eastman to make the presentation. Mr. Eastman went to the mic and asked Mr. Briden of the Recreation Advisory Committee to come to the mic as well. The attached proclamation was read by Mr. Eastman and graciously accepted by Mr. Briden who thanked the Board.

4. Bid award - Bandstand repair

Chairman Pace asked Mr. Olson to address the topic. Mr. Olson recommended that the Board accept the \$30,800 bid from Northeast Masonry Corporation of Pelham, NH. He noted that they were the second from the highest bid, but were the lowest bid that complied with the bid specifications.

Moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Eastman to accept the bid. Mr. Binette expressed concern that the town's bid package was not clear if firms were bidding that did not have the necessary qualifications. And, if they were qualified, the Town could be exposed legally for not selecting the low bidder. Mr. Olson responded that it was not unusual for bidders to not meet the specifications, yet still bid. He concurred with Mr. Binette that the Town needed to be sure that the low bidder, meeting the qualifications, be selected. Mr. Olson went on to note that the nature of the Bandstand project required a contractor with qualifications and experience in dealing with masonry restoration of historic structures.

Chairman Pace called for a vote on the motion. SO VOTED.

5. Bid opening – Pavement marking

Chairman Pace noted that he had no bids to open. Mr. Olson excused himself from the meeting to retrieve the bids. In the interim Chairman Pace turned to the next item on the agenda.

6. Town Hall Elevator Fund – Report on Contributions – Jane Bentley

Mrs. Bentley was invited to the mic and gave her report on contributions to date. (See attached.) She asked that the account be kept open in anticipation of additional contributions. This was agreed to. Mrs. Bentley went on to describe the history of the effort and to thank all of those who helped with the fund raising and to those who so generously contributed to the fund, noting the goal of raising \$60,000 had been met by the end of June.

Chairman Pace thanked Mrs. Bentley on behalf of the Board and the Town for all of her hours, noting that this is an example of what people can do to raise private funds in support of public projects. He reminded the Board that the warrant article in support of the elevator raised \$40,000, while Mrs. Bentley's efforts had raised \$60,000 in private funds toward the project. Once again he thanked Mrs. Bentley and all of those who helped.

Chairman Pace turned back to item 5 on the agenda and opened bids as follow:

L&D Safety Marking, Barre, VT	\$9,500
Markings Inc., Pembroke, MA	\$5,875
Striping Unlimited, Barrington, NH	\$13,500

It was moved by Mr. Eastman, Second by Mr. Campbell, to turn the bids over to the Town Manager and the Department of Public Works for review and recommendation back to the Board. So Voted.

7. Request to address the Board re water/sewer bill adjustment – Terrence J. Murphy

Chairman Pace asked Mr. Murphy to come to the mic. Mr. Murphy described the problem noting that his average use per quarter is about 21,000 gallons but in the first quarter of 2001 the utility billed him of 147,000 gallons. He stated that he did not use the water and that it is his belief that the water meter was defective. Since the high usage in the first quarter of 2001, his water use has returned to normal and he has done no plumbing repairs to this home and the utility staff has not been able to find a leak. Mr. Murphy asked to be charged his average use for the quarter in question.

Mr. Binette stated that it was his understanding the Mr. Murphy was gone a great deal of the time. Mr. Murphy agreed but noted that there is a person living in the home in addition to him. Mr. Binette asked if he or his neighbors had a swimming pool. Mr. Murphy answered in the negative. Mr. Binette asked if someone could have connected a hose to Mr. Murphy's outside tap and used the water without his knowledge. Mr. Murphy responded in the negative, noting the loss took place during the winter months. He also stated that his neighbor checks his house every day when he is away.

Mr. Ingram stated that in the absence of any reason to doubt the veracity of Mr. Murphy's statement, it seemed an equipment failure could be the only explanation. He recommended that the bill be adjusted. Mr. Campbell noted that there was precedence for this action with the recent adjustment to the Goupil's bill and the methodology used to determine the amount of their adjustment. Discussion followed on whether the amount of the adjustment was the purview of the Selectmen or a matter that the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee should address.

Chairman Pace noted that the last time the Board heard an appeal, once the Board agreed to the appeal, the adjustment was based on the previous 4 quarter's of usage. **It was moved by Mr. Campbell, second by Mr. Eastman to grant Mr. Murphy's appeal and to adjust the bill for the quarter in question based on the previous 4-quarter's usage. SO VOTED.**

8. Transfer of land taken for non-payment of taxes to Conservation Commission

Mr. Olson was asked to address the agenda item. He noted that each year that the Town has taken vacant land for non-payment of taxes the Conservation Commission is asked to take a look at the land to determine if the Commission has an interest. This year 2 of the 3 parcels are of interest to the Commission and that the Chairman, Don Clement, is present to discuss the matter with the Board.

Mr. Clement was invited to the mic. He describe the importance of the two parcels to the Conservation Commission and, using a map, showed the Board how the parcels were consistent with the Commission's plan to acquire contiguous open space. He noted that the land is wet and landlocked.

It was moved by Mr. Campbell, second by Mr. Ingram, to deed the two properties in question to the Conservation Commission following the completion of all required notifications. SO VOTED.

9. Discussion of change to Town's employee retirement program

Chairman Pace asked Mr. Olson to address the item. Mr. Olson described the recommendation of the Town's Benefit Review Committee to move from the Town's current retirement program for non-uniform personnel to the State Retirement System. (See attached.) He noted that since the cost to the Town of joining the State's retirement program is greater than the cost of the current offering, no action to actually change programs could occur until the 2003 budget is passed. He went on to encourage the Board to discuss the issue in anticipation of budget setting time.

Chairman Pace noted that this was a major decision for the Board to make and that no decision would be made this evening. He requested that members review the materials in anticipation of later discussion.

10. Permits

Moved by Mr. Eastman, second by Mr. Ingram to authorize the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce to decorate the Bandstand for the month of July. SO VOTED.

Moved by Eastman, second by Mr. Campbell, to authorize Phillips Exeter Academy to close Tan Lane from 7 AM until noon on July 2, to accommodate a crane to be used to replace defective HVAC equipment on top of the new Phelps Science Building. SO VOTED.

Moved by Mr. Campbell, second by Mr. Ingram, to authorize Phillips Exeter Academy to park buses in the public way on a variety of dates and times to accommodate the Academy's summer programs. Mr. Ingram asked if there was enough information for the Police to know exactly what was happening on each day. Mr. Olson responded that there was not, but there was enough for the Police to ask the Academy the specific questions need to insure public safety. Mr. Campbell asked why there were buses on Tan Lane only on one day. No answer. **SO VOTED.**

11. Town Manager's items

Mr. Olson reported on the delay in rubbish and recycling collection associated with the celebration of the 4th of July. Residents whose usual pick up day is Thursday will have service on Friday and residents whose rubbish and recycling is normally picked up on Friday will have service on Saturday.

Mr. Olson reported that the latest order of blue bags have a capacity of 30 gallons, as specified. The bags that had previously been ordered were specified to be 30 gallon, but actually had a capacity of 33 gallons since the manufacturer did not offer a 30-gallon bag. Unfortunately some residents have found that the new 30-gallon bags do not fit their rubbish barrels. Mr. Olson recommended that the next time bags are ordered that the 33-gallon size be specified. He noted that the current vendor has a 33-gallon bag that is less expensive than the previous vendor's. Discussion followed on whether the additional money should be spent to purchase for 33-gallon bags. It was agreed that Mr. Olson would come to the next meeting with numbers showing the additional cost to the town to purchase 33-gallon bags.

Mr. Olson turned to the issue of opening a brokerage account in the Town's name. He explained that this was necessitated by a gift of stock in support of the elevator fund. In order for the stock to be sold, and a cash gift generated, the Town needed to be in a position to sell the gifted stock. Mr. Ingram asked if the names had to be on the resolution since the next time such a gift of stock was received the same individuals might not be in the positions described. Mr. Olson responded that the names were necessary in order to execute the sale. Mr. Eastman asked if there was a requirement that the stock be sold immediately. Mr. Olson responded that there was no such requirement but that the stock did need to be converted to cash once the elevator project was underway.

It was moved by Mr. Ingram, second by Mr. Campbell to resolve, that the Chairman of the Exeter New Hampshire Board of Selectmen, Joe Pace, Vice Chairman Paul Binette, and Clerk Bob Eastman, or any one of them acting individually, be and are hereby authorized to sell, assign, and endorse for transfer, certificates representing stocks, bonds, or other securities now registered or hereafter registered in the name of the Town. SO VOTED.

12. Selectmen's Committee reports

Mr. Campbell reported on meeting with the Exeter Development Commission and their discussion of parking in the downtown, and noted Tuesday's upcoming meeting of the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee. Mr. Binette reported on his meeting with the Recreation Advisory Committee, noting that the summer programs are all underway. Mr. Ingram reported on his meeting with the Council on Aging and their discussion of taxi subsidies. Mr. Eastman reported on the Planning Board's meeting to hear reports from the various master plan committees. He announced that there is a public meeting on the plan scheduled for July 11. He praised the work of the committees. Chairman Pace reported on the Board's tour of the work on Great Bridge ably led by Town Engineer Jennifer Perry, noting that the completion date is still November 15 and that work is on schedule.

13. Public Comments

Chairman Pace asked for public comments. There being none, it was moved by Mr. Ingram, second by Mr. Campbell to adjourn. SO VOTED. Time: 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,



George N. Olson
Town Manager