



1. Convene the meeting.

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

2. Minutes of Selectmen's meeting of September 9, 2002.

*Mr. Campbell moved to accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: 3-0, with Mr. Binette abstaining.*

3. Bid openings:

**Town Report:** Three vendors submitted bids for the year ending 2002 Town & School Report. (see attached bid sheet). *Mr. Binette moved to refer the bids to the Town Manager and Department Head and report back to the Board with a recommendation; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*

**Brickwork – Stewart Park:** Four vendors submitted bids (see attached). *Mr. Binette moved to refer the bids to the Town Manager and Department Head and report back to the Board with a recommendation; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*

**Salt Shed – DPW:** Two vendors (of 11) submitted bids (see attached). *Mr. Binette moved to refer the bids to the Town Manager and DPW and, though nothing has yet been budgeted for the project, return with a recommendation at the next meeting; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*

4. Appointment to Arts Committee:

*Mr. Eastman moved to appoint Curtis Mackail as a member of the Arts Committee; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.*

5. Change to Town Employees retirement program.

The Board had requested this item be rescheduled from its last meeting. Mr. Olson explained that currently only 8 municipalities remain with programs similar to our 457 ING plan and that most are with the State's Retirement System (NHRS). He explained the police and fire departments are enrolled under the Group II category and the Town and employee currently contribute to their pensions. The Benefit Review Committee has reviewed the NHRS options under Group I (for teachers and municipal employees other than police & fire) and recommends the Board consider enrolling the Town under the plan, noting the contribution of the Town would increase from 3% (ING current plan amount) to 4.14% (mandatory with NHRS). The employee would be contributing 5% of their salaries. Mr. Olson also noted the Committee recommended joining November 1<sup>st</sup>, when legislative changes take place in order for monies to be rolled over from other accounts and past years may be purchased, rather than waiting till after Town Meeting, as Mr. Olson had originally planned when the topic first arose. The cost to the Town for those two months would be approximately

\$6000. The estimated cost in 2003 would be \$40,000 more, noting the Town's contribution would increase July 1<sup>st</sup> from 4.14% to 5.9%.

Discussion followed concerning whether employees could maintain their funds in the ING account. Mr. Olson explained current employees could choose both, though the Town would only contribute to NHRS. All future employees would be required to join NHRS, though they could also contribute to ING with no contribution from the Town. These choices explained to employees? Yes, on several occasions we have had general discussion with NHRS representatives. Prior to the actual joining of NHRS, representatives will be invited to meet with employees on an individual basis. Committee's request to the Board of approving the match of 4.14% to those remaining in ING and not joining NHRS, in order to provide a balanced contribution by the Town. Every change with NHRS contribution rates would also change ING contributions? Yes. Mr. Pace noted the match to ING would eventually end with any 'grandfathered employees' as they retire, as all new employees will be required to join NHRS.

Mr. Eastman thought this process should have been part of a negotiation with the last contract while also discussing the pay plan and, during the next negotiation session this could be brought up as something the Town instituted on the employees' behalf. Mr. Olson explained the legislative changes were not known in the spring when the contract was being reviewed. He noted several employees are on the Benefits Review Committee and are aware of the benefit. He sees no problem with providing an amendment to explain the change.

***Mr. Ingram moved to adopt the recommendation of the Benefits Review Committee and join NHRS Group I and for the Town Manager to work out the details equitable to all, effective November 1, 2002; second by Mr. Eastman.*** Mr. Eastman explained that he would be voting no on this motion as everyone has lost probably 50% of their portfolio over the last year and we would not place the burden on the taxpayers. Mr. Campbell noted we are not bailing the employees out but, from this point forward, are offering a different type of retirement plan to the employees. ***VOTE: 3-1.***

6. Amendment to Town ordinances 705 & 711 re conservation lands.

The Conservation Commission has developed use policies in an effort to provide guidance to the public. When the Commission asked the Town Manager to review the policies it was noted some descriptions of activities were in violation of Town ordinances, namely the use of the wheeled vehicles on conservation land and limitations on hunting. Mr. Olson has prepared changes to Ordinances 705 and 711 for review (attached).

Don Clement, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, noted the Master Plan had suggested better publicity of conservation lands and, along with that, the Commission prepared Land Use policies. He went on to explain the Little River Conservation Area, adjacent to both the Connor Farm and the Dolloff property, both properties now allowing hunting, hence the addition of the Little River area to the hunting portion of the ordinance. He also noted the clarification needed to incorporate wheeled vehicles on conservation land. Mr. Clement commented various Bike Clubs that use the properties, noting they are good stewards in maintaining the trails.

Mr. Campbell asked how it would be determined which parcels acquired would become part of the "Town Forest" or "Little River Conservation Area". Mr. Olson suggested that to the extent a tract of

land being acquired, the Board should be made aware of its proximity to those areas and a determination should be made if it's appropriate for hunting. Mr. Ingram asked the Conservation Commission, when forwarding land for approval, suggest whether there should be hunting or not.

This is the first reading of three.

7. Discussion of change to ambulance rates.

Mr. Olson noted that after several occasions of discussing ambulance rates and, with the charter finalized, the Board had agreed to discuss rates again closer to budget time when more data would be available. Chief Comeau explained the attached memo concerning fees, noting a 6% increase in total run volume to date in 2002. Though the increase is large, it is still less than what many municipalities charge, with the advanced life support charge substantially less than others.

Mr. Eastman has been told that if municipalities bill less than Medicare they'll pay the full 100%, but if over what allowed, they only pay 80%. Chief Comeau noted we bill \$100 and they only pay \$80. Chief Comeau noted the \$200 rate still falls below the Medicare average. He also stated that with some money in the fund, this is a good place to start and to watch the figures for the next couple of years.

Mr. Pace reviewed the figures and noted the \$200 fee should cover costs unless there are less calls, though there will probably be more, as we keep rising each year. Mr. Campbell asked of the list of expenses, are there any fixed? Yes, licensing and maintenance are contract items that usually increase only when an additional vehicle is added.

Mr. Ingram asked if the \$154,487 is in the budget and not covered by revenues? Yes, but we could now add the revenues to off-set the expense. He proposed a motion but withdrew it when Mr. Eastman asked for a delay. He wishes to review the collection rate and has further questions on how Medicare pays. Mr. Pace noted the time period falls within the scope of the Budget Committee review and will schedule the item for the next meeting.

8. Presentation of first draft of 2003 Town Budget.

Mr. Olson presented a cover memo to the cover memo (both attached) concerning the budget review process and the proposed budget, which has increased 12%. It was noted the Board had just received the budget this evening and was not prepared to discuss items this evening.

Mr. Eastman suggested any questions for Department Heads from Selectmen be given to the Town Manager by Thursday of this week in order for Department Heads to be prepared for the meeting next Monday (September 30<sup>th</sup> and dealing only with the budget).

Mr. Pace noted the healthy fund balance listed in the 2001 audit. Traditionally this is kept for both a 'rainy day' and to assist in funding warrant articles. Could this also be used to cover some of the expenses the Manager had pulled from the proposed budget? Mr. Olson noted \$400,000 from the Fund Balance is usually used to keep the Town's portion of the tax rate flat, still leaving \$800,000 available to fund projects.

Mr. Ingram noted the 53<sup>rd</sup> pay week and the bond issue have been added as one-time costs, which should be strongly noted when discussing the 12% increase. We are also catching up on items put off in the past and, if putting off again, only hurts us in the long run. The CIP should always be reviewed, particularly when considering future potential budgets. Mr. Olson noted the federally mandated items have been placed back in the budget and are part of the 12% increase.

Mr. Pace noted the Board will work hard to digest the budget and, with the Budget Commission, will work hard to do what we can to keep costs down, though the Town's tax rate may be affected. He stated the Town's rate has stayed flat for a number of years.

9. Permits:

- Old Home Day 149<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the Republican Party, use of the Bandstand and 4 adjoining spaces on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-2. **Mr. Binette moved to allow; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.** The insurance certificate will be in place prior to the event.
- Exeter Rotary Club requested use of the Bandstand and adjoining spaces on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 6PM for their annual Apple Sale. **Mr. Ingram moved to allow; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Exeter Kiwanis requested use of the spaces by the Bandstand for their Hot Dog Sale as part of the Fall Festival, on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 7AM to 3PM. **Mr. Ingram moved to allow; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.**

10. Town Manager's Items:

- The Board will hold a Work Session on September 30<sup>th</sup> to talk with Department Heads and review the budget.
- Candidates, by State Law, are reminded their signs should not be in the Town's rights-of-way. Also, primary signs of unsuccessful candidates should be removed. Mr. Pace asked Mr. Olson to check on the time limit and fine. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Binette did not want Town employees to have to discard the signs of the unsuccessful candidates, as they should be responsible for the removal of their own signs.
- Household Hazardous Waste Day is October 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:30AM to 12:30PM at the Public Works Complex (brochure attached).
- Fall pick-up of bulky items is the week of October 28<sup>th</sup> on a resident's regular trash day. Stickers for items too large for the blue bags may be purchased at the Town Office for \$2.50 each.
- Leaf pick-up, in brown bags, is the week of November 4<sup>th</sup>. The bags may be purchased at the Town Office or Arjay's.

11. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

- Mr. Ingram has a Council on Aging meeting this Thursday.
- Mr. Eastman stated the Planning Board met with Department Heads concerning the CIP and copies will be available with the budget packet. A preliminary design of a horse farm was reviewed and, as the farm is located along the Brentwood, Epping and Exeter lines, the Planning Board expressed concerns over the watershed area affected.
- Mr. Campbell toured a water/sewer pilot program for treatment the Town is considering.

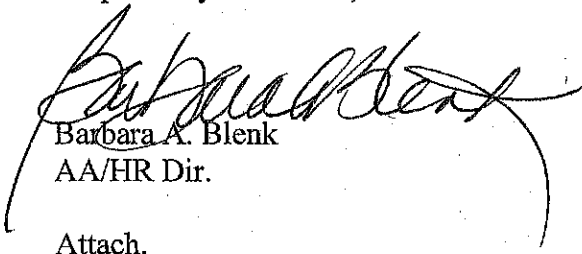
- Mr. Binette noted the Parks Advisory Committee met but had no quorum. Mr. Staples, Chairman, reviewed the agenda items and gave a status of it.
- Mr. Pace attended, this evening, a Cable TV meeting and upgrades to the equipment are being considered, including digital, noting meetings may be stored on DVD's.

12. Public Comments:

None.

*Mr. Ingram moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:33PM.*

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Blenk  
AA/HR Dir.

Attach.

**BIDS: September 23, 2002**

Town Report: (6 sent; 3 rec'd)	Bid #1	Bid #2	Bid #3	Bid #4	Bid #5	Bid #6	Bid #7
Newburyport Press, Newbury MA	6429 <sup>45</sup>	6239 <sup>66</sup>	6239 <sup>66</sup>	6606 <sup>91</sup>	126 <sup>64</sup>	122 <sup>64</sup>	8 <sup>00</sup>
Riendeau Printing Corp, Pelham NH - separate sheet				6180 <sup>00</sup>	137 <sup>32</sup>	139 <sup>50</sup>	8 <sup>00</sup> etc.
Yankee Printer, Hampton Falls NH	6178			→	16¢	16¢	75¢

Special: Tape Binding 4845<sup>00</sup>

Brick Work - Stewart Park

Bid #1 (lump sum)

\$ 25,200-

Coastal Landscaping, H-Falls, NH

L. Daigneault & Sons, Inc., Kingston NH

42,600-

Pawtuckaway Nursery Corp, Lee NH

37,900-

Salt Storage Shed: (11 sent; 2 rec'd)

Bid #1 (Lump sum)

115,444-

Park Lane Construction, Clyde NY

Tyree Organization Ltd., Pembroke NH

111,100-

ALT. 144,000-