

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Scafidi convened the meeting at 7:02PM on the above date and introduced the Board present: Paul Binette, Robert Rowe, Joseph Pace and Robert Eastman. Also present: George Olson, Town Manager.

2. Minutes of meeting of April 16, 2001.

Mr. Pace moved to waive the reading and to accept the minutes as presented; second by Mr. Binette. Mr. Olson reported a correction: page 1 #4 – the bid amount accepted was \$24,696, not \$24,896. **Mssrs. Pace and Binette agreed with the correction. VOTE: Unanimous**

3. Bid opening: Water & Sewer utility van.

Mr. Olson recommended not opening the sole bid received and request the department research the reason no others were received and to review the State bid package. The Board agreed.

4. Bid Awards:

Fire overhead doors: Mr. Olson recommended awarding to Haley Door for \$12,845 (low bid), noting there was \$17,000 budgeted for the process. **Mr. Pace moved to award the bid to Haley Door for \$12,845 and to include \$1,575 for the additional 3-year warranty; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.**

Sidewalk, curbing & drainage improvements: Mr. Olson recommended Perma Drive (low bid). He noted the low bid was higher than that budgeted but, through negotiations with DPW, they have dropped their price to \$250,000 for the three projects.

Mr. Rowe asked what Phillips Exeter Academy was paying toward improvements, as they have torn up Tan Lane with the science building project? Keith Noyes (DPW Director) stated they are paying to curb the sidewalk by the science building, paying to install the water line on Tan Lane and to pave the street. Mr. Noyes also noted some funds were encumbered from 2000 to be included with those funds approved for 2001, as well as some costs cut from the bid that the Town can handle (sidewalk preparation; reduced police detail, etc.). Mr. Rowe stated he thought PEA should be contributing more.

Mr. Binette moved to approve the bid award; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: Unanimous.

5. Presentation on elevator for Town Hall – Exeter Arts Committee.

William Childs, Chairman of the Committee, noted the Committee has largely been responsible for the seasonal display of exhibits in the Town Office building. They are now looking to the Town Hall space (second floor) noting “healthy demands” for the space, particularly as the Hall is one of the more beautiful spaces to exhibit in the Seacoast. Committee members Peter Barlow and Gene Galipeau have prepared a schedule of exhibits

through March, 2002 (attached). The concern is to have a better way to get people to the second floor, rather than mounting the more than 30 steps.

Jane Bentley, Committee member, has been researching ways to fund the installation of an elevator for the building. Noting most donations will be through private fundraising, she has contacted the NH State Council for the Arts and, through their Cultural Facilities Fund, is preparing a grant application for \$2000 in order to prepare a professional package of the history, drawings showing the elevator concept and information regarding the project to present to the Arts Community, corporations and private sector from which they hope to receive funds. A decision by the Council is anticipated in early June. Mr. Childs noted he was not sure of what the continuing annual costs would be (inspection, maintenance, insurance) that the Town would need to incorporate. The Board supported their seeking funding for the project.

6. Request to address the Board: Kathy Corson.

Chairman Scafidi noted Ms. Corson was unable to attend this evening due to an illness in the family but had requested Gwen English read a letter to the Board concerning Ms. Corson's statements.

Mr. Eastman moved to postpone the matter indefinitely till Ms. Corson returns to Exeter and can be present; second by Mr. Rowe. Mr. Binette noted he has questions of Ms. Corson that Ms. English may not be able to answer. He also noted the media had erroneously reported on this story, using Mr. Scafidi's name rather than his. Mr. Pace stated he opposed the motion and suggested Ms. English read the letter during "Public Comments". **VOTE: 3-1.**

7. Public Works job descriptions.

The Board reviewed the new job descriptions for Water/Sewer Foreman, Distribution/ Collection Technician and Public Works Mechanic – part-time. Mr. Olson noted the part-time position is a new hire and was budgeted for 2001.

Mr. Pace moved to accept the descriptions as presented; second by Mr. Eastman.
VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Fire Department grant application.

Chief Brian Comeau stated \$1M is available in five categories from the Federal Government to fire departments (a first!) across the country. He is seeking two items: Vehicle replacement for the HazMat truck (the '78 Coke truck has been out of commission for over a year); and radio service upgrades. He noted these projects have not been included in the CIP list as other large items had priority (second station, truck replacement, etc.). The Town would pay 10% of the items purchased with the federal government providing the 80%. There are currently 6000 applications on file for consideration.

The radio system would include repeaters and an identification system (allows dispatch to know who is calling – in case of fire, who may be trapped, need assistance, etc.) The truck is estimated at between \$200-220,000 and would be a walk-in style truck and would also carry additional lighting and the air cascade system (to re-fill air packs). We presently have the system but no truck to haul. The truck would be housed in the maintenance bay and, because items are not sensitive to temperatures, may be kept outside while another vehicle is being serviced.

Mr. Binette moved to support the grant application; second by Mr. Pace. **VOTE: Unanimous.**

9. Authorization to approve contractor for construction of train station.

Mr. Olson reported the State Department of Transportation has contacted him regarding approval from the Board to award the bid for construction of the station platform. R. S. Audley of Bow, NH is the low bidder at \$654,443. The contract calls for the platform to be useable by July 15th. Mr. Olson also noted the new estimated cost of the station is \$1,347,007.45, with the Town's portion greater than the already approved \$250,000. Because of this, the Board will need to seek additional funding at the March, 2003 Town Meeting.

Michael Lambert, Locust Street, had read that Maine is holding off building platforms till the speed issue is solved. Is New Hampshire? Mr. Olson stated the speed issue is before the Rail Safety Council in Washington. The current agreement between the State and Gilford Transportation allows 59 MPH. The issues, though, include the use of the rights-of-way owned by Gilford and insurance coverage and what Gilford is requesting the Towns have for protection. Construction will not begin till an agreement is signed for the use of the property.

Mr. Lambert asked about a high, chain-link fence along the railway and how high must it be? Mr. Olson noted it is a safety issue and plans are presently for a fence from Main Street to Front Street.

Mr. Binette moved to approve the award of the bid to R.S. Audley for the train station; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

10. Permits:

- NH DOT requested use of the Town Hall on May 10 from 10-12 for a pre-construction conference. **Moved by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Binette, to approve. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Phillips Exeter Academy requested permission for a Bike Race on May 12 from 1-4. The route has been approved by Chief Kane. Roads include Court, Gilman, Chadwick. Court Street will be kept open and an insurance certificate is forthcoming. **Moved by Mr. Binette, second by Mr. Rowe, to approve subject to receipt of the certificate. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Gideon's International have requested permission for their annual 'Sidewalk Testament Distribution' in front of the High School on May 16 between 10-2. **Mr. Rowe moved, second by Mr. Binette, to approve. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Tom Roberts requested permission to use Founders' Park for a wedding ceremony on Friday, May 18 from 6-7PM. **Mr. Binette moved, second by Mr. Eastman, to approve. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Kiwanis Club requested permission to sell hot dogs/refreshments by the Bandstand on May 19th from 9AM-4PM as part of the Chamber's Spring Fling. **Moved by Mr. Rowe, second by Mr. Pace, to approve. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- John Dionne requested permission for a 'Race to the Beach Relay' on September 29th from 8A-1P. Chief Kane approved the route. **Moved by Mr. Rowe, second by Mr. Eastman, to approve. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- The American Cancer Society requested permission for their annual 3-mile walk on October 14 beginning at 10AM. Chief Kane approved the route. **Mr. Eastman moved; second by Mr. Binette, to approve. VOTE: Unanimous.**

11. Town Manager's Items:

- This is spring pick-up week. Any items not in blue bags require \$2.50 sticker available at Town Office.
- The shimming and paving of roads begins this week (see attached list). Final paving of the roads begins 5-6 weeks after shimming.
- Police Auction is May 19th at the Old Simpson Property on Kingston Road beginning at 8AM. Report is there are over 100 bikes, computer equipment, etc.
- Next meeting is May 14th.

12. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

- Mr. Eastman noted the Planning Board met on April 26th. On the 17th a consultant will be in concerning impact fees and area towns have been invited to hear the presentation.
- Mr. Pace stated the Conservation Commission meets on May 8th. Baseball season is underway and he congratulated the Parks & Recreation Department staff for the great work in preparing the fields.
- Mr. Rowe stated the Council on Aging met and is working on prescriptions needs of the elderly. A Safety Committee will be held on the 17th.
- Mr. Binette and Mr. Scafidi had no reports of meetings.

13. Public Comments:

Gwen English, (Brentwood Road) a member of the Planning Board, read a letter from Kathy Corson (attached) regarding the recent appointments of the Board.

Laurie Loosigian, Washington Street, was offended by how Ms. Corson has been treated and feels it is a travesty. She asked the facts be presented to the public and the Board to recon-sider their recent appointments.

Steve Hobbs, Greenleaf Drive, asked if Ms. Corson would be asked questions of a technical nature at the next meeting? Mr. Binette noted he did not know what types of questions would be asked. Mr. Hobbs asked that the new appointee also be present in order to answer questions.

Dan Hummel, Columbus Avenue, noted the Board of Selectmen is always looking for diversity on the Planning Board. He stated one member had made comments on a 200-300,000 square foot building and Ms. Corson had provided other views. Mr. Eastman corrected the statement noting he had requested a percentage limit to retail space of a building of 2-300,000 sq. footage.

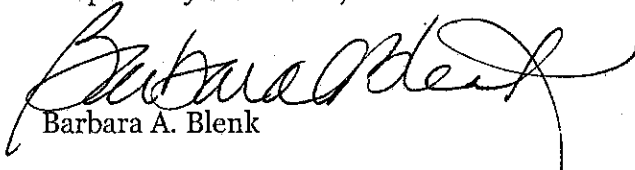
Mike Lambert stated it shouldn't be "Kathy vs. Amy" but a fundamental issue and the Board made a big mistake by reaching into a citizen board decision and he hopes they reconsider their appointment. He feels this is a serious issue, particularly with the low voter turn-out at Town Meeting and the ever present need for volunteers. Each volunteer expects to, at some point, become a voting member of a Board and the Selectmen should admit their gross error. Mr. Rowe stated he did not feel it was a gross error and he feels he appointed the most qualified member.

Mr. Binette, in response to Mr. Lambert noting Mr. Binette had missed some Recreation Advisory meetings, stated Mr. Lambert has also missed meetings that Mr. Binette has attended.

Carol Aten, Lincoln Street, disapproves of the Board's decision and hopes they reconsider how appointments are made. Perhaps it's time to have the community vote for all positions.

With no further comments coming before the Board, ***Mr. Eastman moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.*** Time: 8:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Blenk

attach.