

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Scafidi convened the meeting at 7:00PM. Present: Paul Scafidi, Joseph Pace, Robert Eastman, Robert Rowe, Paul Binette and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of Board's meeting of December 3, 2001.

Mr. Pace moved to waive the reading of the minutes and to accept them as submitted; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.

Chairman Scafidi diverted from the scheduled agenda and introduced Bob Hall, Chairman of the Train Committee, and Tracey McGrail, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and thanked them for their hard work in getting a passenger train to once again stop in Exeter and head to Portland, as well as the wonderful festivities last Friday. It was a great time and great event! Mr. Hall noted it was a 'dream come true'. They presented the Board with souvenir programs, sun catchers and a framed poster of the DownEaster. Ms. McGrail stated all on board were impressed with Exeter's schedule of events at the station.

3. Police Citizen's Award.

Chief Richard Kane requested Derek Stern to come forward. The Stern family was involved in a home invasion and many items were stolen. Mr. Stern took an active role, visiting local pawn shops and located their items along with items from others who were victimized. Chief Kane noted is what 'Community Policing' is all about. He presented a Department plaque to Mr. Stern noting their thanks in the pursuit of the investigation and eventual conviction.

4. Bid openings:

Hampton Road shoulder widening: Six vendors submitted bids (see attached results). **Mr. Binette moved to refer the bids to the Town Manager and Public Works for their review and recommendation; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: Unanimous.**

Property taken for non-payment of taxes: Three bids were received (see attached results). **Mr. Binette moved to refer the bids to the Town Manager for his review and recommendation at the next meeting; second by Mr. Pace.** Mr. Rowe asked if the Conservation Commission had any interest in any of these properties. Mr. Olson noted they had reviewed the list and were no interested. **VOTE: Unanimous.**

5. Bid Awards – Police Dept. server.

Only one bid has been received (not opened at the last meeting when the Board voted to contact vendors for interest). Seacoast Computer Inc., Dover NH, bid \$4,293. **Mr. Binette moved to refer the bid to the Town Manager and Police Department for review and to return with a recommendation; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**

6 & 7 Both items were postponed due to the weather (presenters from Boston and Concord).

8. Board action on 2002 budget and warrant articles.

Mr. Olson reviewed the status of events (see attached memo) concerning the request of the Board to cut \$250,000 from the proposed budget. The following department heads were also present to answer questions: Jack Sheehy, Linda Hartson, John DeVittori, Keith Noyes, Doug Dicey, Hope Godino, Sylvia von Aulock, Doug Eastman, Rich Kane and Brian Comeau (along with Call Chief Harry Thayer).

Mr. Pace noted he was away on business during the last meeting and, without reviewing the cuts in advance, would have been opposed to the vote taken. He stated the Board can cut the recommended budget but expressed concern over the arbitrary figure of \$250,000 chosen, particularly after the Budget Recommendations Committee review of the budget and the available Fund Balance to cover some necessary projects. He appreciated the Town Manager's effort to cut the funds as directed, along with the Department Head's assistance, but would prefer the \$250,000 be restored and urge the voters to vote on the original recommended budget of \$12,788,432. ***Mr. Pace moved to restore the budget to \$12,788,432. No second. Mr. Rowe moved the revised total of \$12,538,337; second by Mr. Eastman.***

Mr. Eastman noted there were certain areas of concern, noting utilities have increased for town buildings to the highest amount in 5 years. Mr. Noyes noted the billing cycles affect reporting of expenses, as some years include 11 payments, others include 13. Mr. Olson stated the account has been reviewed and he anticipates spending more in 2001 than is currently budgeted in 2002, and hopes the prices will decrease. Mr. Eastman also noted overtime in departments, particularly that of the Fire Department. In particular, he stated "OT Training", noting with what we pay for training, the fire personnel should give something back in return. Mr. Scafidi and Mr. Binette both responded by noting the overtime is contractual and perhaps Mr. Eastman would like to serve on the negotiating committee. Mr. Binette stated much of the overtime comes from multiple calls and the 4-man minimum the Town has in place.

Mr. Binette stated the Town Manager was asked to cut the budget and did so without any recommendation from the Board on where to cut. He thought some cuts would be made that were not and other would not but were. He would like another work session. Mr. Olson noted the latest we could have a meeting on the budget is the 14th due to posting of meetings. ***Mr. Eastman and Mr. Rowe withdrew their motion.***

A work session will be held on January 7th beginning at 6PM, prior to the regular meeting.

Warrant Articles: Mr. Olson noted the bonds were critical as they need to be advertised this week. (copy attached). The Board agreed to consider the bond issue articles but to hold discussion on the other articles till the 7th.

- #1. "To see if the Town will vote to raise & appropriate the sum of \$450,000 to carry out renovations to the Town Office building by issuance of bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (A three-fifths ballot vote is required)."

Mr. Rowe asked for a breakdown of expenses. Mr. Olson noted the estimate comes from the architect based on sketches, building costs and recommendations. The estimates are not set in stone but are budgetary figures. Mr. Olson noted if the bond is not passed, there is no money in the budget to provide figures for next year through a study. ***Mr. Rowe moved to support the Budget Recommendations Committee and not support this article; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***

#2. "To see if the Town will vote to raise & appropriate the sum of \$450,000 to carry out repairs to the Town Hall, including but not limited to, rebuilding the stage area, renovating the entrance to the men's room, replacement of carpeting in the District Court area, downspout and drainage repairs and painting of the eaves, by issuance of bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (A three-fifths ballot vote is required)."

Mr. Noyes noted the amount should read \$150,000, with \$25,000 estimated for each project. Mr. Pace stated there has been much work done on the building and it would be a shame to stop in the middle of this worthwhile project. ***Mr. Pace moved to place the bond on the ballot; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: 4-1.***

#15. "On petition of Jane Bentley and others to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 toward the cost of the installation of an elevator in the Exeter Town Hall; the appropriation to be paid only after certification to the Selectmen that all necessary matching funds have been raised to cover the cost of purchase and installation of the elevator."

Mr. Binette asked if the elevator for the Hall was of the same caliber as was installed at the Town Office? Mr. Olson thought the installation would be less as there was more preparatory work done at the Town Office, though the installation at the Town Office was several years ago. Ms. Bentley noted the proposed elevator is a two-stop system vs. the Town Offices being a 3-stop. Estimate for the proposed elevator is \$100,000. ***Mr. Rowe moved to support the article; second by Mr. Pace.*** Mr. Eastman agrees that the upstairs area is under-utilized and asked if there had been any thought to moving some of the town's offices to the upstairs i.e. Planning, DPW, etc. Mr. Olson noted there were plans from the 1960's but none have been found. ***VOTE: 4-1.***

#10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Exeter Conservation Commission Conservation Fund for the purposes of acquiring and managing open space land and easement to protect the natural resources of the Town and provide sties for passive recreation as authorized by RSA 36-A. (The Budget Recommendations Committee recommends this article be reduced from \$100,000 to \$35,000)."

Bill Campbell, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, asked the Board to consider the request of the Commission for \$100,000, rather than the \$35,000 as recommended by the Budget Committee. He reviewed the acquisition of funds over the years and the purchase of properties, along with the LCHIP grant for the Raynes' property. Once this acquisition is complete, the fund will have a

balance of \$5-8,000 and, based upon information received from NH Dept. of Transportation, land adjacent to Route 101 may be available for purchase. One piece would be abutting the tunnel by Route 101 to Conservation land and the Committee would like to be able to make an offer for purchase. He noted no land is purchased without a public hearing.

Mr. Rowe asked about income from the barn and acreage. Mr. Campbell noted Mr. Raynes currently is renting portions of the barn but that is being cleared and the Stewart Farm has been farming the land. He will check with LCHIP regulations regarding income. **Mr. Rowe moved to approve the article at \$100,000; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: 4-1.**

The remaining articles and budget will be discussed on January 7th.

9. Authorize participation in multi-year rate guarantee program for property-liability insurance.

NH Municipal Association, handlers of our property and liability insurance, offer a program that reduces our invoice by 5% and keeps the rates frozen till June 30, 2005.

Mr. Pace moved to approve participation in the multi-year rate guarantee program with NHMA-PLIT; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

10. Acceptance of Meadowood, Twin Pond Circle and Nathaniel Way as Town roads.

Mr. Olson noted the roads listed above are physically ready for acceptance by the Town but he was notified today there are problems with all three deeds, ranging from 2-3 items to 15. Our attorney is preparing the necessary letter to accompany the deeds for correction.

Mr. Binette asked whether the cul-de-sac in the Twin Pond Circle area could be maneuvered by our fire trucks. Jennifer Royce, Town Engineer, noted the Fire Department has signed off on the plans stating they could make the turn barring any vehicles being parked in the circle. Mr. Binette asked whether they had actually tried it. She did not know.

Mr. Pace moved to recommend acceptance of Meadowood, Twin Pond Circle and Nathaniel Way as Town roads, but maintaining the roads till the correct deeds have been received and recorded; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: Unanimous.

11. Permits:

- Gail Bartlett, representing NH DRA, requested use of the Town Hall on January 29th (snow date January 30th) for a public forum to receive comments relative to assessing standards and practices from 6:30-8:30PM. **Mr. Eastman moved to approve; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Exeter PTO requested permission for their annual 'Get Fit in May Run' on May 20th beginning at 9AM. The route remains the same as the past three years. **Mr. Pace moved to approve; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**

12. Town Manager's Items:

- Parking on Pleasant Street (7 spaces for winter) was discussed as the Bridge project won't begin till end of January. **Mr. Binette moved to allow parking permits be given to area residents beginning December 18th through January 14th; second by Mr. Eastman.** If the project continues to be delayed, the parking will be extended.
- The Town's offices will be closed December 25th and January 1st for the holidays;
- Budget and warrant articles hearing date must be by January 14th. Legal ads will be placed for the budget and bond issues.
- Residents are reminded of the snow emergency parking ban and noted that when an emergency is called there is no parking on any town streets. He urged viewing of Channel 22 and listening to radios.
- The Exeter Arts Committee's Christmas Exhibition and Sale is continuing through December 23rd from 1-4PM at the Town Hall. Entrance to the building is on the left side.

13. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Rowe noted the Council on Aging met but had nothing to report. He did, however, thank Robert Swasey for his donation of the plaques mounted on the granite posts in front of the Town Office building, showing the Town Seal and the address.

Mr. Binette stated the Recreation Advisory Board meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Eastman stated the Planning Board held a public hearing regarding zoning articles for Town Meeting, with one-half accepted and one-half being re-posted.

Mr. Pace stated the Conservation Commission met and heard information on the School Board's proposal for playing fields. A portion of the land in consideration is in Exeter, with the majority in Kensington. There is continuing research on water issues. Historic District Commission met this evening and they continue to discuss expanding the District up High Street. He also encouraged residents to visit the Gallery at the Town Hall, featuring many local artists.

Mr. Scafidi had no report.

14. Public Comments: None.

Mr. Rowe moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Blenk

attach

BIDS: DECEMBER 17, 2001

Tax Deeded Properties

Ads placed 12/07/01 – Exeter NewsLetter & Foster's Daily Democrat

Properties	Bidders:		
	Ed Carmody Carroll St	SANDRA Discoll Cottage St	PAUL Young
Epping Road (map 30, lot 4)			
Newfields Road (map 49, lot 6)			
Star Avenue (map 70, lot 89)			
Star Avenue (map 70, lot 90)			
Carroll Street (map 74, lot 1)	2000. ⁰⁰	5280. ⁰⁰	
Front Street (map 74, lot 82)			
Shady Lane (map 85, lot 26)			100. ⁰⁰
Hampton Road (map 87, lot 21)			

Hampton Road/NH Route 27 Shoulder Widening

	<u>Total Contract Price Base Bid</u>
DBU Construction, Northwood, NH	\$ 317,767. ⁵⁰
Santorelli Construction, Wakefield, MA	365,235. ⁰⁰
JGE Enterprises, Bedford NH	349,204. ⁰⁰
UEL Contractors, Fitchburg MA	368,552. ⁰⁰
Newport Construction, Nashua NH	298,597. ⁰⁰
Perm-A-Drive Paving, Conway NH	319,001. ⁹⁰