

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Paul Scafidi convened the board at 7:00PM. PRESENT in addition to Mr. Scafidi: Robert Eastman, Paul Binette, Robert Rowe and Town Manager George Olson. Absent: Joseph Pace.

2. Minutes of Selectmen's meeting of November 19th, 2001.

Mr. Binette moved to waive the reading and accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: 3-0.

3. Bid Opening – Construction of Hampton Road shoulder widening.

Chairman Scafidi noted the bid opening title was changed to Novell Computer – File Server (Hampton Road is a later date). Of the seven packages sent to vendors, only one bid was received. The Board agreed to not open the lone bid and to re-bid the package.

4. Bid awards – Landscape trailer for Parks & Recreation; tree stumps & trimming.

Landscape trailer: Mr. Olson recommended REP Enterprises at \$3,985. This was not the low bid but the low bid did not meet the required specifications. *Mr. Rowe moved to approve the recommendation; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: 3-0.*

Trees: Mr. Olson recommended Tamarack Tree Service with a bid of \$9,130. This was the low bid. *Mr. Binette moved to accept the recommendation; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: 3-0.*

5. Proposed 2002 warrant article – Parks Advisory Committee.

Dwane Staples, Chairman of the Committee, was present to report on the status of projects and request the Board's support of a warrant article to continue implementing the Committee's Parks Plan. The Committee met last week and revisited the list of projects proposed for 2002, scaling back to include completion of current projects and addressing safety issues (list attached).

Mr. Rowe questioned the placement of asphalt under the bricks at Stewart Park. Mr. Staples noted many problems over the years with bricks being pulled up and thrown into the river or elsewhere and how the tidal water also affects the brickwork. He noted this will be new brick (the old did not withstand tidal/salt water) and the old brick will be saved for other projects. The \$33,000 estimated cost is based on two years of bid estimates and will replace all the brickwork in that area. Mr. Staples noted the original request was \$76,000+. The Board agreed to hold action on the support of the article till all articles are discussed.

6. Court St. Common warrant article.

Donna Schlachmann, President of the Board of Directors, thanked the Board for allowing her to again address the warrant article, noting two weeks ago the specifics were not elaborated upon. She noted the agencies of the Court St. Common group, and other agencies connected with the community, have expressed concern over the gap that exists in community services. She stated some of the

original agencies had outgrown their facilities and have re-located elsewhere but there are many who are interested in having their agencies housed at the proposed facility.

Ms. Schlachmann reiterated how important the proposed land on Continental Drive is to the project, noting it is the first step before they can proceed with fund raising, etc.

Mr. Scafidi asked if this is a "Y"? Ms. Schlachmann answered yes and no, at least not your typical Y, as she perceives what a Y might be. There are six agencies and the "Y" part will fill the gaps the Town has with facilities by offering a gym, pool and meeting space. This will not be a fitness center. They will offer day care, support services, intervention, etc. The "Y" (used as an easy term for that portion of the facility) will use approximately 60% of the square footage (due to the pool, gym and meeting space).

Mr. Scafidi explained the Board's dilemma with the warrant article, noting Exeter has limited commercial space and convinced the voters to approve a bond issue to extend water & sewer lines out Epping Road to improve the offer of space. He noted the residents were told the Town would re-coup the bond money from taxpaying businesses. By providing this land to Court St. Common, this would take away potential tax properties, as the "Common" is non-profit. Ms. Schlachmann noted that 29 other pieces of properties were viewed. She asked that the Town invest in itself, though she noted it would be a different type of investment.

Mr. Eastman asked if the area was industrially zoned? Yes, and this is a permitted use, according to Town Planner Sylvia von Aulock.

Mr. Rowe expressed concern over losing the tax base and the trust of the voters -- that's how the bond was approached. He was not in favor of sponsoring the article as a Board.

Mr. Scafidi suggested Ms. Schlachmann proceed with a petition article for the Warrant, but with the correct wording, as the petition received with 800+ signatures was not correctly worded for inclusion.

Ms. Schlachmann stated she understands the tax issue but feels this is a unique situation. She noted other Towns include much of what this project will be offering through their Town budgets (i.e. salaries of staff, programs and maintenance of facilities). She noted the Town will not be burdened with this fees. Mr. Scafidi noted the Board is not against what they wish to do but stressed that the property in question is a very valuable piece of commercial property.

Herb Moyer, Westside Drive, asked the Board to consider this unique position for Exeter's future, noting this commitment to all generations calls for giving something up initially. He noted that in a two-week time period the Committee was able to acquire 800+ signatures, stressing that the people are certainly in support of the project.

7. Presentation of Fire Infrastructure Study.

Brian Comeau, Fire Chief, introduced Robert Barr of FireScope, Inc., who provided a presentation recapping the Study they conducted. Mr. Barr noted the purpose of the study was to examine the Town's infrastructure to determine the impact on the delivery of all emergency services; determine the best locations for proposed fire station(s) and if required; examine coverage currently provided via response routes & travel times; determine compliance with NFPA standards; determine flow capabilities of the water system and examine impact of increased rail services to Exeter's west side.

Recommendations included: A second fire station location be considered to (a) provide the delivery of fire and EMS in a minimum amount of time and (b) address the railroad tracks and increased rail traffic beginning soon; a new location for the second fire station be viewed, noting the present "anticipated" site (Epping Road at the Industrial Park) shows several areas of concern including size, underground phone lines through the lot and being adjacent to a high pressure natural gas line. Also suggested is examining a location for a third fire station (Kingston Road/RiverWood Drive area).

Mr. Rowe asked if they had considered Mutual Aid during the course of the study? No, not as part of the study, as they were asked to just consider the Town's department for coverage. Chief Comeau noted the standing agreement with all communities but mutual aid is not instituted for normal calls – mostly when a building fire is confirmed. Discussion followed concerning size of current station and its comparison to the proposed Epping Road site.

Chief Comeau noted the number of calls in 2000 was reviewed and 54% of fire calls were responded to within 4 minutes vs. 46% over 4 minutes. With EMS, 41% were responded to within the 4 minutes time period.

Mr. Rowe moved to accept the study as presented; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: 3-0.

8. Presentation of 2002 budget and warrant articles.

Mr. Olson presented the Board with copies of the proposed operating budget as developed by staff and recommended by the Budget Recommendations Committee and the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee, as well as a list of warrant articles arising from the CIP (see memo attached).

Mr. Rowe asked if additional cuts could be made to accommodate proposed increases, as noted in paragraph 3 and the Bandstand? Mr. Olson noted he was not proposing any. Mr. Rowe suggested a review be made.

Mr. Eastman agreed with Mr. Rowe, noting \$370,000 of obligated debt is lost this year and the budget is still higher. ***Mr. Eastman moved to return the budget to the Town Manager and for him to reduce the budget by \$250,000; second by Mr. Rowe.*** Mr. Scafidi asked why the Board was not doing this. Mr. Rowe suggested the Board not micro-manage the departments. Mr. Scafidi noted the Board does it anyway, noting they have final say and they should just cut out the 'middle man'.
VOTE: 3-1.

9. Appointment to Conservation Commission.

Mr. Eastman moved to appoint Ms. Marsha Tingley as Alternate to the Conservation Commission for the term to expire April 30, 2002; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: 3-0.

10. Permits:

- Exeter Rotary Club requested the Board authorize the street lights on Front Street be turned off at 12 noon on December 24th through the 26th for their annual luminaries display. ***Mr. Binette moved to approve; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: 3-0.***
- Exeter Lion's Club requested use of the Town Hall on April 20, 2002 (first floor) for their annual auction to support efforts of the Club. ***Mr. Eastman moved to approve; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: 3-0.***

11. Town Manager's Items:

Winter parking ban is December 1st through March 15 from 12 midnight through 6AM; residents should be aware of the snow emergency ordinance noting no parking on streets when the emergency is called; tax bills were due today (12/3); Exeter Arts Committee's Gallery is open at the Town Hall weekdays through the 23rd, with proceeds to benefit the elevator fund. Chief Kane reported a Child Car Seat Safety Check-up will be held Saturday, December 8th from 10-2 at the station, checking the condition of every car seat. Free replacements will be available for those seats in need of change. The board's next meeting will be December 17th.

12. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Eastman noted the Planning Board met to discuss zoning amendments and will further discuss this Thursday.

Mr. Rowe had no committee reports but noted the City of Portsmouth donated their command vehicle to our Police Department for their use – and thanked them.

Mr. Binette stated the Recreation Advisory Committee has not yet met.

Mr. Scafidi noted the Parks Advisory Committee's report, noted earlier in the evening, and the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee's budget was also presented this evening.

13. Public Comments:

Herb Moyer referenced those people who are "here to help you!" He noted most of the Town's computers are over 2 years old and for 1/5 to 1/4 the cost of replacing a computer, a replacement of the motherboard would extend the life of the computer by not losing or replacing lost data. This solution has worked well in the schools and has saved many dollars.

Carol Aten, Lincoln Street, had two comments:

- When the Board lists the warrant articles, could they not add the line "the Board of Selectmen does not support this article" to the Court Street Common article? Mr. Scafidi noted it is required per RSA.
- Why does the Town continue to have a Budget Recommendations Committee if the Board is not going to consider the work they have done in recommending a budget and then cutting that recommended budget by \$250,000? She suggested they reconsider their vote of this evening and let the voters decide.

Chairman Scafidi noted the passing of former Selectmen and long-time resident Norman Morrisette this past week. He was currently serving on the Board of Commissioners for the Exeter Housing Authority. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. Rowe moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: 3-0.. Time: 8:22PM

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara A. Blenk