

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Binette convened the Board at 7:05PM on the above date. Also in attendance: Paul Scafidi, Joseph Pace, Robert Rowe, Wendy Stanley Jones and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of January 15th meeting.

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

3. Bid Opening – Webster Avenue Pump Station.

Of the 22 bid packages purchased by vendors, 8 returned bids. Bid results are attached.

Mr. Scafidi moved to instruct the Town Manager and Public Works Department to review the bid results and return with a recommendation; second by Ms. Jones. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Parking on Front & Elliot Streets – Update

Mr. Binette noted the requested letter from Don Briselden (Facilities Management Director) on behalf of Phillips Exeter Academy had been received (attached) and several questions and comments were made. Jim Gilmore, Director of Safety, was present and noted the Academy wished to continue with their neutrality and cooperation with the Town.

Discussion involved handling parking by students and construction workers (if legal parking spaces exist than the police are unable to ticket. Ms. Jones noted several people had called her concerning: 1) Phillips Exeter is the Town's highest taxpayer and cooperation should be shown; 2) taxpayers' children go to PEA and, if the parking spot is a legal one, they should be able to park there; 3) businesses and churches have shown concern over restriction of parking spaces and that area should also be of concern.

Mr. Binette does not want to force the students into parking lots but it worked at the High School when the Pine, Grove and Front Streets area was being discussed. Mr. Gilmore noted there was cooperation with the school but, with the Junior High moving to Stratham, the area occupied by the faculty was opened up after the move. Mr. Rowe noted the prime concern here is public safety, noting with the vehicles parked along the street, drivers are unable to see the pedestrians as they enter the crosswalks.

Mr. Scafidi suggested limiting the parking in the area from 6AM to 10AM, as most workers won't leave their work to move their cars closer after the 10AM deadline. Also, with the winter ban on parking in effect now (12 midnight to 6AM), and the workers beginning at 6AM and probably arriving at 5:30AM, they shouldn't be parking on the streets – or they should be receiving tickets. Mr. Pace suggested 2 hour parking on weekdays, with no restrictions on weekends which would alleviate concerns of the churches. He also suggested improving the visibility at intersections.

Mr. Rowe moved the Town Manager draft an amendment to prevent parking on Front from Elliot Street to the crosswalk; 2-hour parking on Front Street from Elm to the crosswalk,

weekdays, and no parking on the east side of Elliot from Front to Court Street. He also asked for no parking on Front from Elliot going west for a short distance; second by Mr. Scafidi. VOTE: 3-1.

Mr. Pace asked if parallel ordinance amendments concerning the same area could be discussed during the same timeframe, noting if the above did not prove to be workable, he did not wish to see six meetings go by before another is in place (3 readings required for an amendment change).

Mr. Pace moved the Town Manager draft an amendment to the ordinances to move the parking signs to have no parking within 40 feet of the intersections at Elliot, Elm, Spring and Tan rather than the current thirty, and to include setbacks from the crosswalks on Front Street; second by Ms. Jones. VOTE: Unanimous.

5. Replacing Rescue I

Fire Chief Brian Comeau and Assistant Chief Ken Berkenbush were present to discuss the proposed replacement of Rescue I, the 1990 ambulance currently in operation. The Chief noted the bid package has been prepared, with input and review by several vendors, and a ballpark price received. He requested the Board allow him to start the 30-day bid process. Estimated cost: \$176,000 for the truck with a total of \$200,000 once the additional equipment is added. There is currently \$360,000 in the Ambulance Fund.

Discussion followed concerning trade-in or selling to smaller departments. Mr. Rowe asked why Exeter needed such a large truck, as Newmarket just purchased one for much less. Chief Comeau noted theirs is a van-style with a box added. Part of the problem with going smaller would be the lack of space for paramedic gear, as well as the truck not fitting the exhaust removal system now in place in the bay. The cost to retrofit the truck to the system would be expensive.

Mr. Rowe asked why the purchase of the truck was not held up till after the Ambulance Study Committee finishes with their report. Chief Comeau noted he thought the Committee was reviewing the rates and that it was time to replace Rescue 1 due to increased maintenance and use. Ms. Jones noted the Federal Government sets the ambulance rates due to private firms overcharging and there is no guarantee that private companies will be here tomorrow, whereby the Town and its services will be. The consensus of the board was to proceed with the bid package.

6. Status of 2000 warrant article initiatives

Mr. Olson reported that most of the warrant articles funded in 2000 are complete. The crosswalk at High Street and Portsmouth Avenue is complete, though public education on that intersection is needed; Exeter Bandstand Study is complete with the first phase in the budget; Sewer separation on Court Street was mostly completed by Christmas however they will return in the spring to finish; Town Hall renovations are complete; Portsmouth Avenue reconstruction is nearly complete, with sidewalk work and plantings to be handled in the spring (Mr. Olson will provide copy of landscape design to the Board). Under the Parks Improvement Plan, Gale and Stewart Parks are seeing improvements planned. The heating/air conditioning project is underway at the Public Safety

Complex, with additional funding being raised through warrant article this March; Swasey Parkway roadway will be finished this year and the Webster Avenue pump station bids were received this evening.

Three projects were not started: Fire Infrastructure Study will begin once the water study is complete in the late spring. Historic District downtown plan and Epping Road plan will both be bid this year.

7. Permits:

- Chamber of Commerce requested use of the municipal parking lot, off Bow Street, for the 'Big Truck Display' during Winterfest on February 3. *Ms. Jones moved to approve; second by Mr. Scafidi. VOTE: Unanimous.*
- Kiwanis Club requested permission to block the spaces by the Bandstand on Saturday, February 3 from 9AM to 4PM for their refreshment stand during Winterfest. *Ms. Jones moved to approve; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.*
- PEA requested right-of-way parking on Elliot Street for 6 buses on March 9th from 6AM to 2PM for spring break pick-up. Also, 2-3 bus spaces on Front Street. Security/traffic detail will be provided. Mr. Pace asked that the traffic detail be properly trained and reviewed by Chief Kane. *Ms. Jones moved to approved; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: 3-1.* Mr. Rowe noted the requested parking on Elliot Street is contrary to what was proposed earlier this evening.

8. Town Manager's Items

- Interested residents are being sought by the Board to serve on various boards and committees. Letters of interest should be directed to the Board, noting upon which committee the resident wishes to serve.
- Those wishing to file for elected office should do so January 24th through February 2nd at the Town Clerk's office.
- Deliberative Session for the Town is Saturday, February 10th at 9AM at the Town Hall.
- Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 13 with polls open from 8AM to 8PM at the Town Hall.
- Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session January 23 from 7-9PM and January 27th from 10AM to 12 noon at the Town Clerk's office.

9. Selectmen's Committee Reports

Mr. Rowe – none.

Ms. Jones: Ambulance study committee 1/25 at 1PM; Safety Committee last week, with the next meeting on 2/21; Council on Aging's next meeting will be February 15 at 2PM and volunteers are needed.

Mr. Scafidi: Special Parks meeting held last week but he was unable to attend; Water/Sewer Advisory had no quorum last week but discussion was held. He noted the need to replace the Water Treatment Plant is a possibility in 2005-2006 and it will be very expensive. The current Plant has lots of issues and the Committee will be reviewing those, as well as waiting for the Water Study to be presented. The Exeter River still appears to be a viable source for water, but the Federal and EPA guidelines concerning treating is an issue as our plant may not be able to handle these ever increasing requirements. Mr. Scafidi noted a member of the Committee, Bill Gardner, passed away this weekend and will be sorely missed, and wished his wife, Anita, all the best.

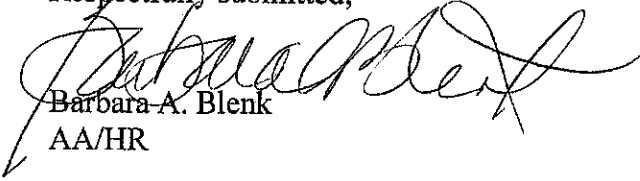
Mr. Pace: Library Trustees will meet January 23rd.

Mr. Binette – none.

10. Public Comments: None.

Mr. Scafidi moved to adjourn; second by Ms. Jones. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:17PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara A. Blenk', written in black ink.

Barbara A. Blenk
AA/HR

attach.