



JULY 30, 2001

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Scafidi convened the Board at 7:03PM. Also present: Joseph Pace, Robert Eastman, Paul Binette and Robert Rowe, along with Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of Board of Selectmen's meeting of July 16, 2001.

Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Bid Openings: (see attached bid sheet for all 3 openings)

Town Hall front steps & walk: Five of fourteen vendors submitted bids. Mr. Binette asked Mr. Olson to explain what was to be done. Town Meeting voted to have the steps adjusted at the Town Hall in order for all the risers to match, eliminating the need for the wooden steps. For the walk and curbing, the asphalt will be removed and be replaced with granite. ***Mr. Binette moved the Town Manager and Public Works personnel review the bids and report back with their recommendation; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Gale Park/Town Hall retaining walls: Four of eleven vendors responded. Mr. Eastman asked if the bid results were over budget? Mr. Olson noted the bid combines two projects and, from the two accounts in the budget, money is available. ***Mr. Binette moved the Town Manager and Public Works personnel review the bids and report back with their recommendations; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Digital Copier: Three of six vendors responded. ***Mr. Binette moved the Town Manager and appropriate personnel review and report their findings at the next meeting; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***

4. Bid award: Valve turning machine.

Mr. Olson recommended E. H. Wachs at \$14,094.20. He noted this was the highest bid of the two but the lower bidder did not meet specifications. There is \$15,000 budgeted. ***Mr. Pace moved to award the bid to E. H. Wachs for \$14,094.20; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: Unanimous.***

5. Presentation of Ambulance Study Committee's Report. Postponed till next meeting.

6. Basketball backboards in the right-of-way.

Mr. Binette and Mr. Rowe both stated they did not request this item for discussion but with it on the agenda Mr. Binette elaborated on a phone call he had received. A resident of Westside Drive had contacted him complaining of basketball hoops on the sidewalks and a travel trailer parked in the street. Mr. Binette's review of the area found 11 hoops, with 2 cemented into the sidewalk, and a travel trailer, along with a utility trailer, parked in front of a home. He estimated these trailers took up about 40 feet of the roadway. He expressed concern the sidewalks would be torn up from the bases being in the surface and, of course, the Town would then be responsible for its repair. He noted, also, that trailers should not be in the street -- on Town property.

Lt. Stephen Dockery was present to address the issues. He has reviewed the hoops in Westside, noting this was also a problem 2-3 years ago and the department had received cooperation since then on alleviating the issue. It has become a problem again and individuals will be addressed. He stated there are also mailboxes that have been mounted in the sidewalks. Mr. Rowe noted these continue to impede pedestrian traffic. Residents should move the hoops onto their own property and play from their driveways.

Lt. Dockery addressed the travel trailer and noted there is no issue as the trailer is legally registered and no State Statute or Town ordinance covers trailers parked in the street unless the sole purpose for parking it there is to sell it, the awning is set up or it is blocking the roadway. The trailers are no bigger than a large car (S.U.V etc.) and it is not blocking the road. The only ordinance covering trailers concerns municipal lots. If this were a tractor trailer, it would be a different issue.

Mr. Binette asked if this discussion concerned Portsmouth Avenue, would they be allowed to park there and do we not have control of that? Lt. Dockery noted there is no parking along Portsmouth Avenue and an ordinance covers this. If someone parked there it would be considered illegal and they would be fined. The trailer, in the area of Westside Drive, is no different than a vehicle.

Robert Baker, 7 Scammon Lane, addressed the Board, noting he is the owner of the travel trailer. He explained he moved to Exeter as his wife comes from the area and they want their child to go to Exeter schools. He has been a good neighbor and continues to fix up his property. He expressed concern over the complaint received about the trailer noting it was parked out front for maintenance work. Normally the trailer is kept under a tarp to the side of his home. He was upset an officer came to the home to address the issue, rather than a member of the Board visiting. He stated he is in violation of no ordinance and the trailer has been a lot less obvious than many others parked around town.

Mr. Baker stated he was not going to move the trailer as he feels he has been harassed though he had been hoping for a better arrangement of handling the situation. His son was concerned when an officer came to the home, asking what his dad had done wrong. He stated he was not asking for anything special but he had a problem with the tactics of the situation and how handled.

Mr. Binette noted no one on the Board was picking on Mr. Baker but they were responding to a complaint of his neighbors. He stated no one said he was in violation and the Lt. had corrected the scenario this evening. Mr. Binette noted that if he had gone to Mr. Baker's home, that might also have been interpreted as intimidation. The officer was responding for the Board to also check on the basketball hoop situation. Mr. Baker noted the hoop was never mentioned or he would have removed it.

Chairman Scafidi explained that the Board regularly receives complaints from residents about a variety of areas and, as the Board members also have other professions, employees of the Town are routinely asked to investigate. Included would be the Building Inspector, Health Officer and a variety of department heads, depending upon the situation. As this discussion involved parking and ordinance interpretation, an officer was sent to Mr. Baker's home. This is not an uncommon practice. He asked Mr. Baker if the officer was rude? Absolutely not, but he felt guilty in the eyes of the law. Mr. Rowe reiterated the officer was acting as the Board's agent, as does the Town Manager.

Mr. Pace noted it is always best for neighbors to interact instead of calling the Board of Selectmen but, when that does not happen, the Board has a responsibility to research issues. He noted, also, that

officers are trained in handling conflict management and are able to handle issues should they be blown out of proportion. It's unfortunate that society's automatic reaction to police presence is negative. Mr. Binette stated if damage is made to your property, who is called? The police. The Board gets a call and, in order to enforce the rules without knowing what the issue is, the police are sent out to investigate.

7. Action to execute agreement for 2001 Household Hazardous Waste Day.

Mr. Olson noted the Town can, once again, receive matching funds from the State in connection with the Hazardous Waste Day collection to be held Saturday, October 6th. ***Mr. Rowe moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement with the State for the Household Hazardous Waste Day on October 6th; second by Mr. Pace. Unanimous.***

8. Permits:

- The Library requested use of the Town Hall on August 22nd from 1-5, in case of rain, for their Summer Reading program. ***Mr. Pace moved to approve; second by Mr. Rowe. VOTE: Unanimous.***
- The Exeter Christmas Parade Committee requested the Town Hall on December 1st from 8-10AM for Mr. & Mrs. Claus and children's entertainment. ***Mr. Rowe moved to approve; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.***

9. Town Manager's Items: None

10. Selectmen's Committee Reports: None

11. Public Comments: None

Mr. Rowe moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 7:59PM

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Blenk

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