



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

OCTOBER 1, 2001

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Scafidi convened the Board at 7:02PM and introduced the Board as follows: Joseph Pace, Robert Eastman, Paul Binette, Robert Rowe and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Read and approve minutes of September 24th meeting.

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

3. Report on award of bid for wastewater treatment plant outfall project:

Following a phone poll of the Board, as directed at the last meeting, the bid was awarded to H. B. Fleming for \$383,300, some \$200,000 less than that budgeted though Mr. Keith Noyes (Public Works Director) noted \$100,000 of the budgeted amount was for an engineering study.

4. Second and final reading of 25 mph speed limit on Garfield Street.

Chairman Scafidi read the proposed amendment to Section 203 of the Town's ordinances, adding "Garfield Street" to that section relating to streets with 25 mph speed limits. *Mr. Pace moved to amend the ordinances as read; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.*

5. Preliminary budget for 2002.

Mr. Olson reviewed the process, with the Board receiving their budget and CIP report for review last week and the department heads were present to answer any questions. The Board will vote this evening to pass along to the Budget Recommendations Committee for their review and should be complete by Thanksgiving. Department heads present included: John DeVittori, Sue Benoit, Jack Sheehy, Doug Dicey, Brian Comeau, Sylvia von Aulock and Keith Noyes. Absent: Chief Kane, Doug Eastman and Linda Hartson.

Mr. Binette noted the selectmen also attend the budget meetings and can hear discussions then. Mr. Rowe asked what were the largest increases? Health care (19.1%), salary increases (3% per collective bargaining agreements), as well as fuel.

Mr. Eastman asked of the software agreements increasing 61%. Jack Sheehy, Finance Director, stated this covers the computer used in Finance, tax, water & sewer collection and Assessing. The increase covers additional water & sewer software acquired, noting there was not enough budgeted in 2001.

Mr. Binette asked Mr. Sheehy why his office supplies increased 300%. This includes an upgrade on his system, including a new monitor, though this may be covered under maintenance. He noted this line item also was too low in 2001 and he overspent that line item for additional items, including a new calculator.

Mr. Pace noted expenses are just under 68% through September 24th and asked if major expenses are expected by the end of the year. Mr. Olson noted considerable personnel costs are still outstanding, including longevity, holiday, education, etc.

Mr. Binette asked if it was a goof on our part of is workers compensation under last years expended amount. Mr. Sheehy noted the budget is prepared by inputting information from each department, which is shown for each department in the budget. Following approval, the total amount is transferred to one aggregate account from which invoices are paid. The estimate of increase is 5%.

Mr. Rowe asked of "Planning Studies" (#2418) with an increase of \$28,000. Sylvia von Aulock, Planning Director, explained this accounts for several projects including (a) prime wetlands' mapping, in order to more appropriately align prime wetlands throughout the Town with the GIS system; (b) further study of the impact fee system, with input from an expert on the subject; (c) town-wide study of parking needs. She noted it was decided to include the \$28,000 in the budget rather than CIP and warrant articles. Some discussion followed concerning impact fees.

Mr. Rowe asked of the increase to "Fire Suppression salaries". Chief Comeau noted the increase represents the 3% pay increase through the contract.

Mr. Pace moved to remit the budget to the Budget Committee for their study and recommendation; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

Chairman Scafidi noted an addition to tonight's agenda which includes follow-up discussion of the bid award for 11 High Street.

Attorney Steve Woods received permission to speak to the Board as a non-resident. Attorney Woods, representing Wesley Thomas, was speaking on a "errand of mercy" noting Mr. Thomas has been a long-time resident of Exeter and noted the Town's issues with Mr. Thomas over the years regarding the maintenance of his properties. He noted Mr. Thomas' problems with the Town were not through ill-will or his moral responsibilities but more a product of emotional problems debilitating to him in order to make the necessary decisions to overcome his problems. Woods explained that Mr. Thomas recently lost a year's struggle with the Superior Court and no longer owns his Kingston Road property. Though the Board held a sealed bid process for the property at 11 High Street, another of Mr. Thomas' properties lost through tax sale, he noted the Board could do anything they wish as the bid process had not yet been completed. Attorney Woods was prepared to pay the outstanding amount, including the 15% penalty if the Board would consider deeding the property back to Mr. Thomas.

Attorney Woods explained that Mr. Thomas will now be partnered with his son, Mark, who will assist with the affairs of the property. The property at 11 High Street will be repaired and Mr. Thomas will reside there. Other property owned by Mr. Thomas will be sold (in Andover, MA) and generate funds for investment in this and the property at 13-15 High Street.

The Board agreed to discuss the matter in the non-public session following the meeting and for Attorney Woods to contact the Town Manager in the morning regarding their final decision.

6. Permits:

- Rockingham County Headstart requested use of the Wheelwright Room for policy meetings from 8:45-11:30AM on October 24, November 21, December 19 and January 23. **Mr. Binette moved to approve; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- 1st Unitarian Society requested the Town Hall on October 24th for a public education program on the Muslim and Islamic religions, including speakers. An insurance certificate is on hand. **Mr. Eastman moved to approve; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Rockingham Planning Commission requested the Nowak Room on November 1st from 7-9PM for information on the LCHIP program. **Mr. Pace moved to approve; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Phillips Exeter Academy requested blocking of spaces on Elliott & Front Street on November 20th (Thanksgiving recess), December 13th (Christmas recess) and March 14 (Spring break) in order for buses to be parked for loading of students and luggage. Mr. Rowe suggested another area be found on their hundreds of acres in order to not interfere with a public street. **Mr. Pace moved to approve; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: 3-1.**
- Squamscott Coalition requested the Wheelwright Room on December 5th from 8-10Am for a volunteer meeting. **Mr. Binette moved to approve; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Seacoast Wind Ensemble requested the Town Hall on December 9th from 1:30-5PM for their holiday concert. **Mr. Binette moved to approve; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**

7. Town Manager's Items:

- Household hazardous waste collection on October 6th from 8:30AM –12:30PM at DPW Complex.
- Town's offices closed on Monday, October 8th for Columbus Day holiday. Rubbish & recycling remain on schedule.
- Fall pick-up is the week of October 29th.
- Halloween is October 30th from 4-7PM, with the fire sirens sounding to begin and end trick or treating. The Halloween Parade is October 31 beginning at 5PM at the Swasey Parkway.

8. Selectmen's Committee reports:

Mr. Eastman noted the Planning Board met last week to review the CIP lists. They should approve the final lists next week and recommend same to the Selectmen and Budget Committee;

Mr. Binette had no meetings – "Hail to the Patriots!";

Mr. Pace noted the next meeting of the Conservation Commission is October 9th at 7PM;

Mr. Rowe – none;

Mr. Scafidi stated the Parks meeting was last Tuesday and Budget preliminary meeting was held on Thursday. Sam Daniel was elected Chairman, with Jeff Warnock to serve as Vice-Chairman. They begin their regular meetings on November 6th.

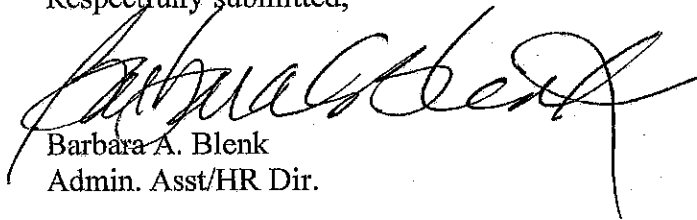
9. Public Comments: None.

10. Motion to adjourn to non-public session for discussion of a personnel matter.

Mr. Rowe moved to adjourn and resume in a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter; second by Mr. Eastman. Roll call of each member: 5-0.

Time: 8:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Blenk
Admin. Asst/HR Dir.