

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

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February 8, 2010

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman William Campbell convened the Board at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Town Office Building. He said that this was to be a work session but that has been postponed and tonight will be a regular meeting. Mr. Campbell introduced the other members of the Board: Mr. Bob Eastman, Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Bobby Aldrich, Mr. Matt Quandt and Town Manager Russ Dean.

2. Public Comment – None.

3. Minutes and Proclamations

a. Regular Session Minutes of February 1, 2010

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve the minutes of February 1, 2010 as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

4. Appointments - None

5. Department Reports

a. Police

Chief Kane said that they are in the middle of the hiring process to fill vacancies. They just brought on a new officer today and they are working on the background check for a second officer. They have a third opening still to fill. Chief Kane's goal is to have them all in the academy in April. The academy training is 14 weeks so they'll be out by summer. They are trying to move some of their antennae for better service and better coverage around town. They have a date for the on site department accreditation of February 24th. State evaluators will come in and go through their building and look at their policies and paperwork. They have been working toward the goal of becoming state accredited for a couple of years now. State accreditation means that their standards meet national standards. They will be participating in the Seabrook drill on Wednesday, February 10th along with the Fire Department. Members of the Board may participate also if they choose.

6. Discussion/Action Items

a. Power Purchase Agreement Proposal

Ms. Gilman introduced Clay Mitchell and Mike Berman of Revolution Energy who were present to discuss a potential power purchase agreement with the Town. Ms. Gilman explained that the Energy Committee has been working with Revolution Energy regarding the proposed solar array project at DPW. Mr. Mitchell explained that the State has invited municipalities to submit competitive proposals for the use of Energy Block Grant funds which come from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. Revolution Energy is currently working on several projects at the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District, one of which is solar. Grant proposals are rated on the amount of money being requested and the amount of energy the system produces. As a private company, Revolution Energy would finance the system and could leverage federal tax incentives up to 30% of the system cost. They would manage and maintain the system for an agreed upon number of years. Exeter would agree to host the system and buy the power. A meter would be put in and the Town would pay a contract kilowatt hour price. The Town would have the option of buying the system at the end of the contract at fair market value and at that point the energy produced would be free for the remainder of the life of the system. If the Town chose not to purchase at the end of the contract the system would be removed. These systems are very expensive up front so the idea is that they leverage bank financing and as the power is produced you pay

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the system cost down. There are a couple of other programs coming around the corner soon that may be able to provide additional sources of financing. Applications for the EECBG block grants are due Tuesday of next week. While waiting for the application results, Revolution Energy could begin talking to banks in the meantime about financing. The less money that needs to be financed the more likely that a bank will be willing to take the risk.

Mr. Aldrich said that he had heard good things about Revolution Energy's work on the projects for the Exeter Cooperative School District and that the school is looking forward to significant savings down the road.

b. Fire Department Generator Grant Application

Chief Comeau was pleased to announce that the Fire Department has received a grant of \$ 49,800 for the purchase of an emergency generator for the Public Safety Complex. They are actively pursuing other sources of funding as well, such as Florida Light & Power, in order to get the cost to taxpayers down. They are hopeful to get it down to zero impact on the taxpayers.

Mr. Aldrich moved that the Board of Selectman approve the grant application in the amount of \$ 49,800 to replace the generator at the public safety complex and authorize the Chairman to sign all relevant documents. Mr. Quandt seconded. Vote: Unanimous

c. Recreation Capital Projects

Mr. Favreau said that he had spoken with Ms. Ravell earlier today who had advised him that the balance in the Revolving Fund at the end of 2009 was \$ 57,497.00. The Recreation Department started taking applications for summer camp and swim lessons in January, which has generated cash flow and also allows parents to make summer plans for their children early. Their summer camp is currently about 70% full and there are about 50 slots open in swimming lessons. They have taken in \$ 58,720 so far in 2010 which means that the balance in the Revolving Fund is over \$ 100,000.00. Mr. Favreau has 3 capital improvement projects that he would like the Board to approve which would be funded from the Revolving Fund and impact fees.

The first project is pool painting and resurfacing. This should be done about every 5 years. It was last done in 2004 so it is due to be redone. Mr. Favreau recently got an updated bid from Associated Concrete out of Manchester of \$ 30,650.00 for this work. This project is time sensitive in that it should be done around the end of April so it is finished by mid-May so the pool can be filled around Memorial Day. Mr. Favreau would like to line up the contractor now and get a date set for the work.

The second project is tennis court resurfacing and sealing which would include the basketball courts. This was last done in 2003 and is recommended to be done every 5 years. The resurfacing and sealing prevents cracks. Mr. Favreau would like this project to be done in the Fall. He has a bid from Vermont Tennis Court of \$ 16,107.00.

The third project is pool building expansion. The pool gets heavy use all summer and the building hasn't been renovated or expanded since its construction in the 1970's. The plan would bump out one end of the bathhouse by 10 feet and turn two small bathrooms into one large handicapped accessible bathroom. An 8 foot wide addition to the front of the building would allow for the separation of chemicals and water from the electrical supply to reduce the danger of them mixing.

Mr. Favreau also wanted to mention that their current van has around 164,000 miles on it and is used extensively in the summer. They had previously discovered that they could lease a van for about \$

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350.00 per month with payments coming from the Revolving Fund. Since that time they have found that they could buy a 15 passenger van for about \$ 370.00 per month. This seems to be the better choice. It would save money on trips because there are many times when they could rent one school bus and take a van instead of renting 2 school busses. The cost to rent a bus is \$ 400 so every time they could take the van instead of renting a bus they would save \$ 400.00.

Mr. Favreau also pointed out that the Town made about \$ 14,500 net revenue on the pool last year after all expenses were considered.

Mr. Aldrich expressed some concern with the 15 passenger van purchase due to safety concerns. Mr. Dean and Mr. Favreau confirmed that LGC will insure a 15 passenger van.

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve the pool painting and resurfacing project with the amount to be paid from the Revolving Fund subject to an updated bid process for the cost of the project. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Aldrich said that he would prefer to wait on the other two projects until later in the Spring since they are proposed to be done in the Fall. He stated that he would support the 15 passenger van purchase. Mr. Favreau will get more details on the exact cost of the van and purchase contract details and come back before the Board at a later date.

d. Sportsmen's Club Waiver Request

Mr. Dean said that the Sportsmen's Club had requested a waiver for Sunday, April 25th to shoot beginning at 10:00 am for a hunter safety class. The class is concluded with a live fire test which would be no more than 250 rounds.

Ms. Gilman pointed out that as per the minutes of last week's meeting it had been decided that this item would be put on the agenda for discussion on February 22nd. Ms. Gilman had already advised some residents of this date. Mr. Campbell also wanted to make sure that any resident who might want to speak to this would have the opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Aldrich moved to table this discussion. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: 4-1 Mr. Quandt opposed.

7. Regular Business

a. Accounts Payable and Payroll Manifests

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve a weekly payroll warrant dated February 3, 2010 in the amount of \$ 168,372.69. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve a weekly Accounts Payable warrant dated February 5, 2010 in the amount of \$ 1,991,492.69. Big Ticket Items: \$ 1,037,000 to the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District, \$ 830,000 to the Exeter School District, \$ 16,250 to purchase salt for the highway department, \$ 8,500 for heating system repairs at the Public Safety Complex and \$ 46,000 to Unitil for a combination of electricity and gas. Mr. Eastman seconds. Vote: Unanimous.

b. 2010 Budget Department Update – None.

c. Tax Abatements & Exemptions

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Mr. Aldrich moved to approve a Veteran's Tax Credit for Map 54, Lot 4-124 in the amount of \$ 500.00. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve two Disability Exemptions totaling \$ 250,000. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an Elderly Exemption in the amount of \$ 183,751. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Eastman moved to approve an abatement for Map 96, Lot 14 in the amount of \$ 1,703.29 plus interest and an abatement for Map 19, Lot 16-7 in the amount of \$ 615.26 plus interest and an abatement for Map 83, Lot 36 in the amount of \$ 1,223.74 plus interest. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement for Map 74, Lot 65 in the amount of \$ 56.55 plus interest. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: 3-0 Mr. Aldrich and Mr. Campbell abstained.

Mr. Aldrich moved to deny an abatement for Map 75, Lot 6. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous

d. Water / Sewer Abatements

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve an abatement for water and sewer for 6 Spruce Street in the amount of \$ 749.15 based on the one in ten year rule subject to DPW's recommendation. Mr. Eastman seconded. Mr. Campbell said that he would add that they must provide proof that the problem has been corrected as per Mr. Jeffer's email. Mr. Aldrich amended his motion to be subject to proof that the leakage has been fixed. Mr. Eastman seconded. Vote: Unanimous

e. Permits – None.

f. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean thanked the Fire Department and Public Safety Department for their quick response and great effort responding to the house fire on Watson Road this past week. There were no casualties but one person was transported to the hospital. Mr. Dean would like to wish Ernie Barham well in his retirement. He had been the waste water treatment plan operator for the Town for many years. Mr. Dean wanted to remind all departments, committees and commissions to get their reports submitted to the Town Manager's office as they are busy working on the Town Report. The printer deadline for the Town Report is next Tuesday.

Mr. Aldrich said that he is working on putting together an updated list of Boards and Committees. He is trying to stay ahead of the re-appointments this year. He is hoping to have printouts available for the 22nd.

g. Selectmen's Committee Reports

Mr. Eastman had nothing to report.

Ms. Gilman said that the Energy Committee met last week to go through the 5 proposals for EECBG grant funding to try to slim the total number down to no more than \$ 400,000. They decided to keep the

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HVAC system for the Town office building project and the heating and ventilation efficiency improvements to the Safety Complex. The local loop transportation feasibility study and hydroelectric feasibility study were cut. The solar array project at DPW was reduced to \$ 50,000.00. Ms. Gilman just learned also that DPW is putting in their own application. Their proposal would change generators to soft start instead of powering up in quick bursts and would add variable speed drives. The energy savings could be as much as 50%. She is going to talk to them for further details. The Heritage Committee is meeting on Wednesday.

Mr. Aldrich announced that the Conservation Commission meets tomorrow night here at the Town offices. The Cooperative School District had their Deliberative Session last Thursday at the new high school. There were about 8 citizens present. It lasted 40 minutes and there were no amendments to the 51 million dollar budget.

Mr. Quandt announced that the Safety Committee met last Tuesday. They are working on updating the safety manual. The Cable Committee meets on February 18th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Campbell had no committee reports. There will be no Board of Selectman meeting next Monday February 15th since that is a holiday for Town employees. Mr. Campbell requested that at least 3 Board members meet him at 8:00 am on Tuesday, February 16th for warrant signing.

h. Correspondence –

1. Letter of Support for NHCP grant application

This is the letter that the Board of Selectmen sent to the New Hampshire Coastal Program endorsing the wetland delineation grant application further to Ms. Von Aulock's presentation at last week's meeting.

2. Letter from Comcast regarding service changes and new offerings

3. Letter from NHDES regarding grant award

This letter states that if the warrant article passes for the \$ 40,000 for the study on the removal of the Great Dam they will provide the \$ 60,000 in matching funds.

4. Letter from Department of Army regarding Wetlands Permit

This letter from the Army Corps of Engineers authorizes debris removal from the Squamscott River around the outflow at the sewer plant.

5. Letter from Comcast re: Annual Customer Notice

6. Letter from Brian Griset re: 91A request

Mr. Campbell said they will take care of this request this week.

8. Second Public Comment

Mr. Jeff Haydock of Boulder Brook Road asked what the size was of the proposed solar array project at the DPW as well as what the theoretical cost of the project would be if the Town were to own it from the beginning. He also wanted to know if there was an escalator in the rate or if it was a flat rate all the way through the contract. He said that he works for Waterline Alternative Energy out of Seabrook. Ms. Gilman said that they hadn't yet negotiated on price or years for the service contract. She didn't know the size of the array but said that it was going to take up a lot of space. Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Haydock to leave his business card.

9. Non-Public Session

Mr. Aldrich motioned to go into a Non Public Session for discussion of RSA 91:a 3 II (a) compensation. Mr. Quandt seconded.

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Mr. Aldrich called the roll: Mr. Eastman: nay; Ms. Gilman: aye; Mr. Campbell: aye; Mr. Quandt: aye; Mr. Aldrich: aye.

10. Adjournment

The Board emerged from non public session and adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mancinelli
Recording Secretary