

## FINAL MINUTES

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

### MINUTES

July 11, 2011

#### **1. Call Meeting to Order / Non Public Session / Board Interview**

Vice Chairman Matt Quandt convened the Board at 6:40 pm in the Nowak Room of the Town Office Building. Other members of the Board present were: Selectman Frank Ferraro, Selectwoman Julie Gilman, Selectman Don Clement and Town Manager Russ Dean. Chairman Robert Aldrich was absent.

**Selectwoman Julie Gilman motioned to go into Non Public Session under RSA 91a for hiring. Mr. Clement seconded.**

**Selectman Ferraro called the roll. Selectman Quandt: aye; Selectwoman Gilman: aye; Selectman Clement: aye; Selectman Ferraro: aye.**

The Board moved to the Wheelwright Room for the Non Public Session and emerged at 6:50 pm. They interviewed a candidate, Rick Thielbar, for the ZBA Committee. The Board then reconvened in the Nowak Room at 7:00 pm.

#### **2. Public Comment**

Gerry Hamel asked if anything had been decided as to whether or not existing capital reserve funds in the amount of about \$ 70,000 would be used toward the culvert replacement project. Mr. Dean said that he thinks that they can use the money. Mr. Hamel has some concerns about this. It was warrant article # 16 in 2007 that set up this capital reserve fund for culvert replacement. Article # 17 funded it with \$ 135,000 specifically for the purpose of replacing the culverts at Swasey Parkway. Some of the money from this fund was used for culvert work on Continental Drive in a subsequent year. Mr. Hamel feels that the funds remaining in this capital reserve fund should be used for the current culvert replacement work at Swasey Parkway because that is what they were originally intended to be used for.

Another concern that Mr. Hamel has is that when this reserve fund was set up about 4 years ago, \$ 135,000 was supposed to be about half of the price of the total project cost. The current project cost is \$575,000. That is an increase of about \$ 300,000 in only a few years. He would like to see the Town be more accurate in its pricing in the future. The price on the warrant should be the price that they actually have to pay. Mr. Hamel hopes that the special warrant article for the culverts passes.

Mr. Clement said that the type of culvert to be used at Swasey was changed in 2009 or 2010 and that is why the price has doubled. The type of culvert that they anticipated using in 2007 when the total project cost was estimated to be around \$ 270,000 was different than the one being used in the current project which has a cost of \$ 575,000. Mr. Dean clarified that the \$ 270,000 figure was for slip lining repair and not replacement. He said that the total estimated replacement cost in 2007 was \$ 400,000 but the project was being done in a phased approach. Project cost has increased due to deterioration of the culverts in subsequent years which has made repair no longer an option. The only option now is replacement. Mr. Ferraro agrees with Mr. Hamel and will push to see that the \$ 70,000 be applied to this project and that the total project cost not exceed \$ 575,000.

Jim Knight talked about the recent Alan Bailey versus Town of Exeter legal action. At the 2011 Deliberative Session on February 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Aldrich made a motion to insert the word 'not' into warrant article # 17 to nullify the motion. Mr. Knight and several other citizens challenged the legality of the language of that amendment. It went to court and they prevailed. The judge ruled in their favor on May 31<sup>st</sup>. On June 9<sup>th</sup> the Town elected to file a limited motion for reconsideration of the legal fees only and

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did not challenge the merits of the rest of the case. The judge recently came back with the Final Order on the appeal. The Town lost the appeal and is ordered to pay the attorney fees. Mr. Knight read a portion of the Final Order. He said that the last line, which says that the legal challenge was a great benefit to the voters and taxpayers of Exeter, is really the core of our republic because it basically secures the rights of the voters to make decisions. At this point, they are seeking a date as to when the Town plans to execute the deliberative session and the special election. Mr. Quandt said that he doesn't have any dates to advise yet and the Chairman is not present this evening.

Deb Johnson of Beech Hill Road said that there is a sound problem now due to the reconfiguration of the Nowak room. She was one of the petitioners in the recent court action and was one of the people named to be on the Budget Committee. She is one of the people running for the Budget Committee when they have the deliberative session and she is very excited about it. Ms. Johnson read briefly part of an article by Mr. Sanborn about the recent Superior Court ruling that was in the July 8<sup>th</sup> Exeter Newsletter. Since the Town got legal advice to only request reconsideration of the legal fees, from what she understands at any point moving forward the only thing that the Town can ask of this motion is not to have to pay the attorney. She doesn't know why they are continuing to engage and spend taxpayer money on such a ridiculous point. The fact of the matter is the judge ruled that the plaintiffs in this case deserve to have their attorney's fees paid because their legal challenge afforded a "great benefit to the voters and taxpayers of Exeter". In order to move forward and get this situation behind us, it would be in the Town's best interest to schedule a third deliberative session this year. She thinks that the Town needs to accept that it lost.

Ms. Johnson said that Mr. Dean was quoted in the article as stating that the Town has until August 5<sup>th</sup> to make a decision as to what they are going to do next. She says that this is incorrect unless they just don't want to pay the bill. Nothing else can be reconsidered but the bill. Mr. Dean was also quoted as saying that House Bill 77, which passed one day prior to the Deliberative Session and upon which Judge McHugh based his decision, is a concern and at some point the Town will need to educate the public about it. She feels that the Town is educated about it. She would like to move forward and would like the attorney's fees paid.

Ms. Johnson said that we are all entitled to free speech and tolerance is a two way street. We need to get back to that and remember that people are allowed to disagree with us and not be demonized. She said that there have been many failures and misjudgments in Town lately. The Town will hold three Deliberative Sessions at great expense to the taxpayers because it didn't get it right the first time. She doesn't understand why the Town Manager is speaking to the newspaper on behalf of the Town since he is a Town employee. The Water Department has been in shambles for the last five years and she can recall a cast of employee characters not seen this side of a situation comedy on television. Mr. Dean's job is to manage the Town and make sure all departments are running smoothly. Problems should be dealt with as they arise.

### **3. Minutes & Proclamations** **a. Regular Session Minutes of June 20, 2011**

Mr. Ferraro pointed out a grammatical change on page 3.

**Ms. Gilman moved to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 20, 2011 as amended. Mr. Clement seconded. Vote: Unanimous Mr. Ferraro abstained.**

### **b. Markey Family Special Gift to the Town to Commemorate Abraham Lincoln's Visit**

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Mr. William Markey explained the details of a special history gift that he and his family would like to offer to the Town of Exeter, as well as to request permission to exhibit it. There will be no expense to the Town for this gift. Mr. Markey grew up in Exeter where he attended St. Michael's Catholic School, Exeter High School (Class of 1951) and then went to UNH in Durham. His wife was born in Exeter and attended the Robinson Female Seminary. Although they currently live in Newmarket, they have deep roots in Exeter. This gift will commemorate Abraham Lincoln's visit and speech in Exeter in 1860.

The gift is a two foot long elephant tusk which has been in his family for 60 years. An expert scrimshaw artist will engrave a likeness of Abraham Lincoln on the tusk along with some other appropriate patriotic embellishments. The words "Exeter NH March 1860" will also be on a little plaque that will be on the tusk. Mr. Markey said that the Exeter Public Library has already agreed to exhibit this item. There will also be a stand and glass enclosed case, which he is currently working on obtaining. He has already gotten some phone calls from some people interested in coming down to Exeter to photograph this and make a story out of it.

Mr. Ferraro thanked Mr. Markey for his gift and suggested that perhaps the Seacoast School of Technology could be of assistance with the display case. He also asked if there are any laws regarding ivory that should be considered before the Town accepts this gift. Mr. Markey said that the current laws are primarily designed to protect the over-use and disuse of ivory on the market. This has been in his family for 60 years and since it is being given as a free gift no money is changing hands. Mr. Clement would like something formal from the Library Trustees indicating that they will accept this gift and display it at the library. Mr. Markey will come back to formally ask the Town to accept the gift when it is completely finished.

#### **4. Appointments - None**

#### **5. Departments Reports – IT**

Andy Swanson said it is clear that some sort of sound backup is needed now that the Nowak Room has been reconfigured and he will look into this. The last few months have been fairly uneventful in the IT Department in the way that uneventful is good. He has been looking at antivirus solutions because last year they had a record number of problems with that. He is currently trying out two different products which are better than what the Town currently has. He is trying to get the pricing down and will probably have this done by the end of the week. Installation could then start next week. There is an issue which may cause them to have to keep the old virus solution at the Police Department because the database there has conflicts with all of these antivirus software solutions. This summer they are looking at uniform licensing to have everyone in one spot so that they don't have to pay extra for software. Mr. Swanson is also working on automated inventory.

Ms. Renee O'Barton inquired as to the status of the Cable Committee's equipment purchase. Mr. Quandt said that they are looking at planning a Cable Committee meeting for next Thursday at 5:30 pm. Mr. Swanson said that he is not a Cable Committee member and has no control over the equipment purchase that she is inquiring about. However, he knows that the equipment is at the school and it is currently being installed and set up and training is going on through next week. Mr. Ferraro expressed his understanding that the Public Access Channel wouldn't go live until the procedures and policies had been finalized, although that is up to the school. Mr. Dean said that Comcast will be at the High School studio doing testing on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Once it is confirmed that everything is OK, a slate will be put up on both the E Channel and the Access Channel. They do have interim policies and procedures but felt it wise not to move ahead with programming until the policies and procedures get firmed up. They wanted to have everything set up and the capability there so that they could conduct a tour or perhaps have a

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meeting and show how it works.

### **6. Discussion/Action Items**

#### **a. New Business - None**

#### **b. Old Business**

##### **i. Pine Road Update**

Ms. Gilman said that she and Mr. Ferraro met with the Brentwood Board of Selectmen to discuss the posting of weight limits on Pine Road. They are concerned about the safety of the intersection and feel that it is really something that needs to be taken care of. They also have a goal to seek payment from Brentwood for the cost differential to upgrade the road to industrial strength instead of residential strength. They have asked Brentwood to pay this cost differential of about \$ 19,000 because the upgrade was necessary due to heavy truck traffic coming from businesses on Brentwood's portion of Pine Road. Opinions didn't change during the meeting. Mr. Ferraro is going to attend a Brentwood Planning Board meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> because the business whose trucks they see mostly affecting this intersection is requesting an expansion. A traffic study is being proposed.

Deb Johnson asked why Exeter didn't meet with Brentwood and negotiate this ahead of time. She said that Exeter solved Brentwood's problem by fixing the road without having an agreement and now the Town is going to have a difficult time getting the money back. Ms. Gilman explained that the Board of Selectmen did meet with Brentwood and the question of raising the funds to reimburse Exeter was put on Brentwood's ballot this past March. However, the warrant article was not recommended by the Brentwood Selectmen and it failed. Ms. Johnson said she was having a hard time understanding why Exeter chose to fix the road at all then. Mr. Clement explained that the road was in terrible crumbling condition and residents were having a lot of problems with the road and so that is why it was repaired. It needed to be repaired for Exeter residents.

Ms. Johnson then asked what the plan was moving forward. Mr. Ferraro said that the Board voted to post the road to prohibit trucks over 8 tons. The Brentwood Selectmen came to a recent meeting and asked Exeter not to do this. The Board then decided to postpone the posting until they had a meeting with them to see what could be worked out. As Ms. Gilman stated earlier, they have had one meeting with them. The suggestion was made that Brentwood Board of Selectmen go to the Brentwood Planning Board and request a traffic engineering study of the Route 27 and Pine Road intersection. It is a terribly unsafe intersection. Mr. Ferraro is concerned that this intersection is just up the road from the high school. The concern is the amount of traffic and busses going into and out of the high school with all of the trucks. Those trucks cannot make the turn into or out of Pine Road without going completely into the opposite lane of travel. Unfortunately Route 27 is a State Road so neither Brentwood or Exeter can do anything about it. Repair of Route 27 is not even on the State DOT's 10 year plan. However, Mr. Ferraro and Ms. Gilman have raised this as a safety concern and feel that somehow something needs to be done. Mr. Clement pointed out that this situation has existed for a long time and there were traffic discussion about this at the time that they built the high school. There has been an understanding that the traffic situation is less than ideal for some time now.

Renee O'Barton asked what the estimated time frame is on these negotiations with Brentwood. Ms. Gilman said they want this resolved as soon as possible. Mr. Ferraro would like to see it resolved before school starts.

##### **ii. Water/Sewer Corrective Bills Update**

Mr. Dean provided the Board members with a memo and two pages of spreadsheet data information on

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the latest reconciliation of corrective water and sewer billings. These billings were reviewed again by the Finance Department after all of the recent questions. To date they have collected about 70% of the corrective bill revenues due. They are expecting to collect a little bit less than originally calculated now that the revisions have been done. The rates group will be taking this issue up when they meet on Thursday. The differential between the Finance Department and Ms. O'Barton's calculations is about \$ 8,800. The Finance Department's number is lower than Ms. O'Barton's.

The water and sewer rates group will be presented with several different options to consider including rate relief and a list of outstanding capital items or some combination of the two. Hopefully they will make a recommendation within a month or so. Mr. Ferraro made it clear that this is money owed back to the ratepayers and there is no way that he would vote to spend this on capital projects. He is looking for some way to return this money to the ratepayers either in the form of a one time rebate or a rate reduction.

Mr. Clement is not sure that the rates group should even be involved with this since it is a Board decision how the collective back billing funds should be used. He asked why there are two different spreadsheets. Mr. Dean explained that different entities have been putting out different numbers all throughout this process and so they wanted to tie them all together on one spreadsheet to illustrate the differences. The Finance sheet shows the break out between the water and sewer funds.

Mr. Quandt would like to wait for input from the Water and Sewer Rates Subcommittee on this and also for the Chairman to be present. Mr. Ferraro said that the amount of unanticipated money is around a million dollars. Mr. Dean said that some of this is due to the default budget as rates were set off of the original budget. Mr. Clement said that the Water and Sewer Funds always carry some kind of surplus and how much surplus each should ideally have is a topic for future discussion.

Ms. O'Barton asked how far back the billing would go now that the bills have been corrected. Mr. Dean said that there has been no change in that. Ms. O'Barton stated that she still feels that this should be corrected based on a vote the Board took at their meeting of May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. She asked if the new corrected bills had been mailed out yet. Mr. Dean said that they will not be mailing any new corrected bills, but would instead be making the necessary debit or credit adjustments to the accounts. Ms. O'Barton also commented that the meeting packet was not available on line today. Mr. Dean said that it was an oversight and the packet should be available as usual next week.

### **iii. Sign Ordinance Discussion**

Mr. Ferraro handed out a Memorandum that he and Doug Eastman had prepared on Town Ordinance 502.2 Signs and Other Obstructions on Sidewalks or in Rights-of-Way dated June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, as well as a revision of it dated July 11, 2011. Both alternatives are presented for consideration and discussion. The issue of TO 502.2 came before the Board in November of 2010 as well as in April of 2011 at which time the Board voted to temporarily suspend enforcement of 502.2 until it could be reviewed and revised. The Board tasked the building inspector Doug Eastman and Mr. Ferraro to meet with various stakeholders and develop some language to revise it. They have met with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, HERON, other town committees and residents. Following these meetings, they drafted the proposal that was presented to the Board on June 20<sup>th</sup>. That proposal would prohibit any signs. Mr. Eastman and Mr. Ferraro met again with HERON and received additional input from them as well as other residents and local retailers. They then developed the alternate proposal for consideration which is the memo dated July 11<sup>th</sup>. Town Ordinance 502.2 addresses signs on Town owned property and rights of way but does not pertain to private property. Town Ordinance 502 and 502.1 remain unchanged.

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Mr. Ferraro briefly went through the provisions of 502.2 which prohibits signs except for some exceptions in subsections a, b, c and d. Subsection a would allow sandwich board signs but only along the stretch of business district on Water Street from the Great Bridge to Main Street and along Front Street from Court Street to Water Street. The sidewalks are too narrow in other areas, such as Lincoln Street and further down Front Street, to allow signs and allow safe passage. Only one sandwich board sign per business would be allowed and signs would have to be removed at the end of the business day. Sign dimensions would be limited to 24" x 36" and could protrude no more than 24" from the building.

The HERON group also suggested that insurance be required to be obtained by the merchants and that the Town be named as an additional insured. This is something that is on other ordinances in other towns. A sign permit would be required to insure that appropriate specifications have been met. The permit sticker would be issued by the Town Building inspector to be placed on the sign and would be renewed annually. The Board needs to decide if there should be a fee for the application review and permit sticker.

Merchandise displays would be allowed but would be limited to not protruding out more than 24" from the building. Sidewalk sales are allowed but the merchants would need to apply to the Board for approval to hold them and they would hopefully be relatively infrequent.

Blue directional signs, which point to businesses that are off the beaten path, would continue to be allowed, but would require approval by the Board. The sign, if approved, would be prepared and posted by the DPW and the applicant would pay the cost for DPW getting the sign ready and installed. Banners and flags would be limited to the U.S. flag or the State flag. Downtown is a walking area and people don't need a flag to know that the store is open. Their concern is for visibility for drivers. Balloons would be prohibited. Zoning rules basically prohibit all of this so if they do adopt these new provisions they will have to do a zoning change as well.

It has come to their attention that Jay Perkins sends a letter to the local merchants every winter instructing them to make sure that their sidewalks are clear of any obstructions. Mr. Ferraro has taken the wording of Mr. Perkin's letter verbatim and incorporated it here in the town ordinance. Authority is given to the Building Inspector, DPW and Police to remove illegal signs, banners or flags. Posting anything on town property such as street poles or traffic light poles is prohibited. Finally there is a provision that anyone aggrieved can come before the Board and request a waiver or appeal a denial of a 502.2 permit.

Board discussion ensued about the sign ordinance proposals. Board members expressed their appreciation for the work that Mr. Ferraro and Doug Eastman did in preparing these proposals. Ms. Gilman was not sure about charging a fee and wanted to hear from retailers whether or not the proposed dimensions work for them. She felt that there was a need to distinguish between blue signs for commercial businesses and home based occupations. Ms. Gilman said that flags add a sense of activity to the downtown area as long as they are at least 8 feet above the sidewalk. She pointed out that both the approval and appeal for blue sign issuance is to be handled by the Board and so they might want to look at changing this somehow.

With regard to the blue signs, Mr. Ferraro did not feel that one type of business was any more entitled to a certain type of sign than another since they are still all businesses. He felt that banning flags and banners would help to preserve the historic nature of downtown and are not necessary if Exeter is truly a walking community. Mr. Clement pointed out that there are two different types of clientele and flags

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attract people driving by. Mr. Clement thought that sidewalk signs should be limited to the C1 District and the Waterfront Commercial District. This would exclude Epping Road and Portsmouth Ave. Mr. Clement did some research and found that the Town of Durham had interesting sign ordinances that he felt would be a good model for Exeter. They limit their signs to 2 feet by 3 feet. One sidewalk sandwich board sign is allowed per commercial user. Instead of limiting how far a sign can protrude from a building, Durham ordinance requires that there be a minimum of 4 feet of available sidewalk for adequate passage. The ADA minimum is 3 feet. Exeter does not have uniform sidewalks. Mr. Clement feels that businesses should be allowed to have display tables or signs as long as they can maintain a minimum of 3 feet of sidewalk clearance. Durham also states that the sign location cannot be more than 10 feet from the primary entrance to the establishment. The Historic Exeter town banners would be illegal under this proposal. Mr. Clement cannot get comfortable with the idea of banning flags, banners and balloons and doesn't think that there should be any fees.

Mr. Ferraro said that the intent of the 24" limit of protrusion for signs and tables was to do more than allow for minimal passage and would be easier to enforce than the requirement that they maintain 3 feet of clear sidewalk. Ms. Gilman thought that they should consider designating certain allowable materials for the signs and suggested unpainted wood with chalkboard / whiteboard or dark metal with chalkboard/whiteboard.

Beth Dupell, who co-owns Exeter Copy and More with her husband, thanked Frank Ferraro and Doug Eastman for their work on this. It has been a long process. The new proposal is so much more pleasing to the merchants of downtown than the one of June 20<sup>th</sup>. She asked what the implementation timeframe would be on this for everyone to come into compliance after passage. She asked if merchants could apply as a group for sidewalk sales or events of that nature. She also wanted to know if HERON would need to approach ZORC with regard to changing their regulations or if that would be something that the Town would do. Frank Ferraro agreed that some sort of implementation schedule would be needed and felt that the Board would have to come up with something on this. Merchants could apply for sidewalk sales either singly or in groups. Mr. Ferraro sits on ZORC as the Selectmen's Representative and said that they would take this issue up and hopefully make everything consistent.

Dan Chartrand, resident of 10 Chestnut Street and owner of Water Street Bookstore, commends Frank Ferraro and Doug Eastman on the work that they have done and the process that they have engaged in. They have been open and available and ready to listen to the practitioners of retail. Every day is a special day to the merchants. He is in favor of the July 11<sup>th</sup> proposal. He urged all of the Board of Selectmen to listen to the suggestions of Selectwoman Gilman and Selectmen Clement. These suggestions drive to a pleasing variation in the presentation of the signs and merchandise which would make the Town look great.

Cathy Coulombe, owner of Tranquility Salon and Skincare, is pleased with the way that things are going with this. She is a retailer in the unique position of being one of the hidden businesses located either below or above ground level so the sandwich board sign is very important to her. She asked the Board to please consider variation in the signage to avoid a cookie cutter type of look and believes that flags add color and charm. She would also like balloons to continue to be allowed as an option.

John Segal, owner of A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words along with his wife, pointed out that if safety is an issue a 24" table is less stable than a 32" inch table. He can do it but would feel less confident with a 24" table.

Shirley Pitts, owner of Two Flights Down for 23 years, did not think that permits should be required to

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be renewed on an annual basis. A year goes by very quickly. She felt that once a permit was issued the merchant should be all set unless there was a change of ownership of the business or some other significant change.

Rich Bowles, owner of Exeter Music, thanked Frank Ferraro and Doug Eastman. He said that it is important that the Board work with them as they are doing the best they can to compete with Portsmouth and some of the other areas. Please keep in mind that they are trying to be as innovative as they can to attract people to the downtown to shop, dine and spend the day. He was in Boone, SC, a few weeks ago which is a very historic place. There were people everywhere. Flags, signs, sidewalk musicians and horses were walking down the street and it didn't seem like anyone was bothered by it. That is what draws people.

Jackie Steed, 12 Exeter Falls Drive, said that flags and balloons show life and activity. People are attracted to that. Colors are a vibrant part of our art and culture. Mr. Ferraro pointed out that it is possible to be very creative with colors with just the sign itself.

John Segal said that he would want to check with his insurance agent regarding the proposed insurance requirement to see if it would be prohibitively expensive. The current proposal doesn't have an insurance value number. Mr. Clement thought that it should be the same as that required to use the Town Hall. There will be more discussion on this at a point in the future. Three readings of the proposed ordinance are required before it can be approved to take effect. Beth Dupell clarified that permitting and insurance are both provisions that the HERON members put on the table during the work group sessions. They wanted the Town to understand the importance of the merchants having these marketing tools available and part of the compromise was putting out these ideas.

Mr. Ferraro and Mr. Eastman will go back with these comments and review the proposals. Any merchants or citizens wishing to make further comments should feel free to contact Mr. Eastman or Mr. Ferraro. They will come back to the Board in a few weeks time with something reflecting the discussions.

Arthur Baillargeon commented that he has lived in the Town for many years and seen a lot of changes, but nothing to this magnitude. He doesn't have any problems with the signs. He doesn't like the idea of comparing Exeter to other towns because he feels Exeter is unique.

Mr. Ferraro mentioned that the suggestion has been to get a directory sign similar to the kind found in shopping malls or large cities that has a map and listing of the local businesses. It would be another way of letting pedestrians know where businesses are located downtown. Shirley Pitts said that this sounded like a good idea at first. However, after the fact they found it difficult to determine which one location would be best for the sign and they questioned how effective it would truly be. There is also the cost factor to be considered. Beth Dupell said that the Chamber of Commerce might be interested in doing some sort of kiosk or information booth. A kiosk might be a better alternative.

### **7. Regular Business**

#### **a. Bid Openings**

Vice Chairman Quandt opened two sealed bids for the Water Street Sewer Interceptor Improvements project as follows:

- 1) Albanese D & S, Inc., Dracut, MA \$ 584,560.00
- 2) Jamco Excavators, LLC, South Hampton, NH \$ 539,955.00



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**Ms. Gilman motioned to refer the bids to DPW. Mr. Ferraro seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

Mr. Dean noted that they did have another bid which was received late and not considered. It will be returned to the bidder sealed.

### **b. A/P and Payroll Manifests**

#### **a. Accounts Payable and Payroll Manifests**

**Mr. Ferraro moved to approve a weekly payroll warrant in the amount of \$ 174,868.61. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

**Mr. Ferraro moved to approve an additional weekly payroll warrant in the amount of \$ 410.88. Ms. Gilman seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

**Mr. Ferraro moved to approve an accounts payable warrant for checks dated 07/08/2011 in the amount of \$ 471,172.99. Ms. Gilman seconded. Big Ticket Items: \$ 24,869 for cable TV equipment, \$198,221 to LGC for liability insurance, \$135,065 to NH Retirement and \$35,738 to Unifit. Vote: Unanimous**

### **c. Budget Updates**

Mr. Dean wished to remind the Board that the Budget Committee has a meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Clement is looking for next year's projected revenues. Mr. Dean is working on getting that information. Ms. Gilman said that they want to have direction for the Budget Committee before they get started.

#### **d. Tax Abatements & Exemptions - None**

#### **e. Water/Sewer Abatements - None**

#### **f. Permits**

The Seacoast Mother's Association has requested to use the Town Hall on October 22, 2011 from 8 am to 1 pm for an Indoor Yard Sale and Bake Sale.

**Ms. Gilman moved to approve the permit pending proof of insurance. Mr. Clement seconded. Vote: Unanimous**

### **g. Town Manager's report**

Mr. Dean reminded everyone that the Special Election for the culverts is tomorrow. Voting is at the Talbot Gym on Linden Street. There will only be one question on the ballot.

Mr. Ferraro announced that this weekend is the American Independence Festival downtown on Saturday. It is a great event that the museum puts on and it draws a lot of people into Town which is good for the local businesses. There is no admission for any activity on Swasey Parkway. The only admission is for the museum and the museum grounds.

### **h. Legislative Update**

The Legislature is not in session. There is no legislative business for the month of July. State revenues

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were down 44 million dollars. Ms. Gilman said that Senator Prescott will be coming to speak to the Board next week. He has asked to be put on the agenda.

### **i. Selectmen's Committee Reports**

Selectman Ferraro said that there is a Planning Board meeting on Thursday evening.

Selectman Quandt said that they are organizing a Cable Committee meeting for next week on Thursday to be held at the new studio at the High School.

Selectwoman Gilman said that the Station Committee met and discussed improvements to the baggage building. They have set a draft project schedule with the DPW. They have a meeting scheduled with the owner of the property this week to talk about Brownsfields investigation and boundary measurements. The EDC Committee met on June 28<sup>th</sup>. They had a presentation from Michael Bergeron of the New Hampshire Development of Resources and Economic Development. Overall economic conditions are better in New Hampshire than many other states and the nation as a whole. Housing is one of our wild cards as home sales are still declining. New Hampshire is very welcoming for the aging but not for families with children. He encouraged the Town to stay in touch with businesses. Exeter's commercial real estate is overpriced compared to surrounding towns and is not very attractive to new business. Mr. Bergeron had a lot of criticism of the Town's website. There is discussion about forming a web redesign committee.

Selectman Clement said that the Planning Board met a couple of weeks ago and discussed the Riverwoods development plans for an administrative office building and park area. The River Study Committee met last week. Town Engineer Paul Vlasich advised that a general public meeting will be forthcoming within a few months regarding the Great Dam study. The Water and Sewer Advisory Committee meets on Wednesday, 7/13/11 at 6:30 pm. The Water and Sewer Rates Subcommittee meets on Thursday, 7/14/11 at 2:00 pm.

### **j. Correspondence**

1. Letter from the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources informing the Town that they have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$ 12,800 for a historic resources survey. This is the first phase of the survey and the beginning of a process.
2. Email from Katherine Knight regarding Pine Road
3. Abutter's Notice from the Brentwood Planning Board
4. Legal Notice from the Department of Public Works for the sale of used vehicles

### **8. Review Board Calendar**

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting will be Monday, July 18<sup>h</sup> at 7:00 pm.

### **9. Adjournment**

**Ms. Gilman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Clement.**

The Board stood adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Mancinelli  
Recording Secretary

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