

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MINUTES

August 3, 2009

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman William Campbell convened the meeting at 7:00 pm in the Nowak Room of the Town Office Building and noted that the Board of Selectmen had previously convened in the Wheelwright Room at 6:00 pm for a non public session regarding collective bargaining. Mr. Campbell introduced the other members of the Board: Mr. Bob Eastman, Mr. Matt Quandt, Mr. Bobby Aldrich and Town Manager, Russ Dean. Ms. Julie Gilman was excused.

2. Public Comment- None.

3. Minutes and Proclamations

a. Regular Session: July 20, 2009

Mr. Aldrich had a few grammatical corrections.

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve the July 20, 2009 minutes as amended; second by Mr. Eastman.

VOTE: Unanimous.

b. Regular Session: July 27, 2009

Mr. Aldrich moved to approve the July 27, 2009 minutes as presented; second by Mr. Eastman.

VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Appointments- Seacoast MPO

Mr. Quandt moved to appoint Sylvia von Aulock to the Rockingham Metropolitan Organization.

Mr. Aldrich seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

5. Department Reports: Police, Library

Police Department- Police Chief Richard Kane advised the Board that a new part time secretary, Pat Sicard of Exeter, had recently started work. Chief Kane also reported that there are currently three vacant positions at the department but that a recommendation had been made recently to fill one of them. Animal Control Officer Neal Jones celebrated ten years as a full time officer on July 5, 2009. At a previous meeting, Chief Kane had outlined three grants that the Police Department had applied for and he reported that the largest of the three was declined, but they are still waiting to hear about the other two, one is for equipment and the other is for replacement of bullet proof vests. Chief Kane would like the residents to know that there are free gun locks available at the police station as well as free drug testing kits. Detective Dave Nelson appeared to give a demonstration of www.crimereports.com to the Board. The Police Department has recently joined a few other New Hampshire towns in offering information on the Internet on crimes reported in Exeter. The Police Department will update the website daily and there is also an anonymous method of reporting crimes and giving tips for solving crimes on this website. Chief Kane noted that this program is free of charge to Exeter right now, but if the equipment grant is approved, some of those funds will go to pay for participation in this website.

Library- Hope Godino appeared to update the Board on the current activities and improvements at the Library. She reported that they are having a very busy summer. Some of the services that are offered regularly are: computer services, audio books and MP3 download books for iPods and MP3s, testing preparation, job searches, and resume and cover letter preparation. There are summer reading programs

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for children, teens and adults that offer games and prizes for participants. There is a summer music series that takes place on the first floor of the library and the library outreach program travels to summer schools and day camp. The elevator will be repaired in August and there have been a number of improvements in order to save energy such as new light bulbs in the building, shades on the windows and new controls on the heating and air conditioning system which will now only be able to be controlled by library personnel. Ms. Godino also noted that the outdoor patio decks are open to patrons.

6. Public Hearing

a. 2nd Public Hearing Property Values

Mr. Campbell opened the public hearing for property value updates under RSA 75-8(b). The Board must decide whether to update the current assessments or leave them at the 2008 amounts. The Board will be voting on this issue on August 24, 2009. Mr. Campbell closed the public hearing.

7. Discussion/Action Items

a. Blue Bag Fees and Recycling Bin Fees

There was a public hearing last week on this issue. Phyllis Duffy from Public Works appeared and advised the Board that through a number of conversations, the department had decided that they should continue to offer the small blue recycle bins as well as the 65 gallon bin but that due to storage restrictions, the 32 gallon bin would not be practical at this time.

Mr. Eastman moved to approve the changes to the fee schedule as follows: 16 gallon recycle bin increased to \$8.00, adding a 65 gallon recycling bin for \$45.00, increasing the 15 gallon blue bag fee to \$1.00 and increasing the 33 gallon blue bag fee to \$2.00. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: 3-1, Motion carries.

b. Discussion: Retirement System 28-A Lawsuit

Mr. Dean explained that the New Hampshire Municipal Association and the Local Government Center have viewed the recent changes in town contributions to the NH Retirement system as an unfunded mandate under NH RSA 28-A. They have asked their members to join in a lawsuit to try to overturn this decision by the State. Mr. Aldrich was concerned that as members of the Local Government Center we should be covered for this type of litigation, so why are we being asked to contribute additional funds. Mr. Aldrich recommended that the town should not get involved at this time and Mr. Quandt and Mr. Eastman agreed.

c. Discussion: Trans Canada Proposal for Energy Supply

This is an item that is supported by the Maintenance Department and the Energy Committee and proposes to save the town \$38,000 over a 12 month period. This would change the way the town is billed for electricity. Mr. Aldrich and Mr. Eastman were confused as to how this would affect the contract that was signed last month with Unitil for the energy program. Mr. Aldrich also noted that there are a number of companies that are offering similar programs. Mr. Campbell stated that the Board would like to hear from Ms. Gilman regarding this proposal, since she works closely with the Energy Committee.

8. Regular Business

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a. A/P and Payroll Manifests

Mr. Aldrich moved to disburse Accounts Payable dated July 31, 2009 in the amount of \$348,046.08. Mr. Eastman seconds. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Aldrich noted that the big ticket items in this warrant were \$200,000 to Bell and Flynn for paving and \$58,000 for the Stadium well. He also noted that he had one issue with a cell phone reimbursement.

b. Budget Updates-

Mr. Dean updated the Board on revenue to date in relation to the anticipated revenue for the year. Interest income through July 31 is at 66% of the anticipated amount for the year, due to lower interest rates this year the anticipated amount was lower than normal. The town has received 40% of the Highway Block Grant funds to date, but it is anticipated that the payments at the end of the year would be higher than the payments at the beginning of the year. Motor vehicle revenues are keeping the expected pace and are at 57% of the anticipated revenue level. Interest and penalties on taxes are at 77% of anticipated collections and sewer collections are at 60% of projected amounts and water is at 47% of projected amounts. Mr. Dean also noted that blue bags sales and emergency medical service revenues are lower than expected. Mr. Aldrich distributed a list of monies owed to the Town of Exeter as of July 31, 2009 which details \$3,560,112.03 in property taxes, water and sewer, ambulance billing and parking tickets and asked the Board how they would like to proceed with collection. Mr. Dean noted that uncollected water and sewer are eligible to be for a lien against the property and Mr. Campbell noted that there is 12% interest added to uncollected amounts and mentioned that payment plans are available in an effort to get money flowing into the town. Mr. Aldrich thinks this issue should be an agenda item in the future in order to recoup the money.

c. Tax Abatements and Exemptions- None.

d. Water/Sewer Abatements- None.

e. Permits

Exeter Public Library applied to use the Town Hall on August 5, 2009 from 12PM to 3PM for the Children's Program.

Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce and Dean Merchant applied to use the Town Hall on September 5, 2009 for the UFO Festival from 8AM to 11PM. Pam Gjetum, one of the organizers of the UFO Festival, presented the Board with a schedule of events and activities.

Mr. Quandt moved to approve permits as presented. Mr. Aldrich seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

f. Town Manager's Report

Channel 22 will begin airing the Capital Improvement Plan PowerPoint presentation tomorrow morning at about 10AM and it will last about one hour. The MS61 is complete for the Department of Revenue and the auditors are still set to be here on August 17. Budget guidelines were distributed to Department Heads last week and the one proposal that was received for the Fleet Study RFP came in under budget.

g. Selectmen's Committee Reports

Mr. Eastman- CIP books were published last week and are available at the Planning office.

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Mr. Aldrich has nothing to report.

Mr. Quandt has nothing to report.

Mr. Campbell reported that the Board was invited to tour the new water tower next week and asked the rest of the Board which day would be good for them. The consensus is that Tuesday morning at 8AM is best, Mr. Campbell will confirm with Ms. Perry.

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h. Correspondence

1. Letter from Tom Peterson, Exeter Youth Soccer to Town Manager, re: compliments to Parks/Rec on work with EYSA
2. Press release re: Seth Barham, son of Wastewater Operator Ernie Barham on a battlefield promotion in Iraq.
3. Notice of appeal by Phillips Exeter Academy, re: Wetlands Dredge and Fill Permit Application #2008-0233
4. Thanks you card from Walter Dow, DPW.
5. Letter from Roger Estey (??) re: Ian's Franks.
6. Letter from Nancy Zollner re: Ian's Franks.

9. Public Comment- None.

10. Non Public Session

Mr. Eastman motioned to move the Board into the Non Public Session under RSA 91: a (3) (2a) employee compensation at 8:00pm; Mr. Aldrich seconded. Mr. Aldrich called the roll.

Mr. Eastman- aye, Mr. Campbell – aye, Mr. Quandt – aye, and Mr. Aldrich – aye.

11. Adjournment

The Board emerged from non public session and Mr. Eastman motioned to adjourn at 9:00pm; Mr. Aldrich seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Geis
Recording Secretary