

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MINUTES

February 23, 2009

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Joe Pace convened the meeting in the Nowak Room at the Town Offices at 7:00 pm and introduced other members of the Board: Mr. William Campbell, Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Matt Quandt and Town Manager, Russ Dean.

2. Public Comment – Martha Pennell, Gilman Park Trustee, came before the Board to ask about the Gilman Park transfer and the Southeast Land Trust. She wanted to know about the hunt for water in the park, the easement and how to get it moving along. Mr. Dean stated that they have been working in it for a couple of weeks now and are making sure there are no issues with the water lines and language. Things will be moving along soon as they prioritize.

Mike Lambert also came before the Board to ask about the Stratham Gateway Planning Group engaging in discussions on the idea for developing strip malls on Rt. 33 and hooking into Exeter's sewer systems. Exeter has previously said they would not agree to this. Mr. Lambert said that he is concerned that Exeter's sewer system is not in such shape to take it. He thinks that our future should be put first and short term second and would like to see if it was possible to ask Stratham about this. He suggested stopping the idea now before they get too far into planning. Mr. Dean and Mr. Pace said that they have not been a part of those conversations. Mr. Pace agreed that it helps to catch it earlier on in planning and Mr. Dean said he would get an update on the situation.

3. Minutes & Proclamations

a. Minutes of February 9th, 2009 – Ms. Gilman pointed out 2 last names that were misspelled in the public hearing section of the February 9th minutes. The names were Warr and Francese.

Mr. Campbell moved to accept the February 9th, 2009 minutes as amended; Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

b. Minutes of February 17th, 2009

Mr. Campbell moved to accept the February 17th, 2009 minutes as presented; Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Appointments – none.

5. Discussion / Action Items

a. Exeter Historical Society re: Lincoln Sesquicentennial Event

The Historical Society is planning a major effort to promote Abraham Lincoln's visit to Exeter, which occurred in 1860. Laura Gowing from the Historical Society was present and requested that the Board approve moving the Town Election in 2010 to the Talbot Gymnasium to accommodate the events around the sesquicentennial celebration. They would need to use the Town Hall on March 6th. Mr. Pace said he did not think there would be any problem with this but

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asked Laura to come back in 3 weeks to bring this discussion before the newly elected Board of Selectmen to follow proper form.

b. Sportsmen's Club Lease Update

The Board met with the representatives of the Sportsmen's club on the 17th to discuss what came up at the last public hearing. Some of the new tentative decisions were; the hours of operation will be until 7:30pm unless there is a special event for the league, there is an Exeter resident membership minimum of 20% which is to be examined by a third party, there must be 2 Exeter Residents on the Club's Board, and a building enclosure for the fire line to decrease noise has to be done within the first 24 months of the lease signing. On March 2nd, there will be another public hearing.

c. Draft Recreation Revolving Fund Policy

There is currently no Town policy governing the administration of the Recreation Revolving Fund which was authorized in 2005 by a vote of Town Meeting. This draft policy outlines which funds are to be considered part of the revolving fund, certain stipulations regarding administration of the fund and reporting about the fund on a regular basis. Currently, 100% of Recreation fees go into the fund. Parks and Recreation Director, Mike Favreau, spoke to the Board about the fund policy. He stated that the fund has allowed Parks and Recreation to catch up on a lot of projects. It may need to be modified a bit and there are things to talk about but over all thinks this is fine. Mike Lambert spoke before the Board saying that he had served on the Parks/Recreation Board previously and is impressed with all that Mike has done but he prefers that they don't get into a different accounting process and stay with their own user group. Mr. Pace stated that funds are staying within that department and this is designed to make it a formal process to decide how to run the department. This has not yet been voted on.

d. Discussion: Local Aid Update

Governor Lynch's budget has proposed a "zeroing out" of local aid for 2009. If this proposal remains intact, Exeter would lose \$284,030 in revenue sharing, and \$649,786 in rooms and meals tax distributions. It is unclear at this time how much federal stimulus money will be available to fill the local aid gap or how much will be school aid versus local aid to Towns. Highway Block Grant aid has not been proposed to reduce at this time. The Governor's budget also includes a cost shifting of state retirement contributions from 30% to 25%. This could result in another additional burden of \$72,000 for the Town. Mr. Dean stated that we will know more as we move ahead. This will be watched closely. There will be a letter or invite to speak to representatives of preserving our local aid. Ms. Gilman suggested making plans for the worst case scenario.

e. Review of Board and Committee Openings

Ms. Gilman read the list of current Board openings inclusive of those with terms that will expire on April 30th, 2009. If anyone is interested in joining, you can call the Town Office or send a letter of interest.

f. Review Impact Fee Study Agreement

The Board approved an encumbrance of \$11,700 in December, 2008 to Bruce Mayberry Associates for an update of the Town's impact fee ordinance. The proposed study would include a study fire impact fees and road impact fees. Article 11, Section 11.15 of the Town's zoning ordinance outlines the process of review to be done at a minimum of five year intervals. The Board of Selectmen and Planning Board are responsible for the review. Currently the Town

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collects revenue from School and Recreation Impact Fees. There is also a water and sewer impact fee noted on the schedule, later shown as a water and sewer assessment fee. Mr. Dean read the different fees and parts of study. A consultant will make recommendations and this will have to be adopted by the Town. Mike Lambert came before the board to express his concern on projects that are seen over and over and that have not moved along. Mr. Campbell disagreed with Mr. Lambert and said that some projects can take a while to complete and extensions can be asked for but projects are not being seen over and over.

g. DRA Letter: 2008 Utility Value Updates

DRA has sent New Hampshire communities a letter indicating there were miscalculations regarding utility valuations for 2008. Included with the letter are revised calculations of each community's utilities. The data for Exeter shows that utilities were overvalued by DRA by \$578,700. Utilities pay the Town, School, and County tax, but are exempt from the State Education Tax. The overvaluation translated to a potential abatement of \$11,562.

h. Discussion: Local Transportation Committee

The Exeter Region Transportation Committee is advocating Exeter set up a committee under the jurisdiction of the Selectmen to administer the funds spent through the local option program. The committee's scope would include creating information and reports to the Board and the Budget Committee periodically about how the funds are being spent and the success of the programs. Ms. Gilman read the recommendations for committee members. Mr. Quandt suggested having 3 citizens in the committee. Mr. Pace asked Ms. Gilman for the formal charge for the new Transportation Committee.

6. Public Hearings

a. Police Department Fees

Mr. Pace opened the public hearing for the Police Department Fees and asked for any questions or comments. There were none and Mr. Pace closed the hearing. Chief Kane gave some estimates of revenue totals that are brought in from parking tickets. Mr. Pace noted that the fees are not being increased to raise revenues but are intended to be a deterrent measure. Chief Kane said that it is time update these fees and hopes to write a lot less parking tickets now.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the proposed police fees to take effect March 1st, 2009; Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

7. Permits & Approvals

a. Tax Abatements & Exemptions:

Elderly Exemptions-

Map/Lot/Unit

96/20

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the exemption as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

104/79/234

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Ms. Gilman moved to approve the exemption as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

104/79/230

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the exemption as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

104/79/700

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the exemption as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

**Abatements-
Map/Lot/Unit
19/16/103**

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the abatement as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

35/3/10

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the exemption as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

70/100/1-2

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the exemption as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

65/10

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the exemption as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

88/1/4

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the exemption as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

**Intent to Cut-
61/9 and 10**

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the intent to cut as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

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- b. **Water/Sewer Abatements** – none.
- c. **Permits** – none.

8. **Reports**

a. **Town Manager's Report**

Russ Dean: Mr. Dean met with the Heritage Commission on the historic homes valuations. He also attended the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting. It was a good meeting and the other Board members are invited to the meetings. The Town Ballots are on the Town website. Mr. Dean has been working with Public Works and the Town Treasurer on converting to a long term bond on the water tank project.

b. **Selectmen's Committee Reports**

Julie Gilman: At the Heritage Committee meeting, the Certified Government work was finalized. The HDC approved an addition to be added onto the home on 61 High St.

Matt Quandt: The River Study met with Ted Diers from DES for funding for the dam.

Bill Campbell: The Conservation Commission had a work session on the 10th. The Planning Commission met on the 12th and on the 24th the new Trail Committee will meet.

Joe Pace: The Arts Committee met last week. The next Selectmen's meetings will be March 2nd, and 9th. March 10th the Town Elections will take place.

c. **Correspondence:**

- 1) NH Housing, re: housing tax credit.

9. **Second Public Comment** – none.

10. **Non Public Session** – 91-A exception II(a) – employee compensation

11. **Adjournment**

At 8:40pm, Mr. Campbell motioned to move into a non public session on 91-A exception II(a) – employee compensation; Ms. Gilman seconded and called the roll.

Mr. Campbell: aye, Mr. Quandt: aye, Mr. Pace: aye, and Ms. Gilman: aye

The Board emerged from non public session at 9:15PM and adjourned for the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Caruso
Recording Secretary