

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

MINUTES

January 13, 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. Bob Eastman, Mr. William Campbell, Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Matt Quandt and Town Manager, Russ Dean.

2. Public Comment – Allen Bailey asked where the 2007 audit stands and if the 2006 and 2007 audits will be in the annual report. Mr. Dean responded by saying that Melanson Heath are a week behind getting statements but it will be coming shortly. Mr. Pace stated that it is a fair request to have the last two years audits in the annual report.

Chris Moutis, Chairman of the Budget Recommendation Committee, addressed the transportation issue with Meals on Wheels. He said that he met with Ms. Gilman and Donna Shlackman and cleared things up. There will be more information to come on the topic.

James Kennedy spoke about TASC and Meals on Wheels and being able to keep an eye on people who are shut in. Mr. Pace stated that Meals on Wheels has never been in jeopardy. The nutrition part of it is not being cut from the budget.

3. Minutes & Proclamations

a. Minutes of January 5th, 2009:

Mr. Campbell moved to waive the reading of the January 5th, 2008 minutes and accept them as presented; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Appointments - none

5. Discussion / Action Items

a. Authorize Town Manager to Sign Wastewater Grants CY09

Mr. Dean requested the Board approve the state grant applications for calendar year 2009. The projects are WWTF Outfall (C667), Court Street CSO Project (C665), and Water Street CSO (C633).

Mr. Eastman moved to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and accept state aid payments for the projects as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

b. Fuel Contract Extension Proposal

The current fuel supplier, Dennis K. Burke, has offered to extend the fuel contract through August 2010 at the rate of 2.069 for gasoline and 2.389 for diesel. The current contract renewed in August 2008 at the rate of 3.40 for gasoline and 3.80 for diesel. Mr. Dean recommends acceptance of this extension.

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Mr. Campbell moved to authorize the Town Manager to extend the fuel contract with Dennis K. Burke through August, 2010 at the rate of 2.069 for gasoline and 2.389 for diesel fuel; Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

c. Personnel Plan Amendment

Mr. Dean proposed deleting ambiguous language from the Town's Personnel Plan, section 14.13.

Mr. Eastman moved to amend the Personnel Plan as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

6. Public Hearings – FY09 Budget and Warrant Articles

Mr. Pace opened the public hearing. Mr. Moutis spoke to the Board and stated that there has been a lot of misunderstanding with the transportation aspect of the budget. The issue deals with the extra transportation that Meals on Wheels has done for the Town and not the nutrition portion of the program. The nutrition part was recommended by the budget committee and the committee went through all transportation options thoroughly. The taxi and voucher program is back along with TASC and Coast for senior transportation. Mr. Moutis met with Selectwoman Gilman, Donna Shlackman from Meals on Wheels, and Debbie Prue from TASC. They felt that Meals on Wheels has continued to be a service that seniors have come to rely on. The decision was made to allocate funds from Coast to be put back into the budget and allocate money to keep the extra transportation for Meals on Wheels. It is the way to go for this year but will be looked over again next year. Mr. Moutis also commented on articles in the local paper that were very misleading on this topic. He said that it does no good for the local paper to create headlines with misleading information and to suggest that the Town would make cuts to Meals on Wheels without the food portion is malicious.

Mr. Campbell moved allocate \$9,777 for Coast to add into the budget; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: 4 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carried.

Ms. Gilman moved to amend article 17 to take out the budget committee recommendation and remove Coast and add Meals on Wheels at \$9,777; no second.

Ms. Gilman moved to amend article 17 to take out the budget committee recommendation and remove Coast and add Meals on Wheels at \$9,000; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: 1 opposed. Motion carried.

Vern Sherman of Exeter Housing Authority came before the Board. He urged the Board to take a closer look next year at Meals on Wheels' purpose and cost. He stated that Meals on Wheels nicely and more economically took over what the taxi service did not do when it ended.

Vicky Nawoichyk, member of the Budget Recommendation Committee, appeared before the Board. She wanted to make it clear that her and her sub committee made phone calls to get rider ship information and no information was provided. She felt that they made that best decision for the Town and that the articles in the local paper were insulting. She urged the author to get all the facts and speak to people first.

Lee Quandt stated that he believed the Budget Recommendation Committee did a good job and he is glad that hearts are in the right place for seniors. He also believes that someone owes an apology for the misleading paper articles.

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Karen Moyer asked the Selectmen to listen to Lisa on the appropriation for Rockingham Community Action.

Article 10: There was an editorial amendment to article 10. Mr. Moutis spoke about Rockingham Community Action and stated that the Budget Committee does not entertain any requests for increased funding until it shows up on the warrant. He also said that projections of this year did not match 2005. An advocate for Rockingham Community Action stated that the units of service from 2000 to 2008 doubled. From 2005 to 2008 there was a 10% decrease and the funding has dropped 20%. Mr. Pace stated that this will be on the warrant and thanked the advocate for coming out. Ms. Gilman stated that this sub committee had a hard job to do and that Mr. Moutis' reasoning was quite good.

Mr. Campbell moved to support article 10; Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 11:

Ms. Gilman moved to support Article 11 as presented, Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Brian Griset appeared before the Board with concerns on Article 11. He asked questions about the sluice gate replacement, SCADA and the Water Treatment Plant. Jennifer Perry, Director of the DPW answered his questions.

Article 12:

Mr. Campbell moved to support Article 12 as presented; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Arthur Bailargeon asked the Board about the sidewalk plows and how many are being used. Ms. Perry stated that 3 are being used and 1 is in poor condition.

Article 13:

Mr. Campbell moved to support Article 13 as presented; Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 14:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 14 as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 15:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 15 as presented; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 16:

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Mr. Quandt moved to support Article 16 as presented; Ms. Gilman seconded. Both Mr. Quandt and Ms. Gilman withdrew their motions.

There was a request from the DRA to change the wording on this article.

Mr. Quandt moved to support Article 16 with the new language; Mr. Eastman seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 18:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 18 as presented; Mr. Campbell seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 19:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 19 as presented; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 20:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 20 as presented. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 21:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 21 as presented. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 22:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 22 as presented. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 23:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 23 as presented. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 24:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 24 as presented. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 25:

Mr. Eastman moved to support Article 25 as presented. VOTE: Unanimous.

Article 26: No vote on this article.

Article 27: No vote on this article.

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Article 28: Mr. Dean stated that the Arts Committee Chairman has resigned. Mr. Eastman said that the trustees need to be named the agents. Mr. Pace decided to put this forward with new language and amend it at the Deliberative Session.

Article 29: Allen Bailey appeared before the Board and stated that the work was done, paid for out of existing funds and didn't cost less. Mr. Pace thanked Mr. Bailey and said his point was well taken.

Article 30:

Mr. Campbell moved to support Article 30 with up to \$4 million; Ms. Gilman seconded. VOTE: 2 opposed 3 in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Gilman spoke about Article 30 and explained that it allows them to appropriate money. Mr. Bailey asked the Board why not put this on the warrant every year because it could affect the tax rate. Ms. Gilman stated that potentially 75% forgiveness could be included in a stimulus package and this is providing the Town with an opportunity.

Article 31: This is a petition article and will be discussed at the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Campbell stated that if anyone is interested in becoming a part of the Budget Recommendation Committee next year that it could always use new members and there is always a spot to volunteer. The Deliberative Session will be on January 31st at 9:00 am at the Town Hall. Mr. Pace closed the Public Hearing.

- 7. Permits & Approvals**
 - a. Tax Abatements & Exemptions –**
 - Veteran's Tax Credits:**
 - Map 54/Lot 4/Unit 104
 - Map 61/Lot 26/Unit 5

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the Veteran's Tax Credits as presented; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

Abatements:

- Map 104/Lot 79/Unit 803
- Map 111/ Lot 2

Ms. Gilman moved to approve the abatements as presented; Mr. Quandt seconded. VOTE: Unanimous.

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

- 8. Reports**

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a) Town Manager's Report

Russ Dean: The Town report is currently being worked on. Mr. Dean is still looking for dedication ideas. He met with Fire Chief Comeau, Jay Perkins and Jennifer Perry from DPW about the Unitil follow up on the Town emergency Plan. The Town was surprised at the back up power issues during the power outages. They will approach Unitil and about it and report back. Snow removal efforts are in full swing and Mr. Dean asks for everyone's patience as there is limited staff to do the job.

b) Selectmen's Committee Reports

Julie Gilman: The Heritage Committee will meet Wednesday and the HDC will meet Thursday.

Matt Quandt: Nothing to report.

Bob Eastman: Nothing to report.

Bill Campbell: The Planning Board will meet Thursday. There will be no Conservation Commission meeting this month.

Joe Pace: The next Selectmen meeting will be January 26th. The Board will be meeting with the Exeter Sportsmen's Club and discussing the new lease draft on January 21st. Mr. Pace sent his thoughts out to Brian Meskle's family. He was a 1993 graduate of Exeter High School, who passed away in Afghanistan.

c) Correspondence

1. Linda Van De Car, Exeter Meadows Homeowners, re: power problems with Unitil during outage;
2. Dennis Brady, RNMOW Volunteer Director, re: funding for Meals on Wheels;

9. **Second Public Comment** – none.

10. **Non Public Session** – Exception 91-a3 II (a) employee compensation. This was tabled until January 26th, 2009.

11. **Adjournment** – Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn at 8:50 pm; Ms. Gilman seconded. **VOTE: Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Caruso
Recording Secretary