

Select Board Meeting
Monday, January 28th 2019
Town Offices, Nowak Room
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Anne Surman, Kathy Corson, Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Don Clement, and Russ Dean were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Gilman at 6:50 PM, and the Board members went downstairs for board interviews.

2. Board Interviews - Human Services Funding Committee

The meeting reconvened at 7:03 PM.

3. Water/Sewer Abatement Requests

a. 15 South Street

Jessica O'Leary of 15 South Street was present to discuss her abatement request. She said that she bought the property 3 1/2 months ago. At the time of the leak, the house was unoccupied and all plumbing had been taken out. A tech from Water & Sewer checked the meter but did not find an issue, and since she had been living in the house it's recording normal usage of 40 or 50 gallons a day. Mr. Clement and Ms. Surman were concerned that the reason for the leak starting and stopping was unclear.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to approve an abatement in the amount of \$301.62. Ms. Corson seconded. Ms. Gilman, Ms. Cowan, and Ms. Corson voted yay, and Mr. Clement and Ms. Surman voted nay. The motion passed 3-2-0.

b. 22 River Bend Circle.

The homeowner was not present.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to approve an abatement in the amount of \$202.62. Mr. Clement seconded. Mr. Clement said the policy is that if the leak is on customer's property, the customer is responsible, not the town. Ms. Surman said she's concerned because these dollar amounts are small and not a huge hardship; she is only open to approving abatements where the dollar value is high. Ms. Corson said she would look at the abatement for the sewer portion of \$95.92 for this case, not the \$202.62. Ms. Cowan voted yay and Mr. Clement, Ms. Surman, Ms. Corson, and Ms. Gilman voted nay. The motion failed 1-4-0.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to approve an abatement of \$95.92 for the sewer portion. Ms. Cowan seconded. Mr. Clement asked why just the sewer portion, because they don't have enough information to know that the water didn't go into the sewer. Ms. Gilman said she voted against the original motion because they gave no information. Ms. Cowan said she supports the once in ten years abatement. Ms. Corson and Ms. Cowan voted yay and Mr. Clement, Ms. Surman, and Ms. Gilman voted nay. The motion failed 2-3-0.

c. Hartmann Oil at Colcord Pond Drive

Ms. Corson said this was an underground leak in the bathroom not visible to daily use, and the water did not go into the sewer.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to abate the full sewer portion, \$515.35. Ms. Cowan seconded. Ms. Corson and Ms. Cowan voted yay and Mr. Clement, Ms. Surman, and Ms. Gilman voted nay. The motion failed 2-3-0.

4. Public Comment

a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

5. Proclamations/Recognitions

a. There were no Proclamations/Recognitions at this meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular meeting of January 15th, 2019

Mr. Clement said that the minutes didn't show that they had moved Article 17 to the warrant. Ms. Surman pointed out that there was a motion to move Article 17 in the minutes, just with a lot of discussion.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to approve the minutes for Jan 15, 2019 as submitted. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

b. Special meeting of January 22nd, 2019

Mr. Clement said that on page 6, 2nd paragraph, where it reads "Mr. Clement said if the article is amended at deliberative session, the Board must re-vote on their recommendation," he would like that changed to "the Board *may* re-vote on their recommendation."

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Corson seconded. All were in favor.

7. Appointments

a. The Board looked at the resignation of Peter Smith from the Trustees of the William Robinson Fund, which provides scholarships. Ms. Corson thanked Mr. Smith for his 36 years of service. Ms. Gilman said they could appoint someone to fill a term until the next election.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to accept Mr. Smith's resignation with regret and thanks, and would like to send him a letter of commendation. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

8. Discussion/Action Items

a. Surface Water and Groundwater Chloramination Treatment System Update

Matt Berube, the Water/Sewer manager, discussed upcoming changes to the town's water treatment. He said that the town is under an Administrative Order on Consent from the DES/EPA because of an elevated disinfection byproduct level, specifically Trihalomethanes. Sometimes the town passes quarterly testing results, but compliance is based on an annual average over 4 testing sites. There was a warrant article to bring the town back to compliance. He vetted 6 different options, and the best option is chloramines, which will meet their goals and budget. This will be a chemical treatment upgrade at the groundwater plant and surface water plant starting in late March/early April.

Kyle Hay of Weston & Sampson gave a presentation on chloramines. He said that chlorine is the disinfectant currently used to kill microbes in the town's water, but free chlorine reacts with organics in the water to form trihalomethanes (THMs), a carcinogenic compound. They are currently exceeding the EPA limit on THMs in the water, which is 80 parts per billion. Chloramine is a different type of disinfecting chemical, it's chlorine plus ammonium sulfate. This compound is used to disinfect the water supply in many major metropolitan areas like Boston, as well as local cities and towns such as Manchester, Concord, and Salem.

Mr. Hay said that chloraminated water is safe to drink, cook with, and bathe in, and there will be an improved smell and taste. The only concerns are any applications where the water enters the bloodstream of an organism directly, such as aquarium fish, which will need a water conditioner that is rated for chloramines. Another concern is dialysis patients, but the dialysis machines can handle the chemical, institutions just need to test the machines regularly to make sure they're filtering effectively. Finally, chloramines can lead to a degrading of some gasket materials like rubber, so residents will want to switch any old gaskets (20+ years) to EPDM rubber or PVC gaskets. Unlike chlorine, chloramine can't be boiled off, distilled, or left to dissipate, but can be removed with carbon filters.

Mr. Berube said that they sent a brochure regarding the change to 6,000 customers, owners, and tenants. They sent letters to hardware stores to ensure they bring in the correct products, and reached out to dialysis sites like RiverWoods, hospitals, and elderly communities. They also put a notice in the paper.

Mr. Clement asked about the annual operating costs. Mr. Berube didn't have the figures. He said they will be using less chlorine, but adding another chemical, and they haven't seen the cost. If it will be significant, it could become a bid item.

b. 2019 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Grant

Ms. Gilman said the participation in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection event was impressive, and they got a lot of hazardous waste, such as paint thinner, out of the waste stream. They're looking for a grant from NH DES for the 2019 collection. Mr. Dean said that they will also offset some cost through fees. At the last event there was a \$5 donation requested, and almost every household contributed. This year the cost is going up; they could increase in the fee or stop taking asbestos, but there will only be tweaks, not big changes. He mentioned that there was an idea to solicit a sponsorship from Waste Management. He also mentioned that right now, other towns give a check to Exeter for their residents' participation, but there's an option to form a Solid Waste District under the RSA. Mr. Clement said he appreciated the event and that Tim Roach did a great job on the event report, providing lots of good data.

MOTION: Mr. Clement moved to apply for hazardous waste grant funding to NH DES and to authorize the town manager to execute the grant application. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

c. Epping Road, Winter Street, Spring Street Project Update and Additional Funding Request

Ms. Corson requested to move agenda item D forward to accommodate Town Planner Dave Sharples. Mr. Sharples said this request is related to the TAP grant to install new sidewalks on Epping Road, Winter Street, and Spring Street. Hoyle, Tanner & Associates has

provided a new “opinion of cost,” and it is \$89,364.41 more than the original estimate in the grant application of 2016. Construction costs have increased since 2016, but half of the increase (about \$46,000) is just for the crossing at Winter Street. When they submitted the original grant, the flashing lights were prohibited from being put in with federal funding, but now they are required. The DOT notified the town that they are willing to fund 80% of the increase, or \$71,493.54, but they need the town’s commitment to the remaining 20% before the town can go ahead with final design.

Mr. Sharples requested that the Board commit the \$17,872.88 so that he can notify DOT that they will be continuing with this project. It’s too late for this to be a warrant article, so he proposes taking it out of the Capital Reserve Fund for sidewalks. Mr. Dean said that this seems consistent with the purpose of the fund. Mr. Clement agreed, but regrets that they’ll be unable to do maintenance on the sidewalks. Mr. Dean pointed out they’re asking for \$40,000 more for the fund at Deliberative Session.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to take out \$17,872.88 from the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund for the TAP grant matching. Mr. Clement seconded. All were in favor.

d. Water Sewer Abatement Policy Update

Ms. Cowan reported that the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee met once and reviewed some changes which Bob Kelly had proposed to the current abatement policy, such as a cap at \$500 and a change on the term from once in 10 years to once in 5 years. Ms. Gilman said they used to have the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee go through abatement requests and make a recommendation, but that committee started meeting every other month and the requests were backing up.

Mr. Clement said that the original policy is very specific: any event where the cause is related to a leak due to an issue on the customer’s side, the customer shall be responsible for the entire bill. Ms. Cowan said that they usually are unable to determine the cause of the leak, so she in the interest of time she supports granting one abatement in five years up to \$500 without having to determine the cause. Ms. Surman said unless it’s obvious that the town caused the leak, they shouldn’t grant the abatement. Mr. Dean asked whether they would be willing to give a one-time abatement to those who make a compelling case in situations where they can’t figure out what happened. Ms. Surman asked how they would fund these abatements. Mr. Dean said it’s not revenue that they’d already collected or had anticipated collecting; the abatements just take the fees down off the top and bring them back to average use.

Ms. Corson thought they should keep the 10 year period, saying that if there are two major leaks in 5 years there’s something wrong. Ms. Surman agreed. Ms. Gilman said she would like to see the requirement for a plumber’s leak check and report be more prominent. Mr. Dean asked if the Board would like read it through, make comments and bring it back. He mentioned that Bob Kelly was interested in having the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee be involved in the process again; they could go through round one with the owners and make a recommendation to the Board.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax, Water/Sewer Abatements and Exemptions

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to apply a Veteran's Credit of \$500 for the following properties: Map 55 Lot 32 and Map 35 Lot 12. Mr. Clement seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to apply a Disability Exemption of \$125,000 for the following properties: Map 104 Lot 79 Unit 136a and Map 103 Lot 13 Unit 26. Ms. Surman seconded. All were in favor.

b. Permits & Approvals

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to approve the application for the 2nd Annual Deck the Walls Holiday Art Show for Nov 13 - Dec 22nd. Ms. Corson seconded. Ms. Corson and Ms. Cowan voted yay, and Ms. Surman voted nay. Mr. Clement abstained, and Ms. Gilman did not vote. The motion passed 2-1-1.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to approve the application of Bob Glowacky and EXTV for the Town Hall Gallery/Back Room for the purpose of filming a TV Show each Wednesday if available starting January 16 through December 18, 2019. Ms. Corson seconded. Mr. Clement said the new use policy limits applicants to four events, and Mr. Dean said how to handle a town agency is up to the board. Ms. Cowan said they need to support a town service. Mr. Clement asked if they must reject other applicants going forward, and Ms. Corson responded that Sheri can manage the scheduling. Natasha Stoppel, a representative from EXTV, said their filming can go on when there's a gallery show. They will get permission from the organization to use the gallery space concurrently or they will use the back room. Ms. Corson, Ms. Cowan, Mr. Clement, and Ms. Gilman voted yay, and Ms. Surman abstained. The application was approved 4-0-1.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to approve the use of the bandstand for brass band concerts on July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th 2019 from 7:30 - 9 PM. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to approve the application for NH Society of Photographic Artists for 1/4/20 - 2/2/20. Ms. Cowan seconded. Mr. Clement said he wasn't comfortable with permitting a year ahead. Ms. Gilman said the organization needs time to advertise and organize. Ms. Corson said they've had this spot for 20 years and they're also OK with the fees. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Corson moved to approve the Pine Street Players 11/9-11/25/2019 for the Town Hall and the Art Gallery Back Room. Mr. Dean said you can approve Town Hall, but Deck the Walls was approved for the Art Gallery. Ms. Corson asked to remove her motion and table this application pending clarification. Mr. Dean: Prescott Park and Pine Street Players work together on events, unclear the relationship. They have one-day permits for March 2nd, May 18th, and Dec 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15. Ms. Gilman wanted Mr. Dean's office to ask them to clarify the application.

Ms. Corson started to move to approve the use of Town Hall March 2nd 2019 Prescott Park arts festival, but then noted that they had just the alcohol application, not the event application. Mr. Dean said they're applying for the event separately. Ms. Gilman asked to see the cover sheet of the approved event in this case and in the future. This motion was not seconded or voted on.

Mr. Dean discussed Chief Comeau's memo regarding new ambulance fees, which are set at Medicare plus 30%.

c. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean said they are preparing for the town Deliberative Session, which is Saturday February 2nd at 9 AM at the High School. Town meeting warrants were posted today.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Surman had no report.
- ii. Ms. Corson said that the Communications Committee met with the newspaper, and they will be doing a weekly column with info on each warrant article over the next 5 weeks. Ms. Gilman suggested that they could also film a PSA for the warrant articles. Ms. Corson said Bob Glowacky is already meeting with departments on filming something like that.
- iii. Ms. Cowan had no report.
- iv. Mr. Clement attended a Planning Board meeting, where they gave conditional approval for 9 condo units on Front Street. There was also a preliminary discussion on a Dunkin' Donuts and commercial space on Epping Road; there will be a site walk there Feb 7th with the Conservation Commission. At the River Advisory Committee, Melissa Paly, the Great Bay Waterkeeper, did a presentation on the estuary. He also attended an RPC presentation on the rising costs of recycling.
- v. Ms. Gilman said the Heritage Commission met on Tuesday but she was not present. At the state level, there will be a committee hearing on four or five different bills on tax exemptions and credits. She is also part of a committee that will be making a recommendation on the Anti-sanctuary bill.

e. Correspondence

- i. Announcement from Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce about an economic forecast presentation Feb 7th with Jeff Feingold. Mr. Dean said this conflicts for him with a Health Trust meeting but he encouraged the Board to attend.
- ii. Chamber is also presenting "Women in Business: Status of Women in New Hampshire" on April 12, 2019 at the Exeter Inn.
- iii. Ad from the Lions Club seeking people to join their public service group.
- iv. Notice from XFinity about which channels are no longer available.
- v. Letter from Blue Ribbon Dry Cleaners regarding possible damage to the equipment from the town's water. Mr. Dean said the issue has been

brought up before, and Bob Kelly will invite them to talk about his issues with the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee.

- vi. Letter from Congressman Chris Pappas, thanking the town for his recent use of the Town Hall.

10. Review Board Calendar

Their next meeting is the Deliberative Session, which is Saturday February 2nd at 9 AM. If the Deliberative Session amends an article, February 4th is an option to reconvene. The next meetings are on February 11th and 25th. E911 Committee work is coming up, and the Board will get an update on the revaluation Feb 11th.

11. Non-Public Session

- a. There was no non-public session at this meeting.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Surman moved to adjourn. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary