

Select Board Meeting
Monday April 8th, 2019 6:50 PM
Town Hall, Main Auditorium
Draft Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Kathy Corson, Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Niko Papakonstantis, and Russ Dean were present at this meeting. Anne Surman was not present. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Corson at 6:50 PM.

2. Board Interviews - Conservation Commission/Energy Committee

The Board went out for board interviews. The meeting reconvened at 7 PM.

3. Proclamations/Recognitions

a. Paul Currier Day in Exeter April 10th, 2019

Mr. Dean honored Paul Currier, who was a key part of founding the Exeter Junior Baseball league and who went down with the USS Thresher submarine on April 10th, 1963.

Mike LaNigra, president of EJBSL, said that the Currier Field was and still is the heart of Exeter baseball, and generations of kids have learned to play there. He recognized the Currier family for their sacrifice and continued community involvement.

Mr. Papakonstantis read the proclamation:

Whereas, The Town of Exeter, NH proclaims April 10th Paul Currier Day; and,

Whereas, Ship Progressive Machinist Currier lost his life along with 128 others on April 10th, 1963 when the USS Thresher 593 was lost offshore on its first sea trial; and,

Whereas, Paul Currier attended school in Exeter, NH and graduated from Exeter High School, class of 1940; and,

Whereas, Paul Currier served in the Army Air Corps during World War II from 1943 to 1945; and,

Whereas, Paul Currier served 9 years on the Exeter Fire Department, attended St. Michael's Church and received his Third Degree status in the Knights of Columbus; and,

Whereas, Baseball was Paul's favorite sport and he is remembered affectionately as a coach, mentor and a founding member of the Exeter Junior League, now known as the Exeter Junior Baseball and Softball League; and,

Whereas, On Memorial Day 1963, the Exeter Junior League Baseball Park behind Lincoln Street School was named in his honor, and ever since has been known as Currier Field; and,

Now, therefore, we, the Select Board of the Town of Exeter, on behalf of the citizens of Exeter, New Hampshire do hereby proclaim April 10, 2019 to be Paul Currier Day in the Town of Exeter.

Mr. LaNigra said that due to a change in the league structure, they no longer use the Currier trophy, so he returned it to Paul Currier Jr. with gratitude. Mr. Dean presented Ellen Currier with a framed proclamation of Paul Currier Day.

- b. Exeter Blue Hawks Recognition: Girls Swimming/Diving Team, Boys Varsity Basketball Team, Unified Basketball Team

Sherm Chester of WOKQ introduced the coaches and team members of each of the championship teams, and Mr. Dean presented the teams with a Town of Exeter achievement award for each individual player and a congratulatory plaque.

Mr. Papakonstantis read the proclamation of Exeter Poetry month:
Whereas, April is National Poetry Month, an international celebration of the impact poetry has on a community's culture; and,

Whereas, the mission of Exeter Public Library is to promote a literate, enlightened citizenship by providing equal access to a range of media, services and programs to meet the informational and recreational needs of the community and to encourage the discovery and evaluation of ideas and information, especially recognizing the library's responsibility as a place for children to discover the joy of reading; and,

Whereas, the Exeter LitFest celebrates the rich literary heritage of the town of Exeter, NH, with an annual weekend literary festival in April.

Now, therefore, we the Exeter Select Board, do hereby proclaim April 1-30 2019 as Exeter Poetry Month in the Town of Exeter. We call upon all citizens to recognize the cultural importance of poetry and to join the Exeter Public Library and Exeter LitFest in activities to celebrate poetry.

- 4. Bid Awards(s) - Brush Grinding, Ambulance 2 Replacement
 - a. Brush Grinding

Jennifer Perry, Director of Public Works, said that the department reviewed three bids for brush grinding. Dirt Doctors was the low bidder, at \$4,500 per day in 2019. Public Works are projecting four grinding events per year, depending on weather, for a total of \$54,800 for this service over three years.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to accept the bid of the Dirt Doctors of Pembroke NH for brush grinding. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor.

- b. Ambulance 2 Replacement

Assistant Fire Chief Wilking said that the department received five bids for the ambulance. One bid was way above the price range, but the other four underwent an exhaustive side-by-side comparison. The department's choice was PL Custom from Sugarloaf Ambulance. Theirs was the middle bid at \$235,281.77, but the department believes they can get the price down to \$227,000, and they have a comfort level with this company. The low bid did not comply with the bid spec, and the second lowest was only \$5,000 less than the \$227,000 figure, the ambulance was smaller, and the company was untested.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved approve the purchase of an ambulance for \$235,281.77 to Sugarloaf Ambulance and Rescue. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

5. Bid Openings - Legal Services

Mr. Dean said that they only received one bid for legal services. Ms. Corson said that the bid was from Mitchell Municipal Group in Laconia. In year 1, their flat fee per hour is \$175-\$225. Court time is \$175-\$220. A lead attorney is \$220, and an associate attorney is \$205 both standard and court. Otherwise the fee is \$175-\$205 for standard and court time. Year 2 fees are TBD.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to send the bid to Mr. Dean for review and recommendation. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

6. Public Comment

Stephen Poulin, the interim police chief, said that under his leadership the Police Department will further expand their community involvement. They have a number of community events planned: a Bike Rodeo on May 11 behind Lincoln Street School, for kids 14 and under; Coffee with a Cop on April 17th at McDonalds; and a National Night Out on August 6th on Swasey Parkway. There will also be a focus on building a partnership with Seacoast Mental Health, to provide officers with better training and more resources for those types of calls; provide implicit bias training for all officers in the area of racial diversity; and begin a partnership with Fire and EMS so that police officers can administer Narcan.

Nicholas Metz of 1 Tilton Ave discussed the condition of the paving and sidewalks in his neighborhood. Ms. Perry responded that the paving plan does not include the Westside Drive neighborhood this year, but they do have future plans to do paving, drainage improvements, and a "road diet" where they reduce the width of the paving. Mr. Dean said that improvements to Westside Drive are in the CIP, and they intend to address problems in the area in the future.

7. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting: March 25th, 2019

MOTION: Mr. Papkonstantis moved to approve the minutes of March 25th 2019 as submitted. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

b. Special Meeting: March 29th, 2019

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of March 29th 2019 as submitted. Ms. Gilman seconded. Ms. Cowan abstained and the motion passed 3-0-1.

8. Appointments

MOTION: Mr. Papkonstantis moved to appoint Jordan Dickenson to the Energy Committee. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

9. Discussion/Action Items

a. Second Reading: Marston Street Parking Restriction

Ms. Corson said that residents and PEA have requested they eliminate parking on the west side of Marston Street. Ms. Gilman read that they are adding to chapter 101.2, Parking Prohibited on Specific Streets, "Marston Street - West side of street." Ms. Corson said that next time will be the third reading, then the change will be complete.

b. LED Streetlights Contract - Public Works

Jennifer Perry, Director of Public Works, discussed the contract for the LED streetlight conversion project. The LED conversion will cause a significant reduction in town's carbon footprint, and will reduce energy use and costs. Ms. Perry, Primex, and the Mitchell Group have reviewed the contract with Affinity LED, and she is asking that the Board authorize Russ Dean to be the signatory on the contract. The conversion work could be completed before October, depending on an agreement with Unitil on the revised netbook value and energy rebate. Ms. Corson opened the floor to the public but there were no comments.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved to approve the Affinity Lighting contract and authorize Town Manager Russ Dean to sign it. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

c. Wastewater Treatment Contract - Route 85 and Temporary Forcemain

Jennifer Perry, Director of Public Works, spoke about Wastewater Treatment Plant Contract #2. She presented a formal offer letter from NHDOT offering \$550,000 for repair costs to drainage along Route 85 if the town takes over maintenance of the portion of the road between the north end of Swasey Parkway and the Public Works yard. Looking at the road as .06% of the town's total roads, she estimated the maintenance costs of this section at \$15,000 per year.

As part of the construction work, Ms. Perry proposed installing a temporary sewer forcemain above ground in this area. Recently they've had several forcemain breaks, one of which spilled over 1 million gallons. The forcemain is now in failed condition, and there is a serious chance of another break occurring during construction. They asked the contractor, JA Polito, for a proposal of cost for installing 3,200 linear feet of temporary forcemain, and got a quote of \$194,659, although this is not final until Wright-Pierce reviews the proposal. If the Board approves, they should authorize Mr. Dean to process the change order.

Mr. Papkonstantis asked what distress this proposal would cause to citizens of this community. Ms. Perry said the only people affected would be residents that have a driveway on the side where the forcemain goes, but the contractor will run it under the driveways. Otherwise no one will notice it's there.

Ms. Cowan opened the discussion to the public.

Don Clement of 5 Thelma Drive spoke about the Exeter Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee (ESRLAC). This group works with multiple stakeholders to advocate for the quality of the rivers. He asked that William Meserve, the Chair of ESRLAC and a non Exeter resident, be allowed to speak.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved to allow Mr. Meserve to speak. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Meserve read his letter to the Select Board members regarding ESRLAC's strong concern about the ruptured sewer forcemain, and asked that they develop a contingency plan to prevent further discharges. He also requested that they discontinue use of Clemson Pond as a combined sewer overflow, which he said does nothing to protect the Squamscott River.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to accept NHDOT's contribution of \$550,000 for the improvement of drainage and paving on Route 85, within the sewer forcemain project limits from the northern end of Swasey Parkway and the Public Works driveway, and for the town to accept maintenance responsibilities for this section of roadway from NHDOT with reclassification of this section of the road by the State from Class II to Class IV and extension of the urban compact to include this portion. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to authorize a change order not to exceed \$225,000 for wastewater treatment facility contract #2 and designate the Town Manager as an authorized signatory. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor.

d. Groundwater/Surface Water Review Contract - Underwood Engineers

Jennifer Perry, Director of Public Works, discussed the contract with Underwood Engineers for a groundwater and surface water evaluation. This project was approved at the 2018 town meeting. Public Works requested qualifications from the four engineering firms that submitted bids, and interviewed the top three. Underwood was the selection committee's top choice. They will include the highly regarded groundwater experts Emery and Garrett as part of the consultant team. After Public Works selected the top ranked firm, they then negotiated the scope and fee. The cost is \$184,800, well below the \$600,000 amount authorized, but they anticipate continuing with property acquisition and groundwater rights. Ms. Corson opened the discussion to the public, but there were no comments.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved to approve the contract for groundwater and surface water assessment in the amount of \$184,800 to Underwood Engineers, and to authorize the Town Manager Russ Dean to be the signatory on the contract. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

e. Parks/Recreation - Recreation Park Field #1 Donation and Upgrade Proposal

Greg Bisson, Exeter Parks and Rec Department director, asked the town to accept the donation of field upgrade work from Exeter Youth Softball.

Steve Singlar, chairman of the board of Exeter Youth Softball, said this would continue the field upgrade project started last year with fields 2 and 3. This project would upgrade field 1 at a cost of up to \$90,000, and next year \$45,000 plus what wasn't spent this year. Mr. Dean clarified that the financial part of the donation will go through Exeter Junior Softball, not through the town, so no exact figure is required.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if extras such as dugouts will interfere with or contradict the Parks and Rec study that the voters just approved. Mr. Bisson said that for now they will only fix what is essential for them to have a successful season. Ms. Corson opened the discussion to the public, but there was no comment.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to authorize that Parks and Rec accept the donation as presented with the caveat that the money's portion will be worked out by Exeter Youth Softball. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Bisson then discussed the tennis court resurfacing and hoop correction. To maintain the integrity of a tennis court, it must be regularly resurfaced; the goal is every 5 - 6 years, and this is year 7. They solicited three bids, but only Vermont Tennis submitted a proposal. They are also looking to create 16 pickle ball courts to so they can have a tournament. He explained that pickle ball is a fast-growing sport which combines elements of tennis, wiffleball, and badminton.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved that the Select Board authorize the use of \$21,300 from the Parks Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of tennis court resurfacing at the Recreation Park and the resetting of a basketball hoop at the Recreation Park. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved that the Select Board release the amount of \$12,000 in Recreation impact fees for the purpose of creating 16 pickle ball courts at the Recreation Park. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

f. Parks/Recreation - Impact Fee Use Requests and Parks Improvement Fund Requests

Greg Bisson, Director of Parks and Rec, said that this request is about clean water for the public pool. The pump has failed multiple times; last year the pool had to be closed for several days and the summer camp couldn't go swimming. Other mechanicals haven't been upgraded in over 12 years. There is new technology available, whereby they could monitor pool chemicals from their desks. They are also seeking a pool vacuum, which is essential in maintaining the clarity of the water. There are safety and town liability concerns with unclear water; last year, lifeguards had to enter the water because of a lack of visibility. Ms. Corson asked for public comment, but there was none.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved that the Board authorize the release of \$25,450 in Recreation impact fees to be used for the purchase of a filter pump, splash pad filter, chemical controllers and a pool vacuum to support sanitation upgrades at the Healy Pool. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Bisson said that they're also looking to revitalize the Gilman Park baseball field. Temporary fencing has been acceptable in the past, but with kids under five running around, they need something more safe. One bid was submitted, from AAA Fencing of Dover NH, for \$4,100. Ms. Corson opened the discussion to the public, but there was no comment.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved that the Select Board authorize the use of \$4,100 in Recreation impact fees for the purpose of funding the Gilman Park fence replacement project. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

10. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Credits and Exemptions

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved to approve a Veterans Credit in the amount of \$500 for the following properties: 87/3/34; 68/6/827; 64/89; 51/5. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved to approve an Elderly Exemption in the amount of \$236,251 for 63/163. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved to approve an Elderly Exemption in the amount of \$152,251 for 104/79/217. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved to approve a report of Wood cut in the amount of \$131.74 for 94/19. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

b. Permits & Approvals

MOTION: Mr. Papakonstantis moved to approve Arlen Chaffee of LOCO Sports for a 5K Race on June 9, 2019 from 8 AM - 12 PM. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to approve the Festival of Trees on Dec 5th, 2019, 11 AM to 8 PM. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to approve the set-up of Exeter Festival of Trees from Dec 2 - 6, 2019. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to approve the Exeter Parks and Rec request for the Summer Concert Series rain site in Town Hall on Thursdays 6/20/19 - 8/15/19 from 4 PM - 9 PM. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Cowan said that the EACF asked for a fee waiver for the Festival of Trees because they donate all proceeds to the Children's Fund. Mr. Dean said the fee would be \$75 per day, with a max of \$200. Ms. Cowan said this waiver request is a slippery slope. Ms. Corson said she understands that a fee is painful, but it's only \$200 for a lot of use.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to deny the request for a waiver for use of the Town Hall by the Exeter Chamber Children's Fund Festival of Trees. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to approve Prescott Park Arts Festival Darlingside acoustic folk concert on May 18, 2019 from 8 PM - 10:30 PM. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to approve a special one-day malt wine license application May 18th 6:30 - 10 PM. Ms. Gilman seconded. Mr. Dean said that the Prescott Park Arts Festival wanted a beer garden adjacent to Town Hall, and they found that there are eight private parking spaces; this would be a use of private property similar to when the Independence Museum had a beer garden. The use is permitted through the state and doesn't need to be approved by the town. Ms. Corson said she is supportive but also wanted to express the Board's concerns about the management of the beer garden. Mr. Dean said that there are limits on use of town property and they can't go past 10 PM. All were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to accept the Town of Exeter Disposal of Surplus Property declaration as submitted on March 29th, 2019. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor.

c. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Dean said that the library construction contract is in final legal review, and should be done this week. The application will go to the bond bank this week or early next for the Rec Park design engineering and Salem street improvements. They are looking at Sewer rate changes, which will be made before the first big payment on the wastewater treatment facility. The public safety RFP is in its final stages, and they should get it out in a week. There is a new police officer, Ben Clouthier, an EHS graduate, starting later in April. Mr. Dean had a meeting with members of the Homeowner's Association at Captains Way, a neighborhood that had roads and sidewalks taken over by the town, where they expressed concerns about their crumbling sidewalks. He thanked the group that organized LitFest, which was a great event with good publicity.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Mr. Papakonstantis attended his first Planning Board meeting on March 28th, where they heard two cases, both continued. The Unitil project has a sitewalk Thursday at 5:30. The cell tower project on Kingston Road had lots of conversation, there's a sitewalk May 1 at 6 PM.
- ii. Ms. Cowan said that the Communications Committee focused on goals for the coming year. They're meeting with Public Works tomorrow morning to learn more about the transition to Chloramine water treatment, in the interest of communicating more effectively and assuaging worries the public has expressed on social media.
- iii. Ms. Gilman said that the Energy Committee sponsored a roundtable discussion with Unitil and other entities, and 100 people attended. She has her first Conservation Committee meeting tomorrow.

- iv. Ms. Corson did not attend meetings last week due to illness. She is planning to go with Sheri Riffle to look into the computers at Best Buy, and will report at next meeting. There is also a Swasey Parkway Trustees meeting this week.
- e. Correspondence
 - i. Exeter Sportsman's Club annual report, discussing the makeup of the club and upcoming activities.
 - ii. Notice of an event, "What is Exeter's Housing Future?," at Town Hall on Wednesday April 17th 6:30 - 8 PM.
 - iii. Letter from Derek Haddad about the LitFest and the Arts and Culture Committee
 - iv. Updates on the 2019 Town Committee Reappointments
 - v. Letter from Jay Summers of Xfinity regarding Acorn TV
 - vi. The Legislative Bulletin for April 5th, 2019. Ms. Gilman said they had a very busy couple days, and they're starting to hear Senate bills. Last week the governor passed a bill legalizing marijuana. They are voting on the budget this week. The House Finance Committee completely modified what the governor prepared; it's now friendly to municipalities and taxpayers.
 - vii. Letter from Barbara McEvoy to Sheila Mullen on the Right to Know Request for the proposed communications tower on Kingston Road
 - viii. Response from Sheila Mullen re her Right to Know Request

11. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next regular meeting April 22nd. There will be a goal-setting session on Saturday April 20th. In May, the meetings will be May 6th and May 20th.

12. Non-Public Session

- a. There was no non-public session.

13. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to adjourn. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary

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