

Select Board Meeting  
Monday April 27, 2020  
Remote via Zoom  
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Lovey Roundtree Oliff, Daryl Browne, Niko Papakonstantis, and Russ Dean were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:46 PM.

Mr. Papakonstantis said that gatherings of 10 or more people currently pose a risk to our community. The Select Board meeting is imperative to maintaining the Town of Exeter public services, so per RSA 91-A:2(3)b, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body being physically present in one location. He welcomed the members of the public attending remotely, and said the usual rules of conduct and decorum will apply. All votes will require a roll call vote.

2. Board Interviews

- a. Nancy Belanger for Planning Board alternate
- b. Nick Campion for Conservation Commission alternate

3. Bid Openings - Sludge Disposal, Wastewater Treatment Facility

- a. Vapor Industries LLC, Slippery Rock, PA: \$725,000
- b. Denali Water Solutions, Russellville, AR: \$718,990
- c. Synagro, Baltimore, MD: \$630,053

**MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to send the bids to Public Works for review and award. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

4. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

5. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. Municipal Clerks Week May 3 - 9, 2020

Mr. Papakonstantis read the proclamation:

*Whereas, The Office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government, exists throughout the world; and*

*Whereas, the Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and*

*Whereas, The Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels; and*

*Whereas, Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and*

*Whereas, The Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community; and*

*Whereas, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations; and*

*Whereas, It's most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk;*

*Now, Therefore, We the Select Board of Exeter do recognize the week of May 3 through May 9 2020 as Municipal Clerks' Week, and further extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Andrea Kohler, and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.*

*Dated this 27 day of April, 2020.*

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting: April 13, 2020

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to approve the minutes of April 13, 2020 as presented. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

7. Appointments

**MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to appoint Nancy Belanger to the Planning Board as an alternate, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to appoint Nick Campion to the Conservation Commission as an alternate, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

8. Discussion/Action Items

a. Board and Committee Appointments/Reappointments

**MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to reappoint Aaron Brown as a full member of the Planning Board, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to reappoint Jennifer Martel as a full member of the Planning Board, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to reappoint Robin Tyner as an alternate member of the Planning Board, term to expire 4/30/2023. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to reappoint Rick Thielbar as a full member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire 4/30/2023. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to reappoint Kevin Baum as a full member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to reappoint Esther Olson-Murphy as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Martha Pennell as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to reappoint Alyson Eberhardt as a full member of the Conservation Commission, term to expire 4/30/2023. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if the Conservation Commission had recommended one of the alternates to become the full member in Todd Piskovitz's place. Ms. Gilman said she'd raise the issue at their next meeting.

MOTION [rescinded]: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Don Clement as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, term to expire 4/30/2021. Mr. Dean said he doesn't believe Mr. Clement is up for reappointment. Ms. Oliff rescinded her motion.

**MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to reappoint Maura Fay as a full member of the Heritage Commission, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Jay Myers as a full member of the Heritage Commission, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Patrick Gordon as a full member of the Historic District Commission, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

Ms. Gilman said Valerie Ouellette has not attended an HDC meeting in several months, so she's reluctant to reappoint her. The Board was in agreement and did not move her reappointment..

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Langdon Plumer to the Rockingham Planning Commission, term to expire 4/30/2023. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to reappoint Gwen English to the Rockingham Planning Commission, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

Mr. Papakonstantis recused himself from the Rec Advisory Board votes, as his wife is the Chair of that Board.

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Stephanie Papakonstantis to the Recreation Advisory Board, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Papakonstantis abstaining.**

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Val Castonguay to the Recreation Advisory Board, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, the motion passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Papakonstantis abstaining.**

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to reappoint Margaret Matick to the Exeter Housing Authority, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to reappoint Boyd Allan to the Exeter Housing Authority, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to reappoint Lionel Ingram to the River Advisory Committee, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to reappoint Rob Bourdon to the River Advisory Committee, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to reappoint Nina Braun to the Sustainability Advisory Committee, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Beverly Tappan to the Sustainability Advisory Committee, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to reappoint Ben Mosher to the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to reappoint Debbie Kane to the Communications Committee, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Lindsay Sonnett to the Communications Committee, term to expire 4/30/2023. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Amanda Kelly to the Facilities Committee, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to reappoint Mark Leighton to the Facilities Committee, term to expire 4/30/2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

b. E911 Committee Recommendations - Acorn Way, Thistle Way, Sparrow Lane

Dave Sharples, the Town Planner, said the E911 Committee met last week, and recommended naming three new private driveways. This is not a name change, and there was no notification of affected residents.

The first recommendation was to name a private drive in the subdivision at 50 Hampton Road "Acorn Way." The Planning Board approved a three lot subdivision, but there were no numbers to provide two of the house lots with Hampton Road addresses, and the houses are set back from Hampton Road. The Committee recommended naming the private driveway that serves the two lots. "Acorn Way" was submitted by the property owner. There are no similar names in Exeter, Kensington, or Brentwood. Ms. Gilman asked if naming this driveway means they are accepting it a town street, and Mr. Sharples said no, it would continue to be private.

**MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to name the private driveway created to access the two private lots off of 50 Hampton Road as "Acorn Way." Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

The second recommendation is to name two private driveways to "Thistle Way" and "Sparrow Lane." The Planning Board approved a five lot subdivision located off Brentwood Road, but there were no numbers left on Brentwood Road or Spruce Street. These houses are also set back from the roads. The new names were submitted by the property owner. There were no similar names in Exeter, Kensington, or Brentwood.

**MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to name the private driveway off Spruce Street and shown on the subdivision site plan created for Harbor Street Limited Partnership and dated November 2019 "Thistle Way," and name the private driveway off Brentwood Road on the same plan "Sparrow Lane." Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

c. COVID 19 Updates - Governor's Orders

Eric Wilking, the Deputy Fire Chief, gave an update on the Covid-19 situation. There have been a total of 1,938 positive cases in NH, 643 of which were in Rockingham County. Numbers are going up steadily in the last week due to an increased number of tests; the Governor has an Initiative to test 6,600 health care workers. Rockingham County was averaging 10 - 12 positive cases; now they've doubled the testing and are getting double the cases. Exeter is now in the 10-19 positive test bracket. He's looking for any expanded information to be forwarded to the towns, for example on recovery numbers.

The Fire Department is now back to full staff, several members came out of quarantine. They're still doing twice-daily testing. Calls are beginning to return to normal, at around 90% of normal call volume. They're doing well on PPE; they were very well stocked to begin with, and received a delivery from the State of 100 N95 masks and 30 - 40 disposable gowns, which will extend the supply a week or two.

Stephan Poulin, the Police Chief, said that one officer is out on quarantine pending test results. Crime has not ramped up, but they have had more than normal disturbance calls. He's working closely with Assistant Chief Wilking. They've put up more barriers and signage at closed town properties where people were congregating.

Mr. Dean said that NHMA had a conference call on April 22nd. They did a survey about concerns in several communities, which gave them a good framework for comparison. They're in a wait and see mode regarding the next tax bill. Typically the town has a 95% collection rate. 40% of property payers have escrow for taxes. Mr. Papakonstantis said municipalities are looking at the possibility of business interruption insurance, and Mr. Dean said he can take a look at that with Primex.

Mr. Dean said spring sports with Parks and Rec have been cancelled. They're continuing to work on Summer Camp, reviewing guidelines developed by the state of Connecticut on safely running a day camp. They're hoping to go forward with camp this year. There's a lot of discussion at the State level on campgrounds reopening. He encouraged any businesses with issues or questions about qualifying for a PPP loan to reach out to Darren Winham. PPE supply is a statewide concern, and businesses will need PPE supplies to reopen. Mr. Papakonstantis asked about possible lost revenue for the town. Mr. Dean said in the first half of the year, they operate without the property tax revenue, but other revenue sources are about where they usually are. Q2 results will be more telling. Mr. Browne said he'd like an update from Mr. Winham at the next meeting.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to deny an application for a Disability Exemption for 95/64/335. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veteran's Credit for \$152,251 for 87/14/12B. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to deny an Elderly Exemption for 104/79/109A. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Jeopardy Tax for \$612 87/14/10B. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

b. Permits & Approvals

Ms. Gilman introduced a letter on net metering, presented by the Energy Committee Chair, which they plan to send to the General Court. The letter asks the Governor to continue to keep pushing net metering. Residents should be allowed to give more energy back into the grid than currently. She asked if the Select Board would sign onto the letter. Ms. Cowan in favor. Mr. Browne asked about any downside of net metering. Ms. Gilman said mostly it's a question of who's getting the profit from the energy. Ms. Cowan said she would be comfortable recommending this because the voters have shown that they're on the side of renewable energy.

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve the Select Board endorsement of the letter regarding net metering caps, to be sent to the Governor, State Senators, and State Representatives. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.**

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. Mr. Dean said the Farmer's Market is an essential business as defined by the State, but there are some issues. Route 85 will be paved starting May 4th, so they're looking to relocate the market. They considered an area at Lincoln Street School, but the Exeter School Board didn't want to see it there while school facilities are closed. They're now looking at the High School or SST. The first market is scheduled for May 7, and the Stay at Home order currently ends on May 4, so they're not sure if it will go forward.
- ii. He's been in touch with Florence Ruffner on the Memorial Day Parade. They're looking for ideas on holding it virtually.
- iii. He's looking to hear later this week what the Governor's plan will be from May 4th on. The numbers aren't moving positively. Ms. Gilman said the last scheduled meeting for the Governor's reopening task force is May 1st, so they will likely decide then.
- iv. He thanked Fire Chief Comeau, who is retiring, for his service.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Oliff said the Trustees of Swasey Parkway met to discuss some trees that are about to be taken down.
- ii. Ms. Cowan had an E911 committee meeting which was discussed, and has a Rec Park Advisory tomorrow night.
- iii. Ms. Gilman hasn't had any meetings. The State House is going through the same pains with remote meetings as the towns.
- iv. Mr. Browne had no meetings.

- v. Mr. Papakonstantis had his first River Advisory meeting; not much was discussed, but he was able to meet everyone.

e. Correspondence

- i. A notification about a transfer of property for an inheritance
- ii. A report to the State of a discharge event. Mr. Dean said this was a release from the Wastewater Facility as a result of last Tuesday's power outage. They must file a report with the State in these cases. This issue has been corrected and should not happen again. DES closes the Oyster beds and shellfish as a precaution, and those were up again by Friday the 24th.
- iii. A letter from the DOR with the town's evaluation.
- iv. Dover received a letter from DES with comments on the draft general permit. Exeter will meet the May 8th deadline the Federal Government has set for comments, but Rochester and Dover are looking to push that deadline out.

10. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next meetings are May 4th and May 18th.

11. Non-Public Session

- a. There was no non-public session.

12. Adjournment

**MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to adjourn. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary