

Select Board Meeting
Monday November 23, 2020
6:30 PM
Remotely 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 6:30 PM.

Mr. Papakonstantis read a statement:

As Chair of the Select Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Public notice of this meeting was posted on the town website and on the bulletin board of the town offices at 10 Front Street. As provided in that public notice, the public may access the meeting online and via phone.

Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting and who that person is (son, daughter, spouse, etc...), which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

2. Board Interviews

- a. Conor Madison for the Conservation Commission
- b. Adam Dumville for the Sustainability Advisory Commission
- c. David Drouin for the Exeter Arts and Culture Committee
- d. Marissa Vitolo for the Exeter Arts and Culture Committee

3. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.
- b. Ms. Oliff suggested the town create an outdoor skating rink. Ms. Gilman said there was an area at Park Street Common that has been flooded and turned into a skating location in the past. Parks and Rec will be asked about it.

4. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. There were no proclamations/recognitions at this meeting

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: November 9, 2020

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve the minutes of November 9, 2020 as presented. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

6. Appointments

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to appoint Cami Switzer to the Human Services Funding Committee, with no term. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

7. Discussion/Action Items

a. COVID 19 Updates

Chief Wilking said there have been over 5,000 positive cases in the last two weeks; 1,000 of those were in Rockingham County, and 3 in Exeter. The Select Board mask ordinance is paying dividends, as Exeter has the lowest number of cases in the top 20 most populous communities. The Department of Health and Human Services offers FROST, First Responder Optional Screening and Testing, which offers to give monthly rapid tests to first responders. Chief Pizon has enrolled the town, but 30%+ of the positive results are shown to be false positives after having a confirmation test, resulting in a loss of productivity as employees quarantine while waiting for the second set of test results. Anyone who is symptomatic or has had a known exposure is sent for a standard test, as they have been for the last 7 - 8 months. They are hoping a vaccine will go to the most vulnerable within 2 - 3 weeks.

Ms. Oliff asked to hear about testing at PEA. Principal Rawson said they're using both the rapid antigen test and the PCR test. They've had six positive tests, two of which were at home, 3 during testing as they arrived; there was only one positive that might have occurred on campus, but they may have picked it up on the way there from Florida. They've had only a single false positive result. Among employees, there have been 2,067 tests, 10 of which were positive; he doesn't know of any that were false positives. They haven't had a high prevalence of false positives.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if anyone had objections to the town opting into the regular rapid testing, and the Board generally agreed that they did not. Chief Wilking said no vote was necessary, but he will pursue the program. He added that the Christmas Light Committee has started their decorating.

Mr. Murray said State Mask Mandate went into effect, but it doesn't cancel the town mask mandate. The State's mandate includes the exemption *f) Any person who is deaf or hard of hearing, and any person while communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or who has a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with that individual while wearing a mask or face covering difficult.* This is more inclusive than Exeter's version. The town should also remove the statement that the State doesn't have a mask mandate. Mr. Papakonstantis said the town's mandate is effective through 12/31, and the Governor's is effective through January 15th. Ms. Cowan said she likes the more inclusive language of the State order. They should review the State mandate to see if there's anything else they want to include.

Mr. Dean said the Town Clerk's office had a positive test last week; they're monitoring it closely. They closed the building for a few days, and people got tested. The building is reopened as of today, except the Town Clerk's office, which will be open tomorrow with only the Town Clerk working from 8 - 1. They had Servpro come in and do a deep clean of the Town Offices. They've done

some contact tracing. There was also a positive in Parks and Rec, but that case is unrelated. That person did not have any interaction with children. The person is out with the positive case, and they shut the Parks and Rec building down, and are having it cleaned tomorrow. They're working through issues with First Families and the Coronavirus Act, with people having to go on leave. They're trying to limit any further spread. Mr. Murray said the protocol depends on the type of exposure; anyone directly exposed without a mask must quarantine for two weeks, whether or not they get a test. Mr. Dean added that a member of the Planning Board has tested positive as well.

b. William Rawson, Principal of PEA re: school update

Mr. Rawson said they're trying to keep the students safe and be good citizens in town. They've had a successful fall, taking a cautious approach with a staggered arrival of students. The plan for winter and spring is to have remote learning after the holidays through spring break and must get testing before they come back. Students have been strictly wearing masks, but it's hard for them to stay apart. Some students may choose to stay home during winter term. Students will mainly stay on campus, not go around town.

Ms. Gilman asked how this affects the Harkness table. Mr. Rawson said that up until now they did mostly online instruction; now they're fitting out Harkness tables with plexiglass dividers. They're working to create an equitable learning experience with in-person and remote learners. By the spring, in-person instruction should be the more prevalent method. Ms. Oliff asked if people can walk on campus now, and Mr. Rawson said they'll open up the trails and change the signage while students aren't on campus, starting this weekend. They won't open up the library or tennis courts.

c. HB1129 Discussion

Mr. Dean said the Town Meeting process is likely to change. Live virtual meeting and information session, during which procedures shall be outlined and warrant articles discussed. Notice shall be mailed to all registered voters 7 days prior. After the meeting, questions and comments will be solicited and received; within 7 days, the governing body will hold another live virtual meeting to discuss, debate, and amend the warrant. The Board makes the determination as to the date and time of the sessions. The voting may be by drive-up method; he will continue to look into that. He's had some informal conversations with the Town Moderator, but they plan to work on it further. One of the challenges is confirming the registered voter status. They need to look at how many attendees can come to a virtual meeting. Top attendance in years past has been 100 - 150. He would like to coordinate on this with other SB-2 towns such as Hampton, as well as with NHMA.

d. Asset Management: Stormwater, Wastewater Systems

Matt Berube, Water/Sewer Manager; Deb Loiselle of DES, Sharon Nall of NHDES, Margaret Blanc from Underwood Engineers were present to discuss

stormwater and wastewater asset management. Ms. Blanc gave a presentation on the asset management program, which was funded with \$60,000 from NHDES. The replacement value is about \$112M; many of the assets have useful lives of 75-100 years or more. However, in 20 years or so, many of the town's existing assets will be coming to the end of their useful lives. Over 100 years, there will be a \$128.4M replacement cost, or \$1.3M per year. Stormwater has a replacement value of \$91.2M. Over 100 years, the replacement cost will be \$121.2M, or \$1.2M per year. The asset program allows them to track the probability of failure and impact of failure to determine what to replace and when. For financial planning in stormwater, she suggests annually reviewing revenues and level of service goals to ensure that inspection, maintenance, and asset renewal needs can be met. She also recommends balancing in-house CCTV inspections with the use of a specialist. For planning in Sewer, there's an adequate budget and staff for monitoring and maintenance, but they should establish an adequate asset renewal budget, of around \$1.3M per year.

Mr. Browne asked whether technology improvements may change the 100 year spend. Ms. Blanc said they would hope so. The 100 year look ahead can be helpful to a town when they have assets coming up over the next 20 years. It's simple for staff to rerun the numbers based on new information. Mr. Dean asked whether a second grant from DES could take technology change and sustainability into account. Ms. Loiselle suggested a Cleanwater SRF loan for a Planning project.

Ms. Gilman asked about sharing the ArcGIS maps with the public. Mr. Berube said Maps Online is showing those utilities, it's just a question of updating it with the DES data.

e. Impact Fee Updates

Dave Sharples and Bruce Mayberry were present to discuss the Impact Fees. Mr. Sharples recommended moving ahead with option A for both School and Rec Fees; this is the lowest fee, but is also built off current spending, so he believes it's the most defensible option. Mr. Mayberry said he tends toward the lower of the fee options. A and B are based on more conservative assumptions of the capital costs, and would be much simpler to update in the future.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to recommend to the Planning Board Option A impact fees as presented to the Select Board November 23rd. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

8. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

i. There were no abatements or exemptions at this meeting.

b. Permits & Approvals

i. There were no permits or approvals at this meeting.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. Mr. Dean said the actual date of the positive Covid test at the Town Offices was Friday, November 13th, 10 days ago. The Parks and Rec positive case was reported on November 22nd. The two cases were not related.
 - ii. The tax rate was set on November 12th, at \$24.49 per thousand. The town share was up 20 cents per thousand. The tax bills will be out soon. DRA was later than normal in setting the rate.
 - iii. A representative of the Budget Recommendations Committee will come to the December 7th meeting with that committee's recommendations.
 - iv. He has been working with the Conservation Commission on a water supply project on Conservation land; it would save the town quite a bit of money on acquisition.
 - v. He has been working with Ms. Gilman on sump pump legislation. Having it go into the sewer is forbidden by town ordinance; one idea is to put \$10,000 into an account and allow people to access it to get the sump pump out of the sewer and then pay it back.
 - vi. NHMA had a virtual conference last week, and it was very well run. They could watch seminars on demand, which was a big improvement.
 - vii. The Police Department put together a use of force policy, and will be eligible for Federal Grants from the DOJ.
- d. Select Board Committee Reports
- i. Ms. Gilman said the Conservation Commission talked about electric bikes being used on the trails, which are causing some harm. The Commission wanted to put up signs to prohibit them, but there was some discussion about the different types of bikes. There are tentative plans for childrens' hikes in the winter. The Energy Committee talked about EV Cars for the Police Department and had further discussion about the Community Aggregated Power proposal. The HDC talked about the building at 28 Front Street, which had started to do re-siding that was not in keeping; the committee will have a site walk. The House is having their orientation day in person at UNH December 2nd. She put in a bill for the Dept of Revenue Administration which would allow for quarterly tax billing.
 - ii. Ms. Oliff said the Housing Committee cancelled their last meeting.
 - iii. Mr. Browne said he had a meeting with Police Chief Poulin, Deputy Chief Munck, and Ms. Cowan about the new EPSC committee.
 - iv. Ms. Cowan said she attended a Planning Board meeting. Regarding the communication around the Parks and Rec Covid case, Parks and Rec sent an email to the children who could have potentially been in the building, and another email to offer cancellation. Tomorrow night she has a Parks and Rec Advisory meeting.
 - v. Mr. Papakonstantis attended the BRC meetings, which wrapped up last week.
- e. Correspondence

- i. A notice from Comcast about price increases.
- 9. Review Board Calendar
 - a. The next meetings are December 7, 2020 and Dec 23, 2020.
- 10. Non-Public Session
 - a. There was no non-public session at this meeting.
- 11. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to adjourn, Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary