

Select Board Meeting  
Monday October 5, 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 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 - Exeter Police Stakeholders Committee

- a. Emily Heath
- b. Alexis Simpson
- c. Darius Thompson
- d. Harry King

3. Public Comment

- a. Laura Knott of 15 Tamarind Lane asked about the progress of the Kingston Road/111 sidewalk project, which was approved as a warrant article in 2015. She has heard the State funds will run out in December. Mr. Dean said they've obtained only 5 of 13 necessary easements for this project. The DOT said the project financing has been pushed out to 2023, and it will require a new warrant article to extend it. Jennifer Perry said that it's in the queue for 2023 for NH DOT projects, but there are frequently extensions; there may also be an opportunity to do it earlier. The State's fiscal year doesn't align with ours, it starts in October of 2022. Mr. Papakonstantis asked Ms. Perry for a further update at a future meeting.
- b. Darius Thompson of 15 Drinkwater Road asked about the impact of Covid on funding for ongoing projects. Are they prepared to seek additional funding from the state? Are ongoing or planned projects on track? Mr. Papakonstantis said they're seeking all available funds from the State. They've just had their first BRC meeting. Mr. Dean said there was a reduction in the paving budget of \$200,000 to anticipate potential lost revenues, but all projects are going forward. Mr. Thompson asked if they're looking at an increase in Wastewater Treatment rates. Mr. Dean said yes, they've delayed a rate increase but it will be coming. If the State Aid Grant money does not materialize, it will be a greater increase.

4. Proclamations/Recognitions

**MOTION:** Ms. Cowan moved to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. Ms. Oliff seconded. Mr. Browne asked if this would affect holiday wages or create other concerns. Ms. Gilman said there may be technical issues with changing the name of the day, but she's for the name change generally. Mr. Browne said they should note the correlation between what they call the day and the name that may be found in legal documents. Mr. Dean said regarding personnel policy, they would interpret the former Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day as the holiday. It's Columbus Day in collective bargaining agreements and personnel policy; if there were an issue, they could bring those forward as a formality. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting: September 28, 2020

**MOTION** [withdrawn]: Ms. Gilman moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2020 as presented. Mr. Browne seconded. Mr. Dean observed that the minutes were not in the Board's packet. Ms. Gilman withdrew her motion and Mr. Browne withdrew his second. They will be voted on at the next meeting.

6. Appointments

**MOTION:** Ms. Cowan moved to appoint Marc Dettore as an alternate member of the Planning Board, term to expire April 30, 2022. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

7. Discussion/Action Items

a. Halloween Trick or Treat Discussion

James Murray said he attended an NHMA meeting on September 30, where they heard ideas and guidelines on trick or treat. The CDC put out their recommendation against it; going door to door is considered high risk. Trick or treat is not just something that would or would not be happening in our community, there are also other communities in the area. Many communities are planning to have trick or treat. His recommendation is to go forward and encourage residents to stay in the community.

Mr. Bisson discussed safety guidelines for trick or treating. Cancellation would be unenforceable, so they recommend going forward with the safety guidelines in mind. Ms. Oliff said they may want to do it in daylight hours. Ms. Cowan asked what other communities are doing. Mr. Bisson said Portsmouth moved theirs from 3 - 6 PM, but others are keeping it the same. Mr. Dean said he thinks the 3 - 6 PM window would be smart. Mr. Papakonstantis asked Mr. Bisson to adjust the time of the Parks and Rec Halloween parade to be earlier; he also asked if Mr. Browne could engage the Communications Committee on conveying the safety information. Mr. Bisson said they can send the info to their email list, the newspaper, and put it on Facebook. The SAU has also been putting out information that Parks and Rec has sent them.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to move forward with Halloween celebration plans as presented by Parks and Recreation Department, on October 31st from 3 - 6 PM. Mr. Browne seconded. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

b. Solar Array Request for Proposals

Dave Sharples discussed the proposal for an RFP for a solar array at the landfill off Cross Road. He talked to the Sustainability and Energy Committees, which were in support. There are about eight acres on which it may be feasible. The DPW had concerns about the settling of the landfill, but this would be looked at as they move forward. The DPW asked to be included in all steps of the process. Mr. Dean said they could get a review committee together with members of each group, potentially including the Select Board. The Board was generally in favor of the RFP, and Mr. Sharples said he could get it out this week and close it in around 30 days. He reached out to neighbors proactively and their response has been fairly positive.

c. Second Reading: Water Service Regulations: Water Restrictions

Ms. Gilman did a second reading of the paragraphs that are changing:

Chapter 16:10 Water Use Restrictions. Amend 16:10.1 to update the “Board of Selectmen” to read “Select Board.” In 16:10.3, residential is crossed out, and the restriction now applies to all well users in town. In 16:10.8, we are changing c and adding d, “The grass playing turf of a recreational field, the grass playing surfaces of a golf course, and grass agricultural fields including sod production, may be excluded from the requirements of 16:10.2.

d. Classification Plan Updates

Mr. Dean said they’re looking to add two positions to the classification plan. The first is a Human Resources and Payroll Accountant. The current person is doing a number of Human Resources functions not described in the position. This would be at Grade 7, the same level as the Executive Assistant, Deputy Code Officer, and IT Tech. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if there would be a change in direct reporting, and Mr. Dean said no, Ms. Chester would continue to manage the position, but the HR Director may have some input. This is currently an SEIU contract at grade 3. The second is a Senior Operator in the Sewer department. They’re looking to update that position because the new facility requires a primary operator.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to establish the position of Human Resources and Payroll Accountant, added to the town’s non union classification plan at a grade 7. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to establish the position of Wastewater Treatment Operations Supervisor, a full time non union exempt position at a grade 10. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

e. COVID 19 Updates

Mr. Murray said there are four new cases in Exeter, for a cumulative total of 66 cases, with five active cases. The State has 490 current cases, up from 339 last month, possibly due to extra testing. There were 22 hospitalizations this week in the State, as opposed to 16 last week.

Mr. Dean said that he met with Seacoast Economic Development stakeholders. They’re trying to use the Business Transition Fund to support

businesses that are adopting resilient business models. Budget subcommittee meetings began today. He wants to look at what the pandemic means to public meetings, as there's an accessibility and sustainability element to meeting virtually. The option of having virtual meetings going forward makes sense. The State should tweak the Right to Know law so this is a permanent option going forward. Ms. Gilman said one concern is those meetings that only provide a physical packet of information. Mr. Papakonstantis said he's also concerned about technical issues like internet outages.

## 8. Regular Business

### a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

There were no abatements, credits, or exemptions at this meeting.

### b. Permits & Approvals

Greg Bisson said the Exeter Runner's Club wanted to see if the Board would permit Road Races. They are allowable under the State Guidelines. Ms. Oliff said the number of participants was large at the last race, so they need to look at how to do that safely. She's participated in this event previously and feels that it can go forward safely. Mr. Dean said that 5Ks are popular in town, so if they approve this they should make sure it can go forward appropriately.

Kristen Murphy, the Natural Resources Planner, said the Conservation Commission is interested in increasing the use of Raynes Farm. They're looking for support for hosting an event partnered with the NH Astronomical Society on what types of stars are visible. This would be naked eye viewing, without telescopes. They plan to have it Friday October 16, from 7:30 - 9:30. No portapotties, food or drink would be provided. They would cap the tickets at 100, but don't anticipate going that high. Masks will be required. Ms. Oliff asked how they will manage the clustering of people coming in. Ms. Murphy said they could have multiple check-in stations. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if they'd reviewed the plan with Mr. Murray, and Ms. Murphy said she has not yet talked to him about it. Mr. Murray said it sounds straightforward, with limited people, done outdoors, and following a mask mandate, so it can likely be done safely. Mr. Murray and Ms. Murphy will work on it further, and the Board will meet briefly this week to consider it.

Darius Thompson asked if they are treating all permitting the same, despite the pandemic. Mr. Papakonstantis said yes, and they are asking town committees to get permits in order to be more consistent. Mr. Thompson also asked if they have ample enough time to notice the special meeting to permit the issue, and Mr. Papakonstantis said yes.

Mr. Bisson said they would like to expend from the Parks Improvement Fund. They put out an RFP to do a renovation on the walkway at Gale Park. There have been three bids, and they're recommending Bayberry & Company of Hampton at \$27,367.94. They will have to come back to permit a Police detail for Linden Street.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve the Gale Park Pathway Renovation project to Bayberry & Company of Hampton NH at a cost of \$27,367.94 from the Parks Improvement Fund. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. Mr. Dean said there was an incident involving a female Police Officer on Washington Street; she was positioned there in response to a resident complaint about speeding, but was confronted by other residents saying that she was unwanted in the area. Chief Poulin will not place her back in that neighborhood. Ms. Oliff said that's beyond disappointing and disrespectful. She hopes the Police don't intend to avoid that neighborhood, as that behavior is a serious concern.
- ii. There's a new part time assistant in the Fire Department.
- iii. He attended the Park Street Memorial Tree event organized by Eileen Flockhart. There are virtual trees in the ground, and you can read about the families they're dedicated to.
- iv. He had the first meeting on the Cable TV contract, and they should have results soon.
- v. He received an email from resident Ginny Raub with a concern about election observers. Town Moderator Paul Scafidi came in for a meeting on Friday, and he's responded to Ms. Raub.
- vi. There was a General Government subcommittee meeting in the Nowak Room this morning, which went well. It was done in a socially distanced way.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Oliff had no report.
- ii. Mr. Browne had no report, but mentioned that he will bring the Board's issues to the Communications Committee tomorrow.
- iii. Ms. Gilman had no meetings, but will have Heritage, HDC, and Conservation Commission this week.
- iv. Ms. Cowan had a Planning Board meeting. They're making progress. It was good to catch up on the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee, where they brainstormed safe winter activities. They will be sending out a survey on possible activities for next summer.
- v. Mr. Papakonstantis had no meetings, but listened in on the BRC meeting, where Mr. Dean went through the budget and the narrative. The all day budget meeting is October 16th.

e. Correspondence

- i. A notice of the Health Trust hearing on proposed by-laws. Mr. Dean said one discussion item was the text of a proposed amendment #1 to allow the meeting to be virtual. Term limits are to be discussed, they proposed increasing the limit from three consecutive terms to five. There's a proposed tightening of the language around the withdrawal process.

Another amendment gives the group the authority to pursue any members that are in arrears on their bills.

- ii. A letter from XFINITY on refunding subscriptions to virtual sports networks.
- iii. A letter from Rockingham County FEMA. They have until the end of January to respond. Mr. Dean said they must adopt a resolution two weeks before the deadline.
- iv. An ethics question from a resident. Mr. Dean responded and has not heard back.
- v. A notice of funding re Covid 19.

9. Review Board Calendar

The next meetings are Oct 19, October 26, Nov 9, and Nov 23.

10. Non-Public Session

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

11. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Ms. Oliff moved to adjourn. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary