

Select Board Meeting
Monday October 26, 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 7 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. There were no Board interviews at this meeting.

3. Public Comment

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

4. Proclamations/Recognitions

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

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: October 19, 2020

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to approve the minutes of October 19, 2020 as presented. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

6. Board and Committee Appointments - Exeter Police Stakeholders

Mr. Papakonstantis said they discussed having 7 or 9 people on the Exeter Police Stakeholders Committee (EPSC). Ms. Gilman she would be comfortable with 11. Mr. Browne said that in the interest of facilitating a Zoom meeting, they may want fewer. Ms. Oliff said more than seven becomes hard to manage, and getting them all to show up at the same time is problematic. Ms. Cowan said she's concerned that they are cutting out voices with only seven people. She wants to make it clear that their

perspective is still wanted and their voices can be included even if they're not on the committee. She would also like to hear the Chief's thoughts on the committee.

Mr. Papakonstantis suggested seven members and four alternates, and the Board agreed; Chief Poulin also said this was fine. The Board discussed how they decide whether a member is a regular or an alternate member. Ms. Cowan said she doesn't think the concept of alternates with tiered participation applies to the purpose of this committee. Mr. Browne said they should have a finite term and scope of work. Ms. Gilman agreed that they should be finding a product with this committee; in that case, they will need voting members to vote on the final product. Chief Poulin said he didn't see what they'd be voting on. The alternates could step in if someone had to drop out. Internal stakeholders will be on this committee as well. Mr. Dean said the only groups that have alternates are the Land Use Boards. The Police Department is under the Town Manager at the discretion of the Select Board. Typically, there would only be a Police Commission if the town has a charter, which Exeter does not. He showed the charge for this committee that was been laid out by the Police Chief, including creating a strategic plan for the Department. It calls for a diverse group of 7 - 9 people. It focuses on the CPSM report they got in June 2020. Mr. Papakonstantis said the Rec Advisory Board also has alternates, so that would not be breaking precedent. If the Board wanted to avoid alternates, there could be nine voting members. The Board generally agreed. Mr. Papakonstantis suggested starting with the applicants on which they all agree and work down to the numbers.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked about Mr. Mendes, who is a not a town resident. Ms. Cowan said she values his experience and perspective but she would like to pull him in in another way, not as a member. The Board agreed.

The Board voted via the Zoom "raise hand" function on their preferred committee members, and the following people were the top eight candidates: Elliot Berkowicz, Matthew Carbone, Katie Adams, Harry King, Emily Heath, Alexis Simpson, Darius Thompson, and Tanisha Johnson. After further discussion and voting, the final member, Anne Surman, was also chosen.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to appoint those nine individuals to the Exeter Police Stakeholders Committee, term to expire April 30, 2021. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

7. Discussion/Action Items

a. Election Updates - Town Moderator, Supervisor of the Checklist

Paul Scafidi, the Town Moderator, and Vicki Nawoichyk, the Supervisor of the Checklist, gave an update on the election preparations. Mr. Scafidi said that tomorrow they will be running a test on the voting machines. Wednesday is a ballot clerk training at Town Hall. Tuesday is the last night residents can register to vote; after that, they can only register on election day. The Town Clerk's office will be pre-processing absentee ballots at Town Hall, although they don't open the affidavit ballot until the election. People are welcome to come and view the process. On Monday, they will set up the voting area. On Tuesday morning, voting starts. People who want to hold signs, will extend that area to support

social distancing. Everyone must wear a mask. There will be an accessible voting area, and absentee ballots can be brought to the outside as in the primary. Absentee ballots will be accepted by hand until 8 PM. If absentee ballots are rejected, the Town Moderator will follow up with the voter.

Ms. Nawoichyk discussed how people can register.

Mr. Scafidi said if voters will not be wearing a mask, they must go to the SST front entrance where there will be a ballot clerk. Those without masks will not be allowed in the atrium door. Challengers with the proper paperwork will be limited to six from each party due to space limitations; observers will be there at his discretion.

b. Communications Committee Survey Update

Connor Barry of the Communications Committee discussed a draft of the survey. They'd like to post a link to it on the website and the town social media accounts. They're hoping to get it out there before the election. He presented some ideas for advertising the survey. Ms. Oliff suggested spinning the message about the survey positively rather than negatively. Mr. Dean said that the Exeter Facebook group is not an official town page, so it may be confusing to include it in the question about where people are getting town information. Mr. Glowacky explained that they wanted to hear if that's a major place where people are getting information, but they can add a note that it is not town-run.

MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to approve the Communications Committee to put out the survey to the public. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

c. Police Chief Stephan Poulin re: NH Police Accountability Report

Chief Poulin discussed the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency; more information can be found at <https://governor.nh.gov/accountability>. Mr. Browne asked how this is related to the study from last November, and Chief Poulin said the focus on recruiting, retention, and training is in line with their findings.

d. Riverwoods Tax Agreements 2020

Attorney Sharon Somers, Deb Riddell, the Executive Director of Riverwoods Exeter, and Justine Vogel, the CEO of the Riverwoods Group, were present to discuss the tax agreement. Attorney Somers said that when the first Riverwoods project was done, there was negotiation between Riverwoods and the town to come up with a formula by which Riverwoods would pay a certain portion, but not the full tax rate. The residential units pay the full tax rate, the nursing homes don't pay anything, and the land is full tax rate except 17 acres. Either party reserves the right to question that amount and the value of the taxable portions. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if the three agreements could be condensed into one agreement. Attorney Somers said she'd have to revisit the reason it was set up this way. It may be possible to create a master document with appendices for each area instead. Ms. Gilman suggested that it was

because the different campuses were built at different times. Ms. Vogel agreed, saying that it wasn't an issue for her company to have it treated in one document. Ms. Cowan said if they redo the document, she would like "Board of Selectmen" changed to "Select Board."

MOTION (amended): Ms. Gilman moved to enter into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement as presented October 26, 2020 between the town and the Riverwoods at Exeter Company for The Woods. Mr. Browne seconded. Mr. Dean asked Attorney Somers if it was actually a PILOT agreement, and Attorney Somers said they should just refer to "The agreement." Ms. Gilman amended her motion as follows:

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to enter into the agreement as presented October 26, 2020 between the town and the Riverwoods at Exeter Company for The Woods. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to enter into the agreement as presented October 26, 2020 between the town and the Riverwoods at Exeter Company for The Ridge. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to enter into the agreement as presented October 26, 2020 between the town and the Riverwoods at Exeter Company for The Boulders. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

e. Groundwater Exploratory Test Well Drilling Update

Jennifer Perry, the Public Works Director, discussed test well drilling. They want to develop more groundwater sources in town, as it's cheaper to treat groundwater than surfacewater, and there's capacity built into the new facility. Three different areas have potential for groundwater development: Powder Mill Road, Court Street/Linden Street near the river, and east of Drinkwater Road. The ideal time of year for drilling is in the winter because when the ground is frozen they can cross wetlands without damage. Mr. Dean asked about the impact of the drought. Ms. Perry said it will impact all the wells similarly, so the hydrogeologist can relate that back to normal conditions.

f. Mask Ordinance Extension

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Board previously voted to post a mask ordinance that was effective starting September 2nd and valid for 60 days. They should consider whether to extend that term and for how long. Mr. Browne asked Ms. Gilman if anything had changed on the State level regarding masks, but Ms. Gilman said no. Chief Wilking said they're seeing significant increases in Covid cases in Rockingham County and Exeter, so now is not the time to back off from precautions. Mr. Browne asked if they have issued any citations. Mr. Murray said he has not issued any fines. They've had quite a few complaint calls; if it's about a business, he's reaching out to the owners of that business. There have not

been too many calls on individuals, but he has talked to a few people in an educational way.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to extend the current mask ordinance that's in place, to expire December 31, 2020. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, Mr. Browne voted nay, and the motion passed 4-1.

g. COVID 19 Updates

Chief Wilking said Fire and EMS are responding to calls for Covid related and flu like symptoms at numbers like in April and May. Department employees are cycling in and out of self-monitoring, but there has been only one quarantine. Lots of people are being tested, but so far all have been negative. Have ordered more PPE, which Assistant Chief Pizon picked up today. Exeter had nine residents test positive since the last Select Board meeting, they're now at 85 total cases in town, which is still on the low side of communities our size. The Governor's pause on youth hockey will come to an end around Nov 2nd, and they're working toward a safe startup of that program. Chief Wilking also encouraged residents to be safe on Halloween.

James Murray discussed the detailed new guidance for hockey.

Mr. Dean asked whether the new Covid cases were from community transmission or a cluster. Chief Wilking said he didn't know, but can check. There was a business in town where employees were affected.

Mr. Dean said regarding trick or treating, residents could use a table with candy on it so kids don't have to cluster or engage with others. The Weekly Report from EXTV has a good piece on trick or treating safely. The issues at the hockey arena took a lot of their time. He himself saw many out of state plates in the Rinks parking lot. Sports are important, but they must also protect the community.

8. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a tax abatement for 94/19 in the amount of \$1766.75. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

b. Permits & Approvals

The Board considered the application of the Exeter Run Club for a "Thanks for Giving" road race November 26th, 2020. Mr. Dean said Parks and Rec are ok with this as presented. He's heard that it's all on private property. Bill Meehan, the event organizer, said this will be the fourth annual 5K. In past years, they've hosted up to 1,000 runners, but this year, it will be a 200 runner event. They're planning a "wave start" of 25 runners at a time, with each runner 10 seconds apart for distancing. He is realizing that they should limit the race to people within NH or even in SAU 16. The route is not private property, it's all public. Mr. Murray said he had no concerns.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve the Exeter Run Club “Thanks for Giving Road Race” on November 26, 2020 as outlined in the application. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

c. Town Manager’s Report

- i. The MS1 report of valuation was completed today, it just needs the Board’s signatures. He’s continuing to pursue DocuSign.
- ii. There will be a Budget meeting Oct 29th, for DPW General. Fire, Police and Health had a .55% increase in total. They’re trying to keep spending down. The overall budget had a 1.85% increase over 2020.
- iii. Regarding Swasey Parkway, they have heard that some residents want to see it closed on a more permanent basis. This creates some issues, as it was intended to be a parkway for pleasure vehicles. They would have to turn it into a municipal trail. He’s planning to reach out to Tom Donovan at Charitable Trust on his thoughts. Regarding the MOA with the Swasey Parkway Trustees, the authority that the MOA seemed to confer on Trustees was authority given to them by the Select Board, not the town at town meeting. It’s hard to locate any actual authorities that the Trustees have been granted.
- iv. He’s engaged with NHMA on virtual meetings, as he would like to use the technology long-term.
- v. He reached out to Superintendent Ryan. The schools are going through a survey about remote learning vs in-person. No matter what version, it’s probably a good idea to continue to work with the SAU to assist underserved populations.
- vi. There will be a public meeting for Westside Drive residents Wednesday night, remotely via Zoom.
- vii. The town did prevail in the Rose Farm case. The Supreme Court affirmed the Planning Board’s actions
- viii. The new town masks are in.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Oliff had no report for the Housing Committee. There will be a walkthrough on Wednesday with the Swasey Parkway Trustees which she cannot attend.
- ii. Mr. Browne had no report.
- iii. Ms. Cowan attended a Planning Board meeting, where they approved an application for a PEA dormitory project. They considered a Grizet application but nothing changed.
- iv. Ms. Gilman attended a Heritage Commission meeting. On November 28th there will be a presentation about Heritage Districts, based on a historic survey of the Park Street area. They will see how much interest they get in establishing a Heritage District. She thinks the town doesn’t want the responsibility of another historic district but heritage district

doesn't involve a legislative body. It would allow the community to gather and have a voice.

- v. Mr. Papakonstantis sat in on the BRC Police and Fire meeting, which was one of the fastest budget meetings ever.

e. Correspondence

- i. An article about migration into NH across the border.
- ii. Feedback on the hazardous waste removal event on October 17th. Mr. Dean said it was mostly successful, although the rain put a damper on things. Online registration is a good tool for gauging interest.
- iii. A memo from Matt Berube. Ms. Perry said they're working to wrap up Wastewater Treatment Facility project and have a fair balance left in the budget. There are two issues they'd like to address with that extra money. They have several power failures a year at the site on Newfields Road. They designed a UPS (uninterrupted power supply) for the project but it was taken out in value engineering. It's very important to have constant disinfection when they're operating. They must fill the gap until the generator comes on. This is more protective of that UV equipment. It would cost \$200,000 to add the UPS and extend the building to protect that equipment, would come out of the balance. They would also like to coat two older tanks for structural integrity and preventing bacterial growth. This would cost \$80,000.
- iv. Correspondence on the Swasey Parkway closure.
- v. A memo from Assistant Chief Pizon regarding the fire alarm system. Chief Wilking said the system is aging and they are losing money on it. He recommends stepping back from monitoring fire alarms and let the private sector manage that, and focus instead on their core mission of emergency response. Targeted July 1 as a phase-out date for the system.
- vi. A letter from Primex insurance with updated safety requirements.

9. Review Board Calendar

- a. The election is Tuesday; the next Board meetings are Nov 9 and Nov 23.

10. Non-Public Session

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

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to adjourn. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary