

Select Board Meeting
Monday March 1, 2021
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 Interim Town Manager Melissa Roy were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:32 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. The usual rules of conduct and decorum will apply.

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. Non-Public Session

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II(i) for the purpose of advice from counsel. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor, and the meeting entered into non-public session at 6:35 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 7 PM.

3. Board Interviews

- a. There were no interviews at this meeting.

4. Public Comment

Mr. Papakonstantis said that the Board received an email from PEA Facilities Director Mark Leighton stating that as of February 26, 2021 the Phillips Exeter Academy trails are open to all. Masks should be worn and six feet social distancing be observed.

5. Proclamations/Recognitions

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

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: February 22, 2021

MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2021 as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

7. Appointments - Arts & Culture Advisory Commission

Mr. Papakonstantis said there were nine applicants for seven positions. The Board used the “raise hand” function of the Zoom meeting to vote for the candidates.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to appoint Dawn Amey to a position on the Arts and Culture Committee for a term of two years beginning April 30, 2021. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Mr. Browne moved to appoint Tony Callendrello to a 3 year term on the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to appoint Mary-Paige Provost to a 2 year term on the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to appoint Todd Hearon to a 3 year term on the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to appoint Scott Ruffner to a 3 year term on the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. Mr. Papakonstantis seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to appoint both Bruce Jones and Anne Kenny to a 1 year term on the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

8. Discussion/Action Items

a. Moderator’s Update

Paul Scafidi, the Town Moderator, gave an update on the upcoming election of March 9th. He will be preprocessing absentee ballots on Friday, March 5th. Absentee ballots are still available. The election will be very much like November, but he expects a light turnout. Ms. Cowan said she wouldn’t be working the election as she is on the ballot, but Mr. Scafidi said since she is running unopposed, she can be inside.

b. Great Bay Nitrogen Presentation

Jennifer Perry and Attorney Adam Dumville were present to discuss the intermunicipal agreement. This agreement could involve the other 12 municipalities in the Great Bay watershed with Wastewater Treatment Plants, and they will work together to address tasks in the new Great Bay nitrogen permit. There’s a fee of \$55,600 to join the agreement. There’s a cap in the IMA for nothing more than a shared cost of \$500,000, so the cost could only change if not every community opts in. The largest communities, Dover, Rochester, and Portsmouth, have already opted in. They would be working with the other

municipalities with a bigger pool of money for monitoring in the bay; going it alone on the water quality monitoring side would be very expensive, and they would spend more than \$55,000 just for the monitoring. Attorney Dumville said the collaborative nature of this agreement is anticipated in the general permit, and the permit has significant advantages to the town of Exeter.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to join the intermunicipal agreement for development of an adaptive water quality management plan for Great Bay Estuary and assign the authority to the interim Town Manager Melissa Roy to sign any documents necessary. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Ms. Gilman asked whether they have a timeline to sign, as Ms. Roy has an undetermined term as Interim Town Manager. Ms. Perry said it should be signed within a week.

c. COVID 19 Updates

i. Fire Chief Eric Wilking

The Covid numbers continue to trend in a positive direction. There were 164 new cases in NH this week. Since the last Select Board meeting of February 19th, Exeter has had 22 new positives, and they're tracking 29 ongoing cases. The vaccination site is doing an efficient job, vaccinating 700 - 800 people daily. He was asked to assist in the planning of a statewide "super site," three days of vaccinations of up to 12,000 people at the racetrack in Loudon. He will be sharing what Exeter has learned. Exeter FD is partnering with Seacoast Region Mobile Health on March 4, to provide onsite vaccinations at 277 Water Street, for around 80 residents. They heard a report that the two positive cases at Public Works have recovered, and things are getting back to normal there.

ii. Health Officer James Murray

There have been a few more mask non-compliance complaints. The State is taking over contact tracing now that the load is lower, but will not be doing check-up calls anymore.

iii. Police Chief Poulin and Deputy Chief Munck

Regarding the vaccination sites, Police across the state have been asked to help out for security. The cost will be recuperated 100% to the Town of Exeter, so there is no cost to the taxpayers.

iv. Public Works Director Jennifer Perry

The DPW has been back in full force as of Monday of last week, and continue to provide the essential services of the Department. Other agencies offered to help, and although the department didn't need it, it was nice to know they were available. She mentioned that they used Web EOC, an important tool that shows the availability of Public Works workforces statewide.

d. EMT Lifepak 15

Assistant Fire Chief Justin Pizon said that the Lifepak 15 cardiac monitor and defibrillator used by the department is outdated, and the board that runs the machine is no longer produced. They have an offer to buy the current model of Lifepak 15 at a 50% discount and with a \$9,000 trade-in on the old device. The Ambulance Revolving fund has \$158,629 available with a projected balance of \$187,407 at the end of 2021, and they are looking for \$20,420.72. They are scheduled to purchase a new ambulance in 2023, which would have included this cost, so there will be a savings then. Ms. Oliff said she's in support of whatever the department needs.

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to authorize the Fire Department to purchase a Stryker Lifepak 15 at a cost of \$20,420.72, with the funds to be used coming from the Ambulance Revolving Fund. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

e. Event Permit Update

Greg Bisson said that Parks and Rec reviewed the permit application process and is presenting the Board with an updated form. They are anticipating a lot of event requests coming up. He reached out to other communities about what they're permitting, but they're focused on summer and fall events. The Department will come before the Select Board for events on a case by case basis. The Farmer's Market wants to start in April. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if applicants will still need to produce detailed plans, and Mr. Bisson said yes, the layout is always required. They've had zero applications to date.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a tax abatement for 95/39 in the amount of \$1,010.80. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a tax abatement for 87/14 in the amount of \$7,511.08. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to deny a tax abatement for 47/2/1. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to deny a tax abatement for 87/14. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Ms. Gilman read the solar exemptions: 72/224/3 and 72/224/4; 11/18/3, 82/1, 62/15/2, 74/112, 95/92, and 24/2.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit 95/79/2 in the amount of \$500. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit for 54/4/31 in the amount of \$2,500. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to deny a Veterans Credit for 95/64/188. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit for 24/2 in the amount of \$500. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit for 70/39 in the amount of \$1,000. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption for 74/39 in the amount of \$183,751. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption for 73/280 in the amount of \$152,251. Mr. Browne seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

b. Permits & Approvals

Greg Bisson requested to use Park Improvement Funds to replace the roof on Rec Park Pavilion. The structure was built in 1999 and is losing shingles and leaking. Had quotes from several roofers, recommend Refined Roofing of Hampstead for \$5,500. Ms. Gilman asked if there was a difference in work between quotes, as there was a large range, but Mr. Bisson said no. They will come back for the money to paint the pavilion as well.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to allow the Parks and Rec Department to expend up to \$5,500 from the Parks Improvement Fund to contract with Refined Roofing to replace the roof on the Rec Park Pavilion. Ms. Cowan seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Bisson said they're also looking to replace the Rec Park tennis court nets and posts. It's been over 10 years, and they're looking to put in better quality posts and polyester tennis nets, which will last longer. The quotes are very close. They recommend Pioneer Athletics at \$5,504.

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to allow the Parks and Rec Department to expend up to \$5,504 from the Parks Improvement Fund to purchase tennis nets and poles from Pioneer Athletics. Ms. Gilman seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. Ms. Roy said the Town Manager's office was notified by the NH DOT about a "supermove." This is a large piece of equipment traveling from Portsmouth to Seabrook, which will have some local impacts. It will take

place February 28 - March 4 between 9 PM and 5 AM. Police, Fire, and DPW have been notified. There will be a moving roadblock that will require traffic to be delayed. She listed the routes impacted. Mr. Papakonstantis asked them to update the website and Facebook page with the routes.

- d. Select Board Committee Reports
 - i. Ms. Gilman had a Heritage Commission meeting, where there was a presentation on Heritage Neighborhood areas for the Park Street Area. The group will meet again to talk about the reactions to the presentation.
 - ii. Ms. Oliff had no report.
 - iii. Mr. Browne attended the Police Stakeholders meeting but did not have a report.
 - iv. Ms. Cowan said the Police Stakeholders Committee talked about recruitment and background checks. Since the 1990s, the number of applications for Police jobs has decreased by a huge factor, and it's a struggle to get qualified applicants.
 - v. Mr. Papakonstantis went on a walkthrough identifying trees in Swasey Parkway with the Tree Committee, the Swasey Park Trustees, and EXTV. There will be a report about it on EXTV soon.
- e. Correspondence
 - i. There was no correspondence discussed.

10. Review Board Calendar

- a. The town election is March 9th. The next meetings are March 15 and 29.

11. Non-Public Session

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

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to adjourn. Ms. Oliff seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary