

Select Board Meeting
Monday February 7, 2022
6:40 PM
Nowak Room, Town Offices
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Lovey Roundtree Oliff, Niko Papakonstantis, and Town Manager Russ Dean were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:43 PM.

2. Non Public Session

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to enter into non public session under RSA 91-A3II(a). Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 4-0, and the meeting entered non public session at 6:44 PM. The meeting reconvened at 7:08 PM.

3. Public Comment

- a. There was no comment from the public at this time.
- b. Mr. Papakonstantis said that residents interested in getting absentee ballots should send that request to the Town Clerk now, and the ballots will be sent out when they are ready, likely 2-3 weeks before the election.

4. Proclamations/Recognitions

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

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: January 31, 2022

MOTION: Ms. Oliff moved to approve the minutes of January 31, 2022 as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 4-0.

6. Appointments

- a. There were no appointments at this meeting.

7. Discussion/Action Items

- a. COVID-19 Update

Fire Chief Eric Wilking said that Covid-positive numbers over the last four weeks in Exeter are trending downwards. Calls are coming into the Firehouse about when we can lift the mask regulation, and there's been a lot of discussion about that nationwide. The State has changed how they're gathering and reporting data; there's been no new data since Thursday. There will likely be a weekly push of data going forward. Hospitalizations have dropped below 200 Statewide. It seems like Omicron is plateauing or dropping off.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked about mask mandates in other communities. Chief Wilking said none had rescinded the mandates as of today. Exeter's mandate goes until March 21. He asks that it remain in effect at least through the town voting. We can

discuss it after that if other communities are dropping it. Mr. Papakonstantis said a Board meeting is scheduled for March 14th, so we could discuss it further then.

b. Rep Mark Paige

Exeter State Rep Mark Paige introduced himself to the Board and discussed issues arising at the State level. He encouraged people to express their opinion on State issues. Ms. Gilman will demo the public electronic voting on State issues at the next meeting.

c. Deliberative Session Review

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Town Moderator reported there were about 50 indoors at Deliberative Session and 30 outdoors, so about 80 total. This was an improvement over last year, when only 30 or 40 attended. All of the warrant articles will be going on the ballot.

There was an attempted amendment to the Swasey Parkway article, which did not succeed. There were several amendments to the Citizen's Petition. Mr. Elliot's amendment passed, so the estimated tax impact changed and the method of funding was clarified, that it was to come from General Taxation.

Mr. Dean said that since it was amended, the Citizen's Petition now comes back to the Board with the question whether we want to do anything with it. It's a money article. Mr. Papakonstantis said the amendment didn't change the spirit or intent of the petition. Ms. Gilman said even with the amendments, the discussion before the Deliberative Session still applies, that this is premature and we're concerned about other neighborhoods coming forward. Mr. Dean said he asked Ms. Perry about the sewer issue on Washington Street; she said we have not done an updated inspection of the sewer since 2016, and there would need to be an assessment of the drainage, catch basins, and inlets. Mr. Papakonstantis said Chief Poulin discussed the speed study that was done. Washington Street was part of the collection of streets that we reviewed and updated the ordinance on. We hope that Director Perry will continue to work with folks to move Washington Street up the list, or at least advise on when it will be addressed. Public Works needs to do their due diligence before this can proceed.

The wishes of the Board were to take no further action.

Mr. Dean thanked the Town Moderator Kate Miller, who did an excellent job.

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. He attended a conference call with Congressman Pappas, who spoke about the continuing resolution. Hopefully we will hear more next week. We're looking for the \$600,000 for the Siphons project.
 - ii. He had a conference call with One Sky Community Services, which is interested in finding a location in Exeter.
 - iii. He received a letter of resignation from Doreen Chester, the Finance Director, who is leaving after 14 years of service. Her last day is Feb 18.
 - d. Select Board Committee Reports
 - i. Ms. Gilman had no meetings. This week, the Heritage Commission is meeting to further discuss the Park Street neighborhood heritage area. The Facilities Committee meets on Thursday. HDC is meeting for continued discussion on the Front Street Baptist Church project and PEA project at 8 Gilman Lane. She gave an update on State issues, including a zoning update allowing more density in neighborhoods and a proposed requirement on attendance at School Board meetings.
 - ii. Ms. Cowan has a Planning Board meeting this Thursday.
 - iii. Ms. Oliff has a meeting on Tuesday for the Arts & Culture Commission and a Housing Committee meeting on Friday
 - iv. Mr. Papakonstantis said the Sustainability Committee met last Tuesday but he was not able to attend. They didn't have a quorum but still met and discussed various issues.
 - e. Correspondence
 - i. An update on EXTV programming and meetings covered, as well as an update on Mr. Glowacky's role as the Communications Coordinator.

9. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next Board meetings are Tuesday Feb 22 and March 14.
- b. Chief Wilking said regarding the engine replacement, we sent 10 RFPs to manufacturers in hopes of a doing a bid review on March 14. If approved, we need to turn it around in early April to avoid a price increase.
- c. Chief Wilking added that he's been working with Beth Dupell, the leader of the Lights Committee, and the lights will be taken down in the near future.

10. Non-Public Session

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

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to adjourn. Ms. Oliff seconded. The motion passed 4-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Joanna Bartell
 Recording Secretary