

Select Board Meeting
Monday March 6, 2023
6:30 PM
Nowak Room, Town Offices
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Lovey Roundtree Oliff, Niko Papakonstantis, and Nancy Belanger. Molly Cowan was present remotely via Zoom; she stated that she was unable to attend in person and was alone in the room. Town Manager Russ Dean and Assistant Town Manager Melissa Roy were also present at this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:30 PM.

2. Non-Public Session

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A311(I). Ms. Belanger seconded. Ms. Cowan was not yet present for the vote. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 4-0.

The Board reconvened in the Nowak Room at 7:22 PM.

3. RFP Bid Opening - 10 Hampton Road Renovations

- a. Yeti Landcare LLC of Exeter NH, total \$25,800.
- b. Landmark Structures Corp of Woburn MA, total \$34,650.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to forward the bids to Parks and Rec for review and recommendation. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

4. Public Comment

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

5. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. Mr. Papakonstantis recognized Highway Superintendent Jay Perkins and his team for navigating the town through two storms lately.
- b. Mr. Papakonstantis said the Town Election will be held March 14th at Talbot Gym.
- c. Town Reports are available in the Town Clerk's Office and on the website. There's an RSA that requires the town to provide physical copies. Reports will be available at the polls as well.
- d. The town has confirmed that the parking spaces at Front and Linden Street are not exclusive to the Inn but are general parking spaces.
- e. Tonight is Selectwoman Oliff's last meeting. The Board members expressed their gratitude for her service and presented her with a plaque.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting: February 27, 2023

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the Select Board regular meeting minutes of February 27, 2023 as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

7. Appointments

a. There were no appointments at this meeting.

8. Discussion/Action Items

a. OmniBallot Update

Mr. Papakonstantis said the town worked very hard to make sure we had the OmniBallot system by the March election. It's an important initiative for folks in town. Other than Concord, Exeter is the first town to be using this.

b. Squamscott River Siphons Project Update

Town Engineer/Interim DPW Director Paul Vlasich and Wright-Pierce Engineers Michael Theriault and Kevin Garvey were present to give an update on this project. Mr. Vlasich said regarding insurance, our contractor sent a letter to the subcontractor, and we received a letter back. We heard that the contractor thinks this is a time and materials job and he would like to get paid for some of this work he's been doing. Town Counsel will read the letter and assist in responding to it. We don't have answers today.

Ms. Belanger said the public should know that town employees are meeting daily on this issue. Mr. Papakonstantis said this was an unforeseen situation despite the fact that testing and studies were done. We were assured by Wright Pierce that the subcontractor has an excellent reputation.

c. Community Center Investment Grant

Parks and Rec Director Greg Bisson was present to discuss the grant. Mr. Bisson said the State has launched a Community Center Investment Grant program, a \$20M fund to invest in the construction or renovation of community centers. CDFA is the administering agent. This became official last fall. They're looking for projects that will make an impact in the community. The timeline is aggressive, they launched a workshop in January and applications are due in April. It requires a 15% match. It will fund \$100,000 to \$1M projects. We're looking to use Rec Revolving Fund and Impact Fees, but would the Board also consider using ARPA funds? We need to replace the HVAC, make the 2nd floor accessible, update flooring throughout, renovate program spaces, do drainage work, make electrical upgrades, and do the architectural engineering for all of this. We have some cost estimates from last year that need to be updated. We applied for CDBG in 2022 so have some estimates there.

Mr. Papakonstantis said the match would be at the low end \$15,000 and at the high end \$150,000. Mr. Bisson said we can contribute \$100,000 from the Rec Revolving Fund. Ms. Roy said it's about positioning ourselves to be the best candidate. Could we get \$50,000-\$100,000 from ARPA in addition to the \$100,000 from Rec Revolving to

show we're willing to put more in? Ms. Belanger asked about Rec Impact fee fund, and Mr. Bisson said it's currently \$36,000. We have to leave at least \$500 in the account.

Ms. Gilman asked about the Energy Assessment Program. Mr. Bisson said one of the criteria for the grant was improving systems. We can get a quote for a Level 2 energy audit, and CDFA offers a 75% match.

Mr. Papakonstantis said the consensus of the Board is to proceed and come back when they have numbers.

d. Swasey Parkway Update

Mr. Papakonstantis said Attorney Mitchell has received the judge's decision. Mr. Dean said the Swasey Parkway petition has been granted, so the 2022 Warrant Article can now take full effect, discontinuing a portion of the parkway road and creating a permanent closure from Water Street to the Pavilion.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veteran's Credit in the amount of \$500 for tax year 2023 for 77/8/103 and 101/8/5. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption for 52/68, 95/64/258, 64/21, 62/237, and 68/6/814 in the amount of \$236,251 for tax year 2023. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption in the amount of \$183,751 for tax year 2023 for 104/79/220. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption in the amount of \$152,251 for tax year 2023 for 104/79/214 and 87/14/7A. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to deny an Elderly Exemption for 104/79/226. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption in the amount of \$137,950 for tax year 2023 for 62/2. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Disability Exemption for 95/64/326 in the amount of \$125,000 for tax year 2023. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Solar Exemption for 27/3 in the amount of \$19,000 for tax year 2023. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Solar Exemption for 62/190 in the amount of \$5,500 for tax year 2023. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Solar Exemption for 65/81 in the amount of \$12,500 for tax year 2023. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Tax Abatement for 68/6/538 in the amount of \$673.20 for tax year 2022. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

b. Permits & Approvals

Mr. Papakonstantis said there is a request for a waiver of taxes on a property at the Exeter River MHB Coop. They would like to demolish an existing home and replace it with a 2023 home. Mr. Dean said this is done under RSA 80-2a.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved that the Town of Exeter waive the taxes owed on 23 Juniper St in the amount of \$18,273.42. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. On Friday he had a meeting with CPCNH on Community Power. They were able to authorize procurement of power. We should have news on that shortly. Mr. Papakonstantis asked that we explain what people will get in the mail when it's ready. Ms. Gilman suggested that the Energy Committee come in to give another presentation.
- ii. He's touring 149 Kingston Road with the Housing Authority this week. They may be interested in this as an affordable unit.
- iii. He has a meeting of the Downeaster Station Committee tomorrow.
- iv. He recognized FD for their efforts on the recent fire at Stevens Court.
- v. He thanked DPW for their work on the snowstorms.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Oliff had no report.
- ii. Ms. Gilman had no report. She gave an update on issues at the State level.
- iii. Ms. Belanger said the Conservation Commission put on a last-minute snowshoe event on Saturday March 4. About a dozen people attended.
- iv. Ms. Cowan attended the Communication Advisory Committee. They're talking through a long-term strategic plan for communications. They also need new members because there are two people whose terms are up and they are not renewing.

v. Mr. Papakonstantis had no report.

e. Correspondence

i. An NHMA Legislative Bulletin

10. Review Board Calendar

The next meeting is March 20. Voting is March 14.

11. Non-Public Session

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

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Oliff made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary