

Select Board Meeting
Monday March 25, 2024
7 PM
Nowak Room, Town Offices
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Chair Niko Papakonstantis, Vice-Chair Molly Cowan, Clerk Julie Gilman, Dan Chartrand, Nancy Belanger, Town Manager Russ Dean, and Assistant Town Manager Melissa Roy were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 7 PM.

2. BRC - Swearing In

Town Clerk Andie Kohler swore in members of the 2024 Budget Recommendations Committee Anthony Zwaan, Judy Rowan, Christine Soutter, and Andrew Elliott.

3. Select Board Reorganization

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to nominate Mr. Papakonstantis as Chair. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to nominate Ms. Cowan as Vice-Chair. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to nominate Ms. Gilman as Clerk. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Public Comment

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

5. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. Mr. Papakonstantis said in the new edition of New Hampshire Town and City magazine, there are two residents of Exeter profiled: Lang Plumer of the Planning Board and Renay Allen, formerly of the Energy Committee.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: March 4, 2024
 - i. Corrections: Ms. Belanger said the resignation was under section 3, proclamations and recognitions. It should be under resignations.

MOTION: Mr. Chartrand moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2024 as revised. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- b. Regular Meeting: February 26, 2024

MOTION: Mr. Chartrand moved to approve the minutes of February 26, 2024 as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

c. Regular Meeting: March 18, 2024

MOTION: Mr. Chartrand moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2024 as presented. Ms. Belanger seconded. Ms. Gilman abstained. The motion passed 4-0.

d. Regular Meeting: March 8, 2024

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve the minutes of March 8, 2024 as presented. Ms. Belanger seconded. Mr. Chartrand abstained. The motion passed 4-0.

e. Regular Meeting: March 20, 2024

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2024 as presented. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

7. Appointments

a. There were no appointments made at this meeting.

8. Discussion/Action Items

a. Food Truck Update

Mr. Papakonstantis said he asked the Town Manager to put this on the agenda last week after the Seacoast Online printed that there would be a new food truck outside the Town Offices. In 2021, this matter came before the Select Board and we worked to revise the permitting process. At that time, there was a request to set aside several spaces in Townhouse Common for vendor trucks. The space outside the Town Offices is at more of a premium, so the Board created a bidding process for this space that was to go through the Town Manager's Office. It was a start that addressed a situation where we had a longtime business partner using that space, and it created those other spaces. Now we have an opportunity to review what we came up with. The new bidder was more about cooking food, while the business that has been there was more prepared food.

Mr. Dean said we had a bid opening on December 1st, after the bids were advertised on the website and in the newspaper. There were two bids, Michael Oliveira at \$4,000 and Clyde Bullen at \$2,400. They both responded positively to the bid specifications. On December 5, we had a concern about the truck of the lead bidder. We were told that the truck would be 18 feet long, for a 19'6 space, so we felt that was ok at that time. We sent letters to Mike Oliveira and Clyde Bullen about the award of that space. We needed certain things from the high bidder, including the VIN and license plate number and a business name. On December 12, we investigated an issue of a trailer hitch with Primex and they advised us about resolving this with white no-occupied zones, which was resolved on December 19. On Dec 21, we were told we wouldn't have a VIN number yet as the truck was being built from scratch. They also couldn't get the certificate of insurance. On Dec 28, they reiterated that the unit would be built from scratch, and should be ready the first week of February. They were

informed there would be no agreement until that was done. A check for \$4,000 was dropped off. On Feb 14, got a notice that the truck was in the State and went to the “wrap guy,” and the town would be receiving a certificate of insurance. The target was early April for a final inspection with the Health Department. On Feb 14, we followed up again on the COI and VIN. On March 19, we got pictures of the trailer. On March 20, there was an article in Seacoast Online about the “Jukebox Diner.” We had been working with the bidder on finalizing things. Three or four days ago, the lead bidder decided to withdraw their bid and we refunded the check today.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked when the second bidder was notified that they were not the winning bidder. Mr. Dean said on Dec 5.

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Select Board delegated the process to the Town Manager’s office, but the buck stops with us. He’s concerned about the language of the RFP. It would be awarded to the vendor submitting the best qualified bid, but “qualified” is a subjective word. Usually when we get a permit application, it’s a done deal. We know what they’re going to do, how they’re going to do it, they have certificates of insurance, and so forth. Parks and Rec doesn’t approve anything until those things have been done. Swasey Parkway is the same. If someone’s bidding on a parking space to conduct business with a business model that’s not ready, he doesn’t think that’s qualified.

Mr. Chartrand said the RFP states that this would be submitted to the Select Board for approval. Had that not happened yet because you were still working through the process? Mr. Dean said yes.

Ms. Belanger said she wasn’t on the Board before, but takes responsibility as part of the Board now. The process wasn’t started early enough. It should be in place by the first of the year, not in March or April. This was advertised November 24, the bids were opened 5 days later on December 1, on December 5 an award was made and a denial was made, and the FD hadn’t reviewed anything. There was an issue about propane. One bid had a time that they would be open and closed, the other was a suggestion of dates and times. The Board doesn’t want to learn things from the paper or social media. She’s concerned about the size of the truck at 18’ long, with a 19’6” parking space. It was a trailer so it would be dropped off and picked up there. Did the bidder say why they withdrew? Mr. Dean said that with everything that happened in the process, they wanted to withdraw. They are still working with us on an alternate spot and they seem happy about that.

Ms. Gilman said we had to ask for proof of insurance, but that should be part of the permit. She would consider that not a complete application without it. Ms. Roy said that in the permitting process, they are allowed to give us their insurance after it’s approved. They’re not allowed to hold the event if they can’t provide it. It can be with the application or it can be part of the process.

Mr. Papakonstantis said we want to facilitate the process for folks who want to do business here in Exeter. He’s proud that we support our local businesses. We also have the responsibility to make sure our citizens are safe.

He's bothered by how we interpreted the bid as being qualified when there were questions about the size and structure. This had not gone through all the Departments. Mr. Dean said the structure is now built, and was days from going through the approval process. Mr. Papakonstantis said if the bidder with the highest bid isn't ready to go on January 1st, he's not sure that's "qualified." Mr. Dean said he agrees that it had not gone through Department approvals, but looking at our regulations for the bid process, that was one of the gaps we found in the process. Our regulations are predicated on "we will supply you as part of the process as it goes along," but we can tighten that up.

Mr. Papakonstantis said it may be time to revisit the whole idea. We were under the pandemic and were under a lot of pressure to get something going. Ms. Gilman said we didn't have that discussion in 2021 because we didn't anticipate someone not having something ready to go. They were only using it for 6 months but we gave them the lease for the whole year. Ms. Belanger said we could start the process in October and whether they use it for the whole year is not her concern.

Mr. Papakonstantis suggested offering the space to the other bidder [Clyde's Cupcakes] at a prorated cost.

Mary Tiegel of 9 Union Street said as a designer who has set up a temporary marketplace, it may be helpful to pull the physical components just as if someone were applying for a building permit. There was a bicycle pop-up by Dodge's Agway. In the Facebook thread, people were tossing around ideas for other spaces. If it's done on the fly, you're at risk for arbitrary and capricious judgments. The requirements should be specific so applicants know if they qualify. She trusts they'll work out something that is equitable.

Mark Bessler of 8 Haven Lane asked if the Fire Chief was not looped in on this to date. Mr. Dean said yes, not yet. Mr. Bessler said propane is a highly regulated hazardous material. As a layperson, the first person to check with is the FD for propane in a congested downtown area. There is a national fire code which NH has adopted that requires a 10 foot clearance from any mobile vending unit with propane. The town has awarded the space to a business that can't legally use it. The relevant code is NFPA 50.7. He doesn't know if there can be a waiver. He had a commercial driver's license for 30 years and the dimensions of the truck are only the dimensions of the box itself, not the trailer. Based on the photos, there are 3-4 feet of "tongue" after the box, including propane storage. You're looking at 22 feet. The language of zoning states that the vehicle must fit in that parking space. During Covid there was concern about the size of a vehicle parked in that spot. This seems to be bigger than the one that was complained about. The eyeline with the vent on top is also taller. The town was tone-deaf on complaints about size in issuing this permit. Logistically, for the other spots at Townhouse Common, the typical width of a food truck is 7 feet and the space is 7-8 feet. You can't put food trucks next to each other. There's room to learn from the current experience to make sure permitting is in place. It's unfortunate that

both businesses have suffered reputational damage from a not-very-well vetted and thorough process by the town.

Mr. Dean said regarding propane, in talking to the vendor today, he was talking about inverter generators [which run on gas]. We don't want to pre-suppose the final outcome of the fuel source. The other points are well taken and we are learning. We will try to refine the regulations that are part of this process.

Assistant Fire Chief Justin Pizon said there will be no waiver for 10 foot rules [for propane]. We are on the 2018 version of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. Anyone who does business in Exeter should do their due diligence and come talk to the FD. We would never be ok with propane downtown within a foot or two of a car. The fire code is clear: there must be a 10 foot distance from anything combustible.

Mr. Chartrand said this was never approved. It is only approved when it comes to the Select Board. We were working with the high bidder. This should come to the Select Board earlier in the future. What we did out there is built for what Clyde's Cupcakes does. They're packaged foods that they're not preparing on-site.

Clyde Bullen, owner of Clyde's Cupcakes, said in 2020 we had a discussion, it could be coffee, it could be ice cream, it could be anyone who was mobile following the peddlers policy. He invested in a truck that has an inverter to follow the guidelines. It cost \$40,000 to put that into a truck. When the bid was submitted, it requested a photo of what was going in there. Why he made a statement [on social media] was when he saw a photo of a truck that had a propane cylinder on it, there was no way that truck was going to be approved. It wasn't because he lost, it was because he lost to something that had no way to get approved. In 2013, with his first truck, the FD told him that the truck was too big and he couldn't have it downtown. He's listened to what the town is saying. He's upset to see this in the paper. There are three articles ruining his brand. There is [negative] instant messaging coming to his family. This entered a realm that wasn't necessary.

Ms. Cowan said she's worried that this was ostensibly approved. She doesn't think it's appropriate for the Select Board to be in the process, but it's important for the appropriate people, such as the FD, to be in this process. That will help us thoughtfully think through what areas of town can accommodate what kinds of businesses. We have to direct applicants to the right people who can say "this is not an appropriate bid." We would have avoided this whole thing.

Mr. Dean said regarding the propane, it's not in our specifications, so when we go back and look at the specifications we should focus on that.

Mr. Papakonstantis said it's March 25 and the bid was accepted December 5, and the Fire Department never saw the proposal.

Ms. Belanger said social media and the newspaper took this and ran with it, and we can't help that. We are going to get this fixed.

Ms. Gilman asked if there is an association of food vendors. Mr. Bullens said NE has two associations. He does over 300 events a year, he understands

the paperwork and regulations. He thought the mobile vendors in town would help the town understand. Ms. Gilman said we followed what Portsmouth does but didn't go beyond that.

Mr. Chartrand said Mr. Bullens has invested a significant amount of time developing this space. We could give him some type of "pioneer" status to match future bids, if it's allowed under the law. The process was designed for a truck like his and it may not make sense to open it to all.

Mr. Bessler said it is the business owner's responsibility to understand the requirements. According to the RFP, where you don't need to have the permit in place, we should identify as a town which permits and licenses are essential to begin with and which can be done along the way.

Ms. Gilman said the spaces in Townhouse Common were reserved so they would be horizontal and far enough away from each other. No one is using it full time, so they put out cones on the days they are going to use it.

Resident David Kovar said he wishes it had not come to Mr. Bullen speaking out publicly, but he appreciates that he did. This helps the public understand what is going on. He read the RFP and the permit application. He can see how favoritism could be a concern with a word like "qualified." The DOD rules run dozens of pages. When you have that stuff specified up front, vendors know if they should submit an application or not. If you put "no propane," the other person never would have applied. Mr. Bullen created the value in that space. No one else took the risk of putting a truck there. We can reward that investment by making sure it's a fair and transparent process. Having some kind of favoritism makes it hard for people to come in and be innovators.

Paul Royal of 3 Pumpkin Circle said Mr. Bullen is the hardest working guy in the cupcake business. The Select Board does control social media to a point: when you don't have a clear process, that's when social media gets out of control. He doesn't love the aesthetic of anything parked downtown but he appreciates what they've built. If someone got hurt, the lawyers could say "what were you thinking when you put a truck in the middle of the street." There are so many rules in this, what's the cost-benefit analysis of putting more businesses like this downtown? People come to Exeter for the past and quaint places, not to see something pink [the Clyde's Cupcakes truck]. The [proposed] truck with music was a lot. What is qualified? According to whose judgment? He thinks we should let Clyde do his thing and when he's done and retired Exeter should be done with this.

Mr. Bullen said he loves what he does. Downtown Exeter is not making him rich. The main reason he goes downtown is so that the young people of Exeter can see there's a different person, a black person. He interacts with the kids and designs stickers for the kids. He is beloved. He wouldn't be in downtown Exeter without having \$2M insurance. He's lost numerous cones because they're custom-made pink cones. He's trying to bring a benefit to the town he lives in. His business is going to take a hit from this. He put in a bid, he lost, and he took it in stride, but when he saw a picture of a truck that didn't meet the requirements

that he had to follow, he had the right to ask the town. He's been in business over 14 years and hasn't had a complaint, but he seems to be fighting with the town every 3 years. All he wants to do is sell sweets and have fun.

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Board doesn't control social media. He doesn't go on social media much. Regardless of what we try to do as a town, and we're continuing to improve, social media is still filled with inaccurate statements. What we can do is when something is brought to our attention is put it on the agenda and have a hard conversation face to face. We don't want to fight with anybody. We try to be as transparent as we can. We want to listen to the public and our experts. We had a flaw in our process and he apologizes to all parties because this should have gone better. In the short term, Mr. Dean's office should contact you [Mr. Bullen] to offer you a pro-rata bid. The long term is that we're going to fix this.

Ms. Cowan said we should revisit this process and get community input. She's not a fan of the discourse on social media but she is a fan of newspapers. If there is something like this, the Select Board should be informed earlier. We are all caught off-guard when there is an accusation of unfairness.

Mr. Royal said the Select Board has gotten better and better about transparency. What he meant about social media is that when they have a process that works, they won't face the wrath of social media.

Mr. Chartrand said he likes the pink [of the Clyde's Cupcakes truck]. We need more color against the white trim and the brick.

Ms. Belanger said we should have the FD, Health Inspector, and Russ sit down with the current draft. We should start earlier, like October 1st, and make sure everything is in line by January 1st. Mr. Papakonstantis said the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager should bring it up during the leadership meetings. Ms. Gilman said we should reach out to our vendors and ask them to put us in touch with other vendors so we can get a good sample.

b. Review Town Voting Results

Mr. Dean said it was a very successful election. The four bond issues passed. The Police Station and Fire Station passed by 63.4%. School Street Area Design and Reconstruction, the Webster Avenue Pump Station, and the Surface Water Treatment Plant all passed with above 70% of the vote. The Budget passed by 69.2%. Water and Sewer both passed at 71.4% and 81.2%. The Planet Playground land purchase is in process; its makeover passed by 79.8%. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan for Water Street passed with 86% of the vote. The Sick Leave Trust Fund passed by 77%. The Parks Improvement Fund passed with 67%. The Snow and Ice Deficit Fund passed with 78.6%. The appropriation to the ADA fund passed with 76%. The appropriation to the Swasey Parkway Trust fund passed with 85%. The adoption of the Investment Services for Trustees of Trust Funds passed with 81.3%. The Solar Array Revolving fund passed with 80.7. The Water/Sewer Advisory Committee change passed with 80.8%. The Heritage Commission change

passed with 82% of the vote. The Rugg Property Citizens Petition passed with 87.6%. The other citizens' petition failed, with 34.8% in favor. Overall it was a successful night. The Webster Avenue Pump Station bid recommendation will be coming up.

Mr. Papakonstantis thanked the Town Moderator, Town clerk's office, workers at the polls, and the voters.

Mr. Chartrand said the BRC is important to the process of a successful town election. These volunteers vet the budgets and capital improvement plans. We are scrupulous about following their recommendations. The process is very intense and is some of the most important work in the town. Ms. Belanger said everyone should follow the budget process. You learn a lot.

Ms. Gilman said the town also votes on the school districts, our packet should include the results of those votes, because it all goes into our tax rate. Ms. Belanger said we should add in the write-in names and the numbers of votes they got.

c. 2024 Paving Contract Extension

DPW Director Steve Cronin recommended proceeding with a one-year contract for Bell & Flynn for 2024. Ms. Gilman said the price has been the same for several years.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the renewal of the paving contract with Bell & Flynn for paving services for the 2024 construction season: 1) Bituminous concrete pavement - machine method at \$71.90 per ton for binder course, \$72.90 per ton for surface course, \$73.90 per ton for urban compact service course, \$74.90 per ton for cul-de-sac streets and leveling course; 2) Bituminous concrete pavement - hand method at \$140 per ton; and 3) Bituminous concrete curb/berm at \$4.50 per linear foot; and to further authorize the town manager or his delegate to sign the appropriate contract. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

d. Automated Mower Proposal

Parks and Rec Director Greg Bisson showed a video on the automated mowers. Mr. Bisson said the Parks and Rec has always struggled to complete the mowing tasks. The Keegan report said we are short two staff members. He [Mr. Bisson] went to a conference last year where he saw how the wave of robotic mowers is sweeping the nation. This has been in trend in Europe for a long time. There's one at Fenway Park that mows every night. These require less storage space than regular mowers. There are "doghouses" that they charge in during the day. They stay at the locations. There's no fuel. There are fewer maintenance tools needed. The mowers can work in the early morning or the middle of the night. They are quiet and efficient. We get real-time notifications. They have GPS trackers and theft protection. Last year, with the heavy rains, it was hard to keep up with mowing; these can operate in the rain. They run on electricity rather than gasoline. They're not zero-emissions, because they were manufactured with emissions, but when we run a ride-on mower it's like driving a car 100 miles. The micro-fraction of grass goes back into the ground and is

absorbed as food, rather than turning to thatch. They're quiet; we tested one and you could walk next to it and not know it was running. It's no louder than an air conditioner. We ran it by Primex and they said it was brilliant to mow when the parks are least active. They have built-in anti-theft features: an audible alarm, a camera that will take a picture of you, and an automatic shutdown of the blade. The long-term savings is reducing fuel costs, fewer parts to buy, and a long shelf life: 10-20 years depending on maintenance. These would go at Brickyard Park and the Rec Park. Just based on the Parks guys' salaries at 12 hours a week, that's a savings of \$16,800 per year. These cost \$35,000 for 4 years, or \$8,856 per year at \$0 interest, so there's a substantial savings. The blades are included during the lease purchase. It's the cost equivalent of buying blades for the bigger mowers. We would buy a new battery in around 8 years, at about \$250. Husqvarna are at the leading edge of this. The other company we looked at was NextMow, but these we would have to drop off and pick up. Husqvarna wants you to buy local and asks you to get 3 bids. We got two, one from Automated Outdoor Solutions and one from Seacoast Power Equipment. There's a difference of \$13. We will do two parks for now. We want endorsement by the Select Board to move forward. The Rec Advisory Board voted unanimously to support this. It would come out of the Rec Revolving Fund, but we will try to recoup the cost with the field-lining robot. He had proposed higher contracted services in the 2024 budget, but this is an opportunity to not burden the taxpayers.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if he wants to buy 7 mowers without trying them out. Mr. Bisson said we tried just one and it was able to do the soccer fields perfectly. The EYSA said they were the best conditions the fields have been in.

Mr. Chartrand said this is a no-brainer.

Ms. Belanger asked about putting in the charging. Mr. Bisson said we need to extend electrical at both parks, at a cost of \$15,000. We would have done this in the future for programming anyway.

Ms. Belanger asked how heavy these robots are. Mr. Bisson said 30 pounds. That's why they can mow in the rain and don't damage the field.

Mr. Bisson said when the guy painting lines retired, we contracted with someone using a Tiny Mobile Robot. We can set it up to line the field and go do another activity, it will send us a text when finished. It will make the parks more efficient. He showed a video on the Tiny Mobile Robot.

Mr. Bisson said it takes our guys 2-3 hours to lay out a soccer field and the painting takes another 1-1.5 hours. It takes the robot 15 minutes to set up and 24 minutes to line, while they're doing other tasks on the field like weed trimming. It can do logos, parking spaces, vendor spaces for festivals, or graphics. The paint we purchased previously will last us for 5 years. We estimate we can bring in \$15-16,000 a year painting organizations' lines.

Mr. Bisson said the Board approved fiber to be run out to the pool, and the company can run the electrical line at the same time.

Mr. Bisson said robots will never replace people. We will need someone to maintain the robots. This will give our guys hours back in their day to fix other things. There are things robots can't do, like planting grass.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if there is a difference in cost for quantity. Mr. Bisson said we need 7 for the acreage. There's no discount. Mr. Papakonstantis said he's a big fan of pilots. Mr. Bisson said we could also expand to Gilman Park and Park Street. Also the lagoons; currently a guy from the Water Department goes out and mows them. We would never have to have anyone on those slopes.

Ms. Belanger asked Mr. Bisson to keep track of the actual savings to present to the BRC. Did he talk to Mr. Cronin about using one? Mr. Bisson said no, this is specifically for these 2 parks. The DPW would be down the road.

Mr. Papakonstantis said he is reluctantly going along with 7. He would have preferred fewer to start off. He asked that MR. Bisson have the savings information when he goes before the BRC and Select Board for future robots.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into a four year lease purchase for 7 Husqvarna 550 EPOS mowers, charging stands, and 4 reference stations through Seacoast Power Equipment at a total of \$35,424.47, or \$8,856.12 per year, to be paid from the Recreation Revolving fund annually at 0% interest. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to expend no more than \$15,800 from the Park Improvement Fund to contract with Days Landscaping and Maldini Electric Inc to extend electrical services at the Rec Park and Brickyard Park. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to allow the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into a 5 year purchase to acquire one "Tiny Mobile Field-Lining Robot" for a total of \$33,000, or \$6,600 per year, to be paid out of the Recreation Revolving Fund annually at 0% interest. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

e. Adopt Pairpoint Committee Charge

Mr. Papakonstantis said he and Ms. Gilman put together a draft for the Exeter Pairpoint Stakeholders Advisory Committee.

Mr. Chartrand recused himself from the matter because his landlords at the bookstore donated the park and it's inappropriate for him to judge this. He feels comfortable voting on other things downtown but this was related to his landlords.

Ms. Belanger said under committee goals, the third bullet should say "shall" instead of "should."

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

Mr. Papakonstantis said once this is approved, we should start interviewing candidates. Mr. Dean said we already have some applications

already on file. Mr. Papakonstantis said there will be 9 volunteers with no term limits, plus one from the Rec Advisory Board as a voting member. The Town Planner, Parks and Rec Director, and Select Board Rep would be non-voting members. Ms. Belanger said she would rather the Rec Advisory member just be there to report, not to vote. Mr. Dean said he would make that change.

Ms. Belanger asked if they have more members to interview than positions, how do they select the members? Mr. Papakonstantis said for the Police Stakeholders' Committee, the Select Board members took turns appointing members and then voted. The Board was consistent with appointing folks who each brought something different to the table.

MOTION: Ms. Cowan moved to adopt the Exeter Pairpoint Park Stakeholders Advisory Committee charge with the change proposed. Ms. Gilman seconded. Mr. Chartrand did not vote. The motion passed 4-0.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit for 104/79/701 in the amount of \$500 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit for 104/79/304 in the amount of \$500 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit for 87/8/C-10 in the amount of \$500 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit with Disability for 68/6/334 in the amount of \$2,000 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Solar Exemption for 70/119 in the amount of \$10,000 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption for 95/64/168 in the amount of \$152,251 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption for 104/79/216 in the amount of \$183,751 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption for 104/79/1012 in the amount of \$152,251 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an Elderly Exemption for 15/1 in the amount of \$183,751 for tax year 2024. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

b. Permits & Approvals

Mr. Bisson said our LWCF application has been moved to the next level, to the National Park Service. Since we're absorbing Planet Playground, we need to do a new boundary survey for 4 Hampton Road. We could use ARPA funds to pay \$6,700 for Doucet to do the survey. They previously did it in 2019 for exploration of expanding the park there. They're available within two weeks. We have a deadline of May 15 to submit the survey to the State.

Mr. Dean said the ARPA balance is \$143,219.

Mr. Papakonstantis said this is consistent with how the ARPA funds have been used.

Ms. Belanger asked if this is all for the costs. Mr. Bisson said yes, for a while.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to allow the Parks and Recreation Dept to expend \$6,700 of ARPA funds to contract with Doucet Survey to complete the updated boundary survey of Recreation Park which is required for LWCF grant eligibility. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the MS232 report of appropriations actually voted and authorize the Select Board to sign it. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis said an Alewife Festival Permit was submitted by Kristen Murphy. Ms. Belanger said the event is May 11 from 10-1.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the special event permit application for the Alewife Festival, to be held May 11, 2024. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis said Exeter Gas Realty is looking for reimbursement of penalties and fees of \$116.62. They admit it's their responsibility to respond to their mail, but the mailing address was incorrect. Actually, the address was correct but the suite number was incorrect. They've made payment in full.

Ms. Belanger asked if there is a once-in-ten-years policy for abatement. Would they use it for \$116? Mr. Dean said that's not a policy on tax issues.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if this would set a precedent.

Ms. Gilman asked if an address change made in one Department would be shared through the organization. Mr. Dean said yes.

Ms. Belanger said this issue with suite/unit numbers happens now.

Mr. Chartrand said he prefers not to do this as it sets a precedent. Mr. Dean said he also prefers not to do this; if that's the sense of the Board, he doesn't need a motion.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. The townwide revaluation process is continuing.
- ii. The Assistant Town Manager and Welfare Administrator are working on the transition to the new position.
- iii. He spoke at the Rotary prior to the town election.

- iv. There are new chairs in the Nowak and Wheelwright Rooms donated from a bank closing, facilitated by Parks and Rec.
 - v. We met twice on the Fire Station, and today we sat down with Lavallee Brensinger. We will be getting back to the Board with recommendations.
 - vi. There were three weekly operations meetings in March on Fridays, and those have gone well.
 - vii. He was appointed to the Finance Revenue Policy Committee of the NHMA.
 - viii. We held our bi-weekly leadership meeting last week and discussed the town election.
 - ix. The Executive team meeting on Wednesday.
 - x. Kingston Road sidewalks are still on schedule for April.
 - xi. For the Siphon update, there was a disconnect with the drill head. The contractor is working on a solution. They're planning on using an air hammer which will create noise, which should start tomorrow at 9 AM. We're working to notify residents.
- d. Select Board Committee Reports
- i. Mr. Chartrand met with a group convened by the Economic Development Director. The group is trying to figure out a welcome center for the train. It was a great meeting. We heard a report from the person who coordinates the passenger rail on the Downeaster.
 - ii. Ms. Cowan had no report.
 - iii. Ms. Gilman was in the State House during her scheduled meetings. She gave an update on State issues.
 - iv. Ms. Belanger attended the Housing Advisory meeting. They had an update on legislation and a discussion on the two zoning ordinances that passed. The Town Manager suggested ways of communicating how this works. The Conservation Commission meeting was on voting day so she did not attend; Dave Sharples will come to the Board about the urbanization exemption. One person on the Conservation Commission does not support it. For Raynes Farm, in the next budget season we need to think about funding. Kristen Murphy has run into an issue where she was not awarded a grant and they've talked to her about withholding some funds that are available. The deterioration at Raynes Barn is happening. We should consider getting some money to get this done and let her work on grants for the next phase. The Planning Board was canceled due to a lack of quorum.
 - v. Mr. Papakonstantis said the Arts and Culture Commission also had quorum issues. The Tree Committee talked about trees they would plant with their new budget. Swasey Parkway had a lot of placeholders with waiting for Spring. He would like to invite them back in April to talk about the roadway. We could invite Mr. Cronin to contribute ideas. He would like to come up with multiple options and allow the public to give input. River

Advisory met last Thursday and heard from Mr. Vlasich on the siphons and Jake San Antonio gave an update. The Feasibility study will be finalized on April 30. There were residents from Brentwood that spoke. Once the study is completed, the River Advisory Board will make a recommendation to the Select Board. The Board received an invitation from Renay Allen to the marker unveiling honoring Exeter's Revolutionary War soldiers on May 4 at 10 AM.

e. Correspondence

- i. A legislative bulletin from NHMA
- ii. An email from Chris Pappas's office
- iii. Information from our Health Officer on tick prevention
- iv. A note from Eversource that they have completed the transmission structure replacement project
- v. A memo from NH DES regarding a preliminary large well siting/groundwater withdrawal permit application.

10. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next meetings are 4/1, 4/15, 4/29, 5/13, Tuesday 5/28, 6/10, 6/24, and 7/8. The goal setting meeting will be Saturday April 13 at 11 AM.

11. Non-Public Session

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public under RSA 91-A3II(a). Ms. Cowan seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0 and the meeting entered non-public at 9:54 PM.

The Board emerged from non public session. Ms. Belanger motioned to seal the minutes indefinitely, seconded by Ms. Gilman. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Adjournment. Ms. Belanger motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Cowan. The Board stood adjourned at 10:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary