

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Campbell convened the Board at 7:08PM and introduced the Board. Present: Vice Chairman Lionel Ingram, Clerk Paul Binette, Joseph Pace, Robert Eastman and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of Selectmen's meeting of March 29th.

Mr. Pace moved to waive the reading of the minutes and to accept them as submitted; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Bid opening – DPW Rubber Tire Loader Backhoe.

Three bids were received (attached). *Mr. Binette moved to instruct the Town Manager and DPW representative review the bids and return with a recommendation at the next meeting; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.* Mr. Binette asked if this item was included in the budget? Yes, this was not deleted with the default budget.

4. Bid award:

Police – Packet Cluster Radio System: Mr. Olson reported all bids received were above the amount budgeted and the recommendation is to not accept either.

Swimming Pool – Sand Blasting/Painting: Mr. Olson recommended accepting the low bidder, Associated Concrete Coatings of Manchester, NH, at \$19,750. *Mr. Ingram moved to accept the recommendation as noted; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.* Mr. Olson stated no bids were received for the filter repairs/chairs/diving standard at the pool. He will return with a recommendation on how to proceed at a later date.

5. Request to place directional sign in the right-of-way – Ashbrook Road

Cynthia Childers and Steve Cole requested five signs to direct customers to their “Elephant’s Garden” on Ashbrook Road. The locations include each end of Ashbrook Road, one at High Street/Route 88, intersection of Portsmouth Avenue/High Street, at Hampton Road/Route 111. Mr. Binette asked if they had contacted the utility concerning placement of signs on the poles. Ms. Childers stated she has been in contact w/DPW and they have stated they would install the signs if approved. Mr. Binette noted RSA 236:75 states no ads are to be placed on certain objects, including telephone poles. Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Olson to review this for clarification.

Mr. Eastman noted he could support 3 of the 7, at Route 88 and each end of Ashbrook. Ms. Childers noted NHL Skate has more around town than 3 and she related their being off the beaten path to her situation. Mr. Campbell reiterated Mr. Olson’s concerns that the 141 other approved home occupations would have similar requests.

Ms. Childers noted that if the Town is going to allow home businesses, they must also be allowed to signage. She can't direct people to her business at the present time and the State will not allow signs on the State roadways as Exeter is in the urban compact.

Mr. Ingram feels two signs would reduce others coming forward but still get people directed to her location.

Mr. Eastman moved to approve installation of two blue signs (double sided) to be placed at each end of Ashbrook Road, pending research of the RSA's concerning posting; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

6. Request for 2-hour parking during school hours: Lincoln Street – Exeter Center for Creative Arts.

ECCA is requesting a 2-hour parking limit in front of ECCA, 52 Lincoln Street, continuing to the entrance of the train station. Presently, EHS students parking along Lincoln Street, taking all the spaces and parents must park further up Lincoln Street to pick up their children at ECCA. Also, at 3PM when EHS students pick up their vehicles, a safety issue arises when they drive away quickly and students are walking to ECCA from Main and Lincoln Streets schools.

Mr. Olson ran the issue by the Police Chief and Public Works Director. The Chief recommends limiting the number of spaces over concern of filling up train station spaces and other spaces in front of Lincoln Street businesses. The 4-5 diagonal spaces in front of ECCA would be best.

Arthur Baillargeon, Tremont Street, noted the spaces need better marking. He asked why these would be 2-hour and not 1-hour like the rest of the limited parking area on Lincoln Street.

This is the first of 3 readings.

7. Update on new High School construction & request to defer payment of building permit fees until September 1, 2007 – Walter Pierce

Mr. Pierce explained the building permit fee was not in the original \$49 million proposal and was not included in their budget this year. Mr. Campbell asked why they would not pay some each year over the next three years vs. waiting till the end of the project. Mr. Pierce noted the impact fees are not yet in and they prefer deferring the payment till close to the school opening.

Mr. Eastman asked what authority the Board has to delay payment? He noted the Board may waive any costs for projects of the school, as they have in the past, but it is not stated in the policy or in the fee schedules set-up on how to delay payment. Chapter 22 of the Town's ordinances does not address postponement. ZBA Chapter 13 states the Town adopted the BOCA code and Section 1110 of that states a 'permit' will not be issued till paid. This is part of zoning and should come before the Zoning Board – not the Board of Selectmen. The Board did make the recommendation to collect building permit fees as part of the construction costs.

Mr. Eastman asked what happens if the funding is turned down at School Meeting, would they not pay? Mr. Pierce noted they would include this in the operating budget. Mr. Pace suggested two fiscal budget seasons of 2005-06 and 2006-07, thereby being paid by the time the school opens.

Mr. Ingram moved to allow deferred payment for two years with the first payment in September 1, 2005 and the second in September, 2006; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

Update on construction: There was a challenge this winter before the plans were final to meeting the September, 2006 opening. Wetland permits were received November 7th and construction started in late November to prepare for the April building construction site. Goals completed include:

- fill at two locations of building wings had to be in for 3 months – they were in by January 5th and compression was achieved;
- building footprint was excavated for spring drainage;
- primary road completed ASAP to get construction off Old Town Farm Road – completed by 2/06/04;
- erosion control was set;
- logging was complete in the 5 fields in the back and at the detention pond. This happened between Thanksgiving and mid-March.
- Architect is completing design of the building and should be done by mid-May; to bid by end of May and awarded early June.

Mr. Pierce reviewed the various phases of designs and their status. He presented copies of ‘virtual’ scenes from various areas of the school (attached). The Clerk of the Works has been hired and the erosion control is being monitored weekly. Some blasting is expected but is less than expected. Neighbors have been notified and many took the school up on videoing of homes. They are working on buffers for adjacent abutters.

Mr. Pierce noted the site is holding up well with drainage and run-off from last week’s.

Mr. Campbell asked if, during the blasting, wells are being monitored and assessed. Mr. Pierce went on to explain dam permits, traffic on Route 27, tuft management. The lighting plan is not yet designed.

8. Amendments to Town Ordinance 1204 Sanitary Production & Distribution of Food – J. Jervis

As Deputy Health Officer, Ms. Jervis explained that many of the changes are the result of NH adopting provisions of the 2001 FDA Food Code, which includes more than 18 changes to He-P 2300. Those directly effecting the Town’s ordinance 1204 include definition wording, items required on the application, redefinition of class of license, documentation of critical items, administrative fines increases and a new chapter for closure of a facility for an imminent health hazard, among other items.

This is the first reading.

9. Amendment to Town Ordinance 103.8 Restricted Parking – Harbor Master Parking.

Our Harbor Master, Bud Field, is requesting a parking space at Stewart Park, next to the island by the launch ramp. Mr. Olson and Police Chief Kane have reviewed the area and it appears to be the only option if a space is provided. There were no comments from the Board. This is the first of three readings.

10. Amendment to Personnel Plan – Sick leave for year-round part-time employees.

The Board originally agreed to this concept in November, 2003 but questions arose on the ‘how-to’ process. Mr. Olson, Selectman Pace and HR Director Barbara Blenk have met and worked out details for implementation. The amendment change is to add a new item to Section 13.3. Calculation begins January 1, 2004 based on the average hours per month an employee will earn. There is also additional wording to Section 3.21 “Part-Time Employee”. See attached.

Mr. Ingram moved to amend the Personnel Plan as proposed; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

11. Permits:

- Project Prom/Graduation requested use of the Town Hall from Friday, April 16 through Monday, April 19 for their annual yard sale. Pick-up of remaining items will be by the Salvation Army on Monday.
- The Middle School Destination Imagination Team requested fund raisers on Saturday, April 17 from 8A-1P and May 8 from 8-2 for selling donuts and plants, respectively, and to block off spaces by the Bandstand to sell their wares. The events will raise money to send the team to the Global Finals in Knoxville, Tn. Ann Plumer-Fisher explained the funding.
- Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce requested use of the Town Hall on May 1st for a Kitchen Tour Workshop from 8-10:30AM.
- Phillips Exeter Academy’s graduation is Sunday, June 6th. The President made his annual request to close Front Street from Tan Lane to Elm Street and to block Tan Lane. They will arrange police coverage and barricades, and will communicate with the Baptist Church for parking during their church service.
- The Exeter Brass Band requested use of the Bandstand and blocking spaces by the Bandstand on the evenings of their concerns, June 28, July 5, 12, 19 and 26 from 7:30-9PM.
- American Independence Museum requested permission to display banners advertising the annual Revolutionary War Festival on July 17, during the month of July; also the use of the Town Hall for a musical performance; a parade from the Bandstand to the Museum from 10:30-11, and to block Water Street from 7AM to 6PM on that date.

Mr. Pace moved to approve all permits as read; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

12. Town Manager’s Items:

- Next meeting is April 26th.
- The Board is seeking volunteers for boards and committees, as well as residents to serve on a Town Manager Search Committee. Call 778-0591 if interested, or use the application form in the Town Report.
- The Council on Aging is seeking the oldest person residing in Exeter in order for the Council to present the Boston Post Cane. Contact the Town Manager’s office.

13. Selectmen’s Committee Reports:

Mr. Eastman – none.

Mr. Binette – none.

Mr. Pace: He reiterated the need for residents interested in serving on the Town Manager Search Committee to send in a letter or form.

Mr. Ingram: Linden Street Re-Use Committee meeting is Tuesday.

Mr. Campbell: Downtown Historic Committee was last Tuesday; EDC is tomorrow morning and the Conservation Commission meets tomorrow night.

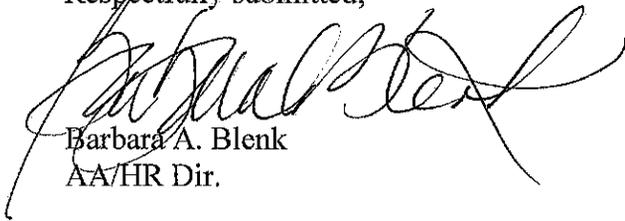
14. Public Comments:

Michael Dawley asked the Board to reconsider their vote on the signs for the Ashbrook Road 'business' and to table action. He apologized for not appearing during discussion. As a member of the Zoning Board, he noted there are many problems with home occupations in town and this particular business pushes the 'home occupation' definition. He believes it is a commercial business and does not belong in a neighborhood. More information is needed.

Alan Bailey asked the board to not waive any permits for the school. He noted when the project was being "sold", a large amount of money was to be in the contingency fund. Also, as items get done, they are stating they are saving money. All the while they are saving money, the Town appears to still be on the bottom of the list. He urges no waiver of permits.

Mr. Pace moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Blenk
AA/HR Dir.

attach.