

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman William Campbell convened the Board at 7:00PM on the above date in the Nowak Room. Also present: Lionel Ingram, Joseph Pace, Robert Eastman and Town Manager George Olson. Absent: Paul Binette.

2. Minutes of the Selectmen's meeting of August 16, 2004.

Mr. Pace moved to waive the reading of the minutes and to accept them as submitted; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: 3-0, with 1 abstention.

3. Appointments to Exeter River Advisory Committee

Chairman Campbell read the list of suggested names for the Committee, including Lionel Ingram to serve as Chairman. They include: Victoria DelGreco (W/S Supt), Jennifer Perry (Town Engineer), Brian Comeau (Fire Chief), Christopher Moutis and Carol Waleryszak (residents), Dolores Cipriano (Property Manager at The Mill), Bob Kief (Assoc. Director for Facilities Maint @ PEA). He noted the Committee needs one more resident and a representative from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission – with appointments at the Board's 9/13 meeting.

Mr. Pace moved to approve the appointments as read; second by Mr. Eastman, for discussion.

Mr. Eastman stated the appointment of Mr. Ingram as Chairman of the Committee is in contradiction to Selectmen's Policy (89-19), whereby the Chair is elected by the membership of the Committee. Mr. Pace noted the last two committees appointed (Town Manager Search and River Advisory) have Selectmen as chair, suggested for a variety of reasons and the policy is superceded because of these. When not specified, the policy would be followed. He noted the policy is created as a guide.

Mr. Ingram stated the policy is used as guidance but the group uses judgment when discussing the issues and he feels the choice of Chairman other than a Selectman is not appropriate for this event. Mr. Eastman stated the Board should follow its own policy. ***VOTE: 3-1.***

4. Parking Committee report to the Board on current efforts.

Tracey McGrail, President of the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce, was present to update the Board on the progress of the Chamber's "Parking Task Force". She noted the Force includes several Town representatives.

Parking in Exeter has been a problem for decades and not much headway has been made till now. Through the Master Plan and the Chamber's 2002 parking study, comments have been received to reveal long-term parking appears to be the biggest problem. The Task Force has thoroughly investigated a number of options to address the shortage, including buying property, leasing property and building a garage. None are a quick fix and none are cheap.

Areas considered include: The Mill (appears less viable for long-term); PEA lot by Swasey Parkway (they're re-thinking the whole block for space, building, etc.); Citizen's Bank lot (great spot for

terrain, but this recently sold and the new owners may expand parking for new tenants); Al's Automotive, Franklin Street (owns middle of block, he may be moving).

For the garage at the municipal lot, the Task Force spoke with Portsmouth, as their situation is similar. It was built in the '80's with 640 spaces and they have since added 300 more in 2000. They had a 20 year bond and paid it off in 14 with the revenues from the garage. They return \$1M to the City, after expenses, every year. The design for Exeter's was preliminarily done by Mark Moeller, current President of the EDC, a resident and an architect with JSA. The building conforms to area buildings and does not "scream parking garage". The cost is estimated at \$6.2 Million.

For the long-term vision, the Chamber suggests the Board approve a \$5.00 charge on each car registered in Exeter (17,000 cars) as a 'user fee'. Additional revenues could also be seen via meters in the public lot (pay and display), with 3 meters servicing the 130 spaces. An estimate of \$12,500 could be received in one year.

Mr. Eastman asked which RSA covers the regulation to charge an additional fee for registering cars, to go to a separate fund. RSA 261:153. Mr. Ingram asked, with the trouble we're having with the State and computerizing the licensing process, could/would they take the funds. How would this work with their procedures. Mr. Olson is to check with Linda Hartson, Town Clerk.

Mr. Campbell asked if the garage covers the front lot and leaves the Bow Street lot. Yes. Mr. Ingram asked Ms. McGrail to check on the view of the garage from the River and from other angles, for it not to become a huge eyesore.

Mr. Pace feels people will seek alternatives, noting he does not feel parking is a problem but 'parking convenience' is a shortage. He prefers an alternative to a garage, noting it's tough to sell the voters on indoor parking for fire trucks and this is a lot of money for car parking. Mr. Ingram asked Mr. Olson to return to the Board with ideas.

Art Baillargeon, Tremont Street, questioned the meters in the town lot and how would this be monitored. Ms. McGrail noted the machines would be spaced throughout the lot and parkers would pay in advance for time. The current parking enforcement officer would continue to ticket expired time. Mr. Pace asked if merchants would give discounts or redeeming coupons – possibly.

5. First reading of fee changes – Assessor's Office.

The Assessing Office has presented changes to the fees charged for copies from that office. The changes are in line with what other departments charge for similar services. Mr. Eastman asked if someone wanted a copy of all the items (property, address and owner) what would the cost be. Barbara Blenk, Admin. Assistant, responded that each list provides the same information (property, address and owner), it just depends on what type of "sort" you want.

Alan Bailey, Green Street, asked if the lists are available on disc. Mrs. Blenk noted that cost is already listed and not being changed (just above the proposed changes on the list)(See copy attached). The change is read at one meeting; acted upon at the next (9/13).

6. 2005 Budget Process – Initial Steps.

Mr. Olson reported over the next two weeks he will be meeting with Department Heads and mid-Management personnel to review each line item in preparation of the 2005 budget. At the September 13th meeting of the Selectmen, the proposed budget and CIP will be presented. This will not include warrant articles. The Budget Committee will receive initial information regarding the organizational meeting and requests for committee assignments for their meeting on September 23rd. The Selectmen will act on the proposed budget and CIP and forward to the Budget Committee.

Other dates of interest include: January 11th – petitions due for warrant articles; January 19 – 28 – filing period for elections.

Mr. Ingram asked if the Budget Committee was at full strength? No, short two members. Could someone be appointed? No action is usually taken without Town Meeting votes. The public is invited to attend budget sessions, however.

7. Permits:

- Jeannette Lackey requested permission for a block party on Grove Street on September 11th from 3-7PM;
- Rose Bryant requested permission for a block party on Union Street on September 18th (rain date 19th) and close the road from 11AM to 6PM;
- Seacoast Progressive Alliance requested use of the Town Hall on September 27th from 6-8PM for “Granny D” for US Senate;

Mr. Ingram moved to accept the permits as presented; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.

The Exeter Area Retail Committee requested use of the Bandstand and public areas around the downtown for a display of scarecrows as part of the Harvest Festival and their “Land of the Scarecrows” beginning October 15th and continuing through November 1st (see enclosed explanation letter). Mr. Campbell asked if the Selectmen can grant permission for the telephone poles – no, they must contact utilities directly. Mr. Ingram expressed concern over rainfall and ratty conditions of the “crows” and would the group take them down. Mr. Pace expressed concern over the enthusiasm of our youth. ***Mr. Ingram moved to approve both permits with the request the sponsors ‘stay up to snuff’ on their condition; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: 3-1.***

8. Town Manager’s Items:

- Political signs, according to NH State Statutes, are prohibited from public rights-of-way. In general, this means inside the sidewalk by the road and between the road and telephone poles. If found, they may be removed and tossed. Mr. Eastman noted this also refers to furniture sales and other signs. He was also under the impression the Town must contact the candidate (or store, etc.) to inform them the signs have been removed and where to pick them up. Mr. Olson didn’t believe there is any stipulation on that. It was suggested the Town prepare a policy on signs in the rights-of-way to reflect the State Statutes. Mrs. Blenk noted we already have an ordinance on the books, with a penalty affixed. (502.2 & 510). Mr. Ingram suggested a note to departments informing employees to keep a heads up on signs in the Town’s rights-of-way.

- The Town's offices are closed on Monday, September 6th for Labor Day. Rubbish and recycling are delayed a day all week.
- Household Hazardous Waste day is Saturday, October 2nd from 8:30AM to 12 noon.
- Fall pick-up (big ticket items) is the week of November 1st, regular trash day. Tickets are available at \$2.50 from the Town Offices (8-4:30) and Public Works (7-3:30).
- Supervisors of the Checklist will be at the Town Office on September 7th from 7-8PM;
- Absentee ballots are in.

9. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

- Mr. Pace: HDC met two Thursdays ago and gave approval for the Presbyterian Church's new design. He commented it was very nice and we look forward to their structure back on the corner of Front and Center. The September 10th deadline for resumes for the Town Manager's position is fast approaching. The Committee will review and narrow their selection down soon after.
- Mr. Ingram will speak with the Town Manager this week about the River Committee, to which he was just appointed Chairman, and get that Committee off the ground.
- Mr. Eastman: Planning Board was this past Thursday and granted a conceptual approval to a warehouse on Continental Drive. Also, a sub-division on Powder Mill Road. The next meeting they will discuss the CIP.
- Mr. Campbell – none.

10. Public Comments:

- Alan Bailey, asked of the Board's general control regarding non-public sessions (per RSA 91-A) and the appropriate way to address and review items; go in to and out of sessions. Specifically, the August 16th meeting had a non-public before and non-public session following the regular session. He noted that once discussion is complete on why the non-public session was held, the Board must come out of the session and then adjourn. He noted the minutes don't reflect these actions and there is no mention of any other topic than 'personnel matter'. He asked the Board to please review.

Mr. Bailey also asked how correspondence received is handled. He stated he was aware the Board had received some letters in support of the Pledge of Allegiance being said before the meetings and wondered how this item becomes an agenda item. Mr. Campbell stated he and the Town Manager review items. Some items were received after the agenda was set and both he and Mr. Olson had been away and the agenda was not changed. Mr. Bailey asked Mr. Campbell to please consider this item for the next agenda.

Mr. Pace noted the agenda is the purview of the Chairman and, though he may solicit comments from other Board members and the Town Manager, he sets the agenda. Mr. Bailey asked if the item could also be addressed under 'Public comments'? Yes, of course.

- Brian Griset, 26 Cullen Way, asked about the River Committee and, based on phone calls made this past weekend with the flooding, it appears the Town is still under the policy decided on April 14th (only flood watch/warning or 5" of rain) and not that discussed at the last meeting. He noted one selectman visited his property and saw the flooding but it appears

it will remain flooded till the Committee takes action. He asked how long the Selectmen will give the Committee to set up regulations and is it for the 'greater good of the Town and its drinking water vs. the 20 residents now being subjected to flooding property.

In relation to the flooding and Assessing, it appears no instructions have been given to Vision employees as they review the properties and the impact the flooding has on them.

In regards to the composition of the Committee, Mr. Griset notes the same people are on it who have worked on the issues and continue to raise the water to allow it to be sold out of town. Following events of this last weekend, who reacts and responds. Mr. Campbell stated most questions will be directed to the Committee. He stated there is an intermediary meeting this week with Mr. Olson, Mr. Ingram and himself.

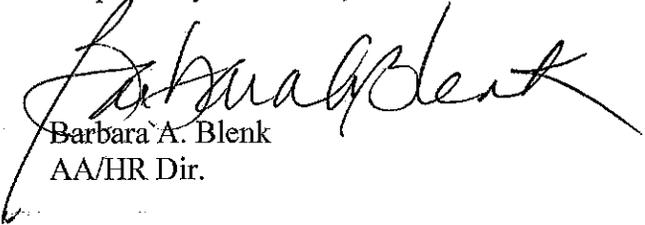
Mr. Griset stated every official down through the departments he has spoken with seems to not understand their responsibilities of who has the authority to open and close the gate. Mr. Campbell noted it seemed to be only Mr. Griset's impression as he spoke with the Highway Superintendent today and he is well aware of his responsibilities. Mr. Griset stated that as of last Monday, he did not.

- In response to concerns over the scarecrow noted during the vote, Mrs. Blenk passed along correspondence just received that thanked the Board for their support and assured the Board of the following: No telephone poles will be used unless the utilities give their permission; Scarecrows will be maintained in an attractive manner by the clubs/organizations/retailers or the Scarecrow will be removed by the Festival committee; The Committee may determine two weeks is too lengthy for the display and they thanked the Board for allowing the Committee to make the final determination.

Mr. Eastman noted that correspondence is usually handled as this was – read immediately upon receipt.

Mr. Pace moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara A. Blenk
AA/HR Dir.

attach.