

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Joseph Pace convened the board at 7:02PM on the above date. Also present: Paul Binette, Robert Eastman, Lionel Ingram, William Campbell and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meetings of February 10, 2003.

Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes of February 10, 2003 as submitted; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Introduction of Mike Favreau, Exeter's new Parks & Recreation Director.

Mr. Olson introduced Michael Favreau to the Board and to the audience, both present and via cable. Mike is from the Cape with 25 years of experience in the Parks & Recreation field; is married with two sons and hopes to move to the area this summer. Mike reported the first two weeks have been enjoyable and he is very happy. There is a lot to learn and catch up with. He should have a recommendation for the appointment of an Assistant Director by the end of the week. He plans to continue existing programs and summer programs at the present time and then add his "own stamp" as time goes on and the weather breaks. Everyone welcomed him to Exeter.

4. Bid award – Town Hall elevator.

Mr. Olson reported his recommendation of Target, NE at \$137,000, also the low bidder. He noted the estimated expense increase includes more than just the elevator, noting a vestibule was added to house the elevator outside the building (to keep the elevator separate from the main hall) as well as the Hall secure from outside access, and renovating the stage which was included in the 2002 warrant. The Town Hall elevator article raised \$40,000 and \$60,000 was raised privately by the Arts Committee and Jane Bentley. *Mr. Eastman moved to accept the recommendation and award to Target, NE for \$137,000; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.* Clarification of the breakdown of funds: \$90,000 from the two warrant articles and \$60,000 raised privately. Mr. Olson noted some of the work (roof repair, gutter, etc.) will be performed by our crews.

5. Discussion with Legislative Delegation.

Representatives Arthur Tufts, Kurt Roessner, both of Exeter, and Jeff Gilbert of North Hampton were present to meet with the Board. Mr. Tufts is currently on the School/Education committee; the other two are on Ways & Means. Mr. Gilbert thanked the Board for the invitation to the meeting and hopes to obtain a better understanding of what the Board wishes and would like addressed.

Chairman Pace noted the Board wishes to keep the lines of communication open and turn to them for assistance, and vice versa. Mr. Ingram noted the variety of services "out there" and questioned how better to work together. He wishes to better aware of events in Concord.

Mr. Gilbert noted the activities of the House are posted on the Internet, as well as the text of bills. Also, NHMA provides articles with their points of view on bills being considered. He noted he and his fellow representatives are responsible to the citizens in the whole state. Mr. Ingram suggested a 'heads up' from the representatives on what might be controversial or of importance to our area.

Mr. Binette noted the Board formerly received a newsletter from the representatives with information on committees and bills being proposed but he has not seen that in a while. Mr. Olson noted the Town still receives this, though just one copy off his computer, rather than individual mailing to each Board member. Discussion continued concerning economic development and tax relief and tax policies concerning education funding and the approach to same.

Mr. Campbell noted the LCHIP was a huge benefit to Exeter, with two such grants used for land purchase and barn renovation. He urged them to find ways to keep this program available.

6. Appointments to Council on Aging.

Mr. Eastman moved to appoint Pat and Frank Travis to the Council on Aging; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous. [Both will complete the terms of current vacancies through April 30, 2004.]

7. Request to waive bid procedure – Portsmouth Avenue traffic signal & waste/recycling

Traffic Signal:

Mr. Olson reported that DPW Director Noyes requests a waiver of the normal bid procedure and to authorize a contract with Electric Light Company Inc., to supply and install the new traffic signal system at Green Hill/Portsmouth Avenue intersection. Mr. Olson noted the following:

- the quoted price of \$62,000 is over \$18,000 less than the engineer's estimate, which should keep the entire project's costs under estimate;
- they have maintained our traffic signals for over 15 years and provided quality service;
- contracting with a different contractor may compromise quality & responsiveness for long-term maintenance;
- Selectmen approved a similar request for High Street/Portsmouth Avenue lights;
- this project is combined with the Hospital's Alumni Drive/Portsmouth Avenue signalization project and they agreed to contract directly with Electric Light Co. Inc.

Mr. Eastman moved to waive the bid process for the street light project at Green Hill/Portsmouth Avenue; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous. It was noted the cost of synchronizing Green Hill w/Alumni Drive is being shared by the Town and the Hospital.

Waste/Recycling Collection:

Mr. Olson reported our present contract with Waste Management is nearing its five-year completion for rubbish and recycling transport and disposal. He was approached by Waste Management representatives, at the NHMA Annual Meeting, of continuing the contract without going through the bid process. He asked them to present a plan he could address with the Board. They have recommended a one-year extension at a 5% increase or a three-year extension with a 5% increase each year. He noted the original discussion with them indicated as much as a 10-15% increase.

Mr. Ingram asked if there were competitors. Mr. Olson noted at least two have expressed an interest in bidding for the project, and no commitment has been made with Waste Management. Mr. Campbell asked if this included both rubbish and recycling. Yes, though bid out separately, it has historically been collected by the same firm.

The Board felt competition was a good thing and recommended bids be requested for both programs.

8. Acceptance of Commerce Way:

Mr. Olson reported staff and counsel have been working to get everything in order to accept the roadway over the past several months. Though not usually accepted during the winter parking ban, in this case the road was viewed by Public Works prior to winter setting in and all is in order. The delay is the result of getting the paperwork associated with the acceptance in good order. All materials have been reviewed and found acceptable by Town Counsel. Mr. Eastman noted if it snows tonight and the road is accepted, does the Town plow? Yes.

Mr. Eastman moved to accept Commerce Way as a Town road; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.

9. Discontinuance of Cable TV performance bond.

Mr. Olson reviewed the attached letter from ATT Broadband requesting discontinuance of the performance bond that was part of the agreement signed in 1992. All issues the bond covered have been completed and there is no reason to continue to require the bond. He reviewed the matter with counsel and they agree. *Mr. Ingram moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the release of the performance bond; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.*

10. Permits:

- Phillips Exeter Academy requested permission for a bike/road race on May 10th from 2:30-5PM. The route has been signed off by the Chief and the insurance certificate has been provided. **Approved.**
- Exeter Brass Band requested use of the Bandstand and, in the case of inclement weather, the Town Hall on June 30, July 7, 14, 21 and 28th for concerts. **Approved.**

11. Town Manager's Items:

- Town Reports are out and available. Mr. Olson noted the cover photo was provided by Chairman Pace and so noted in the report.
- The Town Meeting is on Tuesday, March 11th with polls open from 8AM to 8PM.
- The Town's audit begins March 31st.
- Mr. Swasey and Mr. Kozacka unveiled the sign for the Gale Park and they hope to have in place by April 24th, with an unveiling at 1:30PM. The additional fund balance has been covered.

12. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Campbell: none

Mr. Binette: Parks Advisory meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Ingram: Council on Aging meeting held with Warren Henderson making a fine presentation concerning the school project.

Mr. Eastman: volunteers are needed for the Planning Board, send applications to the Board of Selectmen. [note: most all committees have openings as of April 30th – applications being accepted for all].

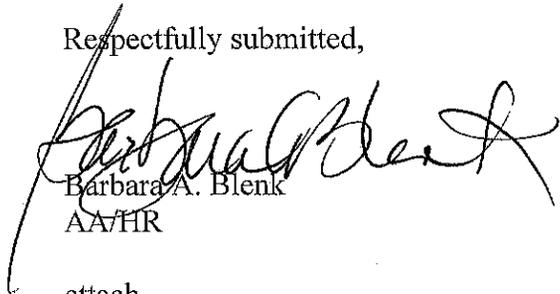
Mr. Pace: HDC meets on the 20th and they are reviewing several applications.

The Board's next meeting will be March 17th, with a work session scheduled for next Monday the 10th to discuss Master Plan.

13. Public Comments: None.

Mr. Ingram moved to resume in a non-public session to discuss a personnel issue; second by Mr. Eastman. Roll call vote: 5-0. Time: 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara A. Blenk', is written over the typed name and title.

Barbara A. Blenk
AA/HR

attach