

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Binette convened the Board at 7:05PM on the above date and introduced those present. PRESENT: Lionel Ingram, William Campbell, Robert Eastman, Joseph Pace and Town Manager George Olson.

2. Minutes of Board of Selectmen's meeting of August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

*Mr. Campbell moved to waive the reading and to accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.*

3. Bid Opening – Waterline Replacement Court Street.

The item was withdrawn till a later date.

4. Bid Awards

**Fire Station design:** Mr. Olson noted these were opened at the last meeting and the Committee, with a tight deadline in sight, requested the Town Manager poll the Board with the recommendation. The Board agreed to award the bid to Dennis Mires, Manchester for \$17,000.

**Swasey Bandstand copper roof:** Mr. Olson recommended the award to go Crocker Architectural Sheet Metal, North Oxford, Ma. for \$48,000. In answer to Mr. Eastman's question of the last meeting concerning what becomes of the present roof, it will be stored at DPW. The proposal is to use it to create mementos which will create a fund to maintain the structure. *Mr. Pace moved to award as recommended to Crocker Architectural for \$48,000; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.*

**Trees:** The bids were received August 25<sup>th</sup> and opened at 10:55AM with Chairman Binette and Mr. Olson present. There were two bids received. The recommendation is to award to Urban Tree for \$8,720. *Mr. Campbell moved to award as recommended; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.*

5. Report on Library parking speed humps.

Mr. Olson reported on a memo received from Town Engineer Jennifer Perry, noting the clarification that the 'tables' as noted at the last meeting are actually 'humps'. She noted speed humps at the Library cannot meet the ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers) criteria for sight distance, though one could be placed in the lot on the southeast side that would provide about 100 feet of distance from the intersection. She did, however, suggest the cheapest solution is to place a "do not enter" sign at the Chestnut Street end of the lot. This would still allow two-way traffic while in the lot. [String Bridge would have both exit and entrance; Chestnut Street only exit.]

*Mr. Ingram moved to adopt the sign concept and direct the Town Manager to install a "Do Not Enter" sign on the Pleasant Street/Chestnut Street end of the Library lot; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.*

6. First reading of change to Ordinance 301 – Clifford Street to two-way.

Chairman Binette referenced memos received from Department Heads concerning their thoughts on the change. (He later read them; attached for reference).

Kathy Gallant, Blue Moon, 8 Clifford Street, noted the first reading was the last meeting as noted in the minutes. She commented that when speaking with an employee recently, the person noted she “appeared to be the only person concerned with the one-way on Clifford Street”. She represents 34 employees, 400 people who signed a petition and owns a vital business in town. Since the one-way direction, she was forced to reduce her payroll by 30% and reduce purchases. The Blue Moon is an important part of the vitality to the town and she has currently withstood ten months of construction with the bridge project while serving on the Chamber of Commerce traffic study and downtown revitalization project. She stated that throughout the engineers’ presentation and report, they suggest the one-way traffic pattern but any serious impact on businesses would be cause for serious reconsideration. Parking is not the most important problem of downtown.

In response to the memos read by Chairman Binette, Ms. Gallant noted she has a parking plan for deliveries off Clifford Street and noted the police have been seen using the municipal lot for access to the station and not Franklin and around as noted. She addressed the concerns with traffic turning from the bridge onto Clifford noting this is one turn vs. the 3-4 turns used going through the center of town to get to Court Street and/or the Blue Moon area. The engineers suggested ‘seeking input’ and to ‘see how it goes’, including talking to the neighborhoods and merchants.

With 102’ frontage, Ms. Gallant’s drivers could back into her lot to the door and still leave at 30’ in/out for customers. Also, early deliveries will be made and not at ‘high noon’, similar to that posted in the downtown area.

One problem now is the stop sign at the Clifford/Water Streets intersection is too far back from where motorists can see down Water Street for on-coming traffic. They must then creep out into traffic, sometimes interfering with someone turning to Franklin Street.

Chairman Binette stated he did not want three lanes back on the bridge and noted the Water Street traffic moving east has the right of way. This could cause a back-up on the bridge. Ms. Gallant noted the traffic pattern has not been tried since the stop sign at the Town Hall has been in placed and feels the on-coming traffic at the bridge is significantly slowed because of it.

Mr. Ingram noted he sat at Franklin Street and was surprised that at least 4 vehicles with Mass. plates proceeded down Franklin Street, rather fast, and assumed headed south. This is now directing traffic through a neighborhood being used as a through-street and is concerned that more will discover that route. He suggested the recommendations of Mr. Noyes’ memo in using the right-of-way by the Blue Moon. Ms. Gallant noted it has been discussed but Mr. Lampert has not been approached. She noted her original request was not to request going back to 2-way, but her research shows the Town is setting itself up for more issues and problems, being less user-friendly.

Mr. Ingram suggested she look at her location and direction issue and let the Board worry about the safety issue. Getting people to her business is her concern.

Mr. Eastman feels the left hand turn onto Franklin is not backing up the traffic on High Street. It is just heavy traffic that is increasing daily but he feels the problem will get worse with also a left onto Clifford.

Chairman Binette noted the one-way traffic created seven more spaces and, unfortunately, the whole area on the east end of Water Street does not have the diagonal spaces as the lower end does, allowing less spaces. The loading zone is helpful to the Blue Moon and those businesses at that end. Ms. Gallant noted the parking on Clifford is all day parking and there is no turnover and the loading zone is not enforced as a loading zone by the police. She blocks the area with cones when deliveries are coming. Following the deliveries, the space is a 'free for all'. She also noted that Exeter is an old town with narrow streets, so Clifford is not unique in that manner, with String Bridge at 20', Water Street, by the Bakers' Peel, is 19'. Old towns do not accommodate traffic well.

Tracey McGrail, President of the Chamber, read from a letter she sent to the Board this date, noting the Chamber supports the Blue Moon and Ms. Gallant in returning Clifford Street to two-way. After several meetings with the department heads in questions, at no time was there a compelling argument against two-way. They suggested not keeping the seven additional spaces acquired with the one-way traffic was a good trade-off for the safety and support of business. She noted the Town has not been committed to one-way as it should be, noting no bump-outs, curbing, etc. Motorists are creatures of habit and, if it looks the same, will do the same.

Mr. Pace noted that everyone taking a left onto Clifford Street would not all be going to the Blue Moon.

7. Third & final reading of Ordinance 101.2 change – limited parking on High St & Hampton Rd.

Mr. Campbell noted he would not be voting as the issue in question affects the front of his home. Mr. Ingram asked if any questions had been received concerning the change. Mr. Olson stated no, though one person stated they should go to the meeting. ***Mr. Pace moved to adopt the amendment to Chapter 101.2 as presented; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Mr. Campbell asked if the Board should consider extending the no parking to the Portsmouth Avenue intersection, as the area is very congested, thereby making the entire length of High Street, both sides, as no parking.

Mr. Eastman believed some of the parking there was from the doctor's office and they should have off-street parking. He agreed there should be no parking in that area and, it may allow an extension up High Street of the right-turn lane for Portsmouth Avenue, alleviating the traffic back-up that far up High Street.

The Board agreed to consider this the first reading of the extension.

8. Second and final reading – handicap space on Tan Lane.

James Gilmore, Safety Director at Phillips Exeter Academy, was present to answer Board questions. Mr. Binette asked if the space was for the one student noted in the request? No, for anyone, particularly as the building is used for public events. He noted the student would be dropped off and

is not parking on his own. Mr. Campbell asked about a spot in the lot by Jeremiah Smith Hall. Mr. Gilmore stated there are currently two spots there. They proposed the space on Tan Lane in order to prevent the need to cross Tan Lane and proceed up grade to the Hall.

***Mr. Pace moved to approve the additional handicapped parking space on Tan Lane; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.***

9. Discussion of optional veteran's and service-connected total disability property tax credits.

**Veteran's credit:** Mr. Olson noted Mr. Eastman had requested this item be placed on the agenda. The State recently changed the Statutes to allow towns to increase the veteran's credit of \$100 to as much as \$500. Action is required at Town Meeting but the Board could vote to indicate support of the change and place on the Town Meeting warrant.

Mr. Eastman noted that since his request to place this on the agenda, Mr. Olson received a citizen's petition to change the exemption to \$500. If the Board agrees to a different figure, there would be two petitions on the ballot. The change to \$500, affecting 688 people (currently), would mean 21 cents on the tax rate (\$275,200).

***Mr. Eastman moved the Board sponsor a warrant article for the 2004 Town Meeting to raise the veteran's exemption from \$100 to \$500; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***

**Disabled veteran's credit:** It was noted there are currently 23 residents receiving the disabled veteran's credit. The Statutes state a Town may raise the credit from \$700 to as much as \$2000. Raising the credit to \$2000 from our current \$1400 would amount to about \$13,800 in taxes (23 x \$600).

***Mr. Campbell moved to recommend increasing the service-connected total disability veteran's credit from \$1400 to \$2000 and to place the request on the warrant for the 2004 Town Meeting; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.***

10. Discussion of annual re-assessment update.

Mr. Olson noted Mr. Eastman had requested this item be discussed to delay the adjustment of values for three years so Vision may complete its work. Mr. Olson noted that the 3-year Vision program was entered into with no thought that value adjustments would not be made annually while they were doing their work. The value of property is now at 87% of its market value. RSA 75:8 requires Selectmen "...in the month of April in each year,.. re-appraise all... real estate as has changed in value in the year next preceding, and shall correct all errors they find in the then existing appraisal; and such corrected appraisal shall be made a part of the inventory..." Mr. Olson reminded the Board that prior to yearly adjustments, upwards of 500 residents were seeking adjustments to their properties. In 2003, only 53 sought an adjustment (less than 1% of properties). He noted for the past 11 years, all properties have been revalued each year to keep values current and, in turn, as fair and equitable as possible. He sees no reason not to continue the policy of annual reassessment and recommends the Board support an updated for the 12<sup>th</sup> straight year.

Mr. Eastman agreed with what the Town Manager stated except the Town is at 87% because that's where we want to be. He went on to provide information, based on RSA 75:8-2, which sets the

standards to use in evaluating. He feels we should waive that option this year. He questioned whether some properties listed by Mr. DeVittori on his analysis sheet had been used the year before, i.e. July of '02 and used in this year's analysis also being used in last year's. Mr. DeVittori stated no: the current analysis is based on July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 regardless of what the list shows as sale dates. He cannot manipulate the software program in order to show the full date of sale.

Mr. Campbell stated the method used in the past 11 years seems to have worked and, with a time brunch at hand, suggests we not wait till Vision is complete with their update. He noted they are only updating those changes missed during the year. **Mr. Campbell moved to proceed with the annual assessment update; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: 3-1.**

11. Proposed budget process for 2003-2004.

Mr. Olson noted there are not legislative changes in the schedule for election of officers and budget approval for SB 2 towns, so we will proceed as in the past few years, with October and the first part of November as the busy budget period. (see attached schedule).

Mr. Eastman asked if the water and sewer budgets would be included in the process. No, the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee handles review of those, acting as its Budget Committee, and presents to the Board. Mr. Eastman noted the Budget Committee is elected to act on a budget but water and sewer is not included in that. He suggested that next year the process include water and sewer.

12. Permits:

- Rose Bryant requested permission to hold a 5<sup>th</sup> annual block party on September 20<sup>th</sup> on Union Street. **Mr. Campbell moved to approve; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Maureen Barrows requested permission for a banner across Water Street from September 22 through October 6<sup>th</sup> to promote the "Mud in your Eye" bike race to benefit the David Barrows Adventure Fund. **Mr. Campbell moved to approve; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Donna, David & Scott Taylor, representing the Boy Scouts of America, requested use of the Bandstand on Saturday, October 11 between 10AM and 3PM as a refreshment area for an Eagle Scout Fundraising project. **Mr. Pace moved to approve as long as there is no conflict with the replacement of the Bandstand roof; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.** [Note – further review on Tuesday, 9/9/03 shows this will be in the middle of reconstruction, so permit approval is withdrawn.]
- Ruth Paul, American Cancer Society, requested permission for a walkathon on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> for the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" 3-mile walk. The route was approved by the Police Chief. **Mr. Campbell moved to approve; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**
- Jan Russell and Bonnie Roth returned to discuss their request to use the Town Hall on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Premier Party to thank underwriters and decorators, in celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival of Trees. They had requested the Board waive the food/beverage policy and allow serving wine during the event. An insurance certificate is on file. **Mr. Pace moved to approve; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.** It was noted the floors will be protected.

13. Town Manager's Items.

- Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Board will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the new High School property at 7PM. This will be the only item on the agenda. Next regular meeting is September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Household Hazardous Waste Day is Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30AM to 12 Noon at the Public Works Garage. He will have more information as the date nears.
- Fall pick-up will be the week of November 3 through 7 on regular trash days. More information to follow.

14. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Pace: Historic District meeting on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> in the Nowak Room.

Mr. Ingram: Rockingham Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday in Portsmouth at 6:30PM.

Linden Street re-use is in Phase I and should shortly have ideas from 'sending towns'.

Mr. Eastman: Planning Board this Thursday will be CIP with department heads.

Mr. Campbell: Conservation Commission on Tuesday (on TV) reviewing two permits: one large dealing with wetlands on Watson Road; the other smaller on Industrial Drive.

Mr. Binette: Station Two Committee viewed a couple of possible parcels with the consensus that one was of interest, though the Committee has lots of homework.

15. Public Comments:

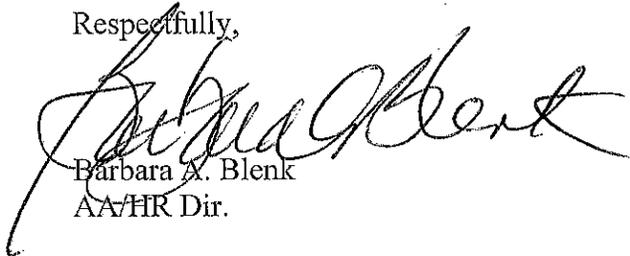
- Domenico Milillo, Front Street, recently moved to Town from Pennsylvania, having owned an engineering company. He has done light consulting in Pittsburgh, which he continues, including water and sewer plans and design consulting also in Ohio, West Virginia, Nevada and Maryland. He had several issues to mention:
- He inquired whether this is an official meeting (yes) and, after watching many official meetings, inquired why the Board does not start the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Binette noted we never have but should consider it.
- On the discussion of speed humps, they are referred to as "silent policemen" and warned about their use noting he has seen many law suits against municipalities – and they always lose when placed on public thoroughfares with notification.
- He visits Swasey Parkway for luncheon, which is lovely, but has noticed no trash receptacles. He suggested 4 or 5 strategically located throughout the Parkway and Riverwalk.
- Ms. Gallant is the owner of the 15' right-of-way off Clifford Street and Mr. Lambert is the user. She can do what she wants with it if Al's has egress, ingress and regress.
- In his review of the School project plans, etc., he saw many problems but noted the Planning Director noted there was nothing the Board could do. The review is only a courtesy. Was this true? Yes. Mr. Ingram noted there are two political bodies acting separately. Mr. Milillo noted his concerns with the water and sewer management, the driveway drainage, and additional concerns he has over the review of the fields and open areas. They show separate areas and

they don't interconnect or use filtering strips, noting there could be large problems because of this.

Mr. Eastman suggested Mr. Milillo attend next week's public hearing as a concerned citizen.

*Mr. Pace moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 9:02PM.*

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara A. Blenk".

Barbara A. Blenk  
AA/HR Dir.

attach