

Select Board Meeting
Monday June 24, 2024
6:30 PM
Nowak Room, Town Offices
Draft Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Chair Niko Papakonstantis, Vice-Chair Molly Cowan, Clerk Julie Gilman, Dan Chartrand, Nancy Belanger, and Assistant Town Manager Melissa Roy were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:30 PM.

2. Non-Public Session

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II(I). Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll-call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

The Board went downstairs to the Wheelwright Room for the non-public session.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger motioned to exit non-public session. Ms. Gilman seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting reconvened in the Nowak Room at 7 PM.

3. Fire Department - Swearing In

Town Clerk Andie Kohler swore in Donald Matheson as Assistant Fire Chief and Ryan Booth as Deputy Fire Chief.

4. Proclamations/Recognitions - Police Officer Albert L. Colson Day

Police Chief Stephan Poulin was present to discuss the proclamation, honoring a Police Officer who served Exeter in 1914-1924. This year is the 100th anniversary of his death.

Mr. Papakonstantis read the proclamation:

*Whereas, on this day, July 3rd, one hundred years ago, in 1924, Exeter Police Officer Albert L. Colson was killed in the line of duty;
And Whereas, Officer Albert L. Colson, along with a friend and neighbor, Arthur C. Bennett, reported to the home of J. Parker McDuffy on Franklin Street due to Mr. McDuffy notifying the police that after being greatly annoyed by local boys the night before Independence Day the previous year he would protect himself against any intruders;
And Whereas, upon arrival, Officer Albert L. Colson saw Mr. McDuffy sitting on his steps with a shotgun on his lap. After speaking with Mr. McDuffy, Officer Albert L. Colson tried to disarm Mr. McDuffy, who pulled out a revolver and shot Officer Albert L. Colson in the abdomen;
And Whereas, Officer Albert L. Colson died almost instantly;*

And Whereas, Law Enforcement Officers of every rank and file have chose an profession that puts their life on the line every day for their communities in answering all calls to public service, making communities safer through commanded dedication;

Now, Therefore, I, Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Chair of the Town of Exeter, do hereby proclaim and affirm July 3, 2024 as Police Officer Albert L. Colson Day within the Town of Exeter, NH. All people are hereby called upon to promote gratitude, respect, and support for Law Enforcement Officers who serve and protect our citizens and uphold the law.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Exeter to be affixed this 24th day of June, the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four. Signed, Niko Papakonstantis, Select Board Chair, Exeter NH.

5. Public Comment

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

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: June 10, 2024

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the Select Board minutes of June 10, 2024 as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

7. Appointments and Resignations

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to accept with regret the resignation of Renay Allen from the Energy Committee. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

8. Discussion/Action Items

- a. Squamscott River Siphons Update –

Public Works Director Stephen Cronin was present to give an update on the siphons project. Mr. Cronin said we continue to make steady progress. On June 10, the second siphon passed the pressure test. After that we started work on the inlet and outlet structures. The outlet structure is now connected to the 2 HDP siphons. Last Friday we started on the installation of the inlet structure. Final adjustments were made today and it's now in. Next, work will be done on the Swasey side. We'll continue work on the mill side through next week, except on the holidays July 4 and 5, and then continue the week of July 8. After that will be site restoration and cleanup. The contractor will bring a second crew in to expedite the completion of this project.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if any equipment can be moved from Swasey. Mr. Cronin said we'll know more after a progress meeting this week.

Ms. Gilman asked if there is a final day set so that we could plan on a ceremony. Mr. Cronin said we could arrange that.

- b. Pickpocket Dam Decision

Paul Vlasich, Town Engineer, and Engineer Jacob San Antonio of VHB were present to discuss Pickpocket Dam.

Mr. Papakonstantis said if there are any individuals from Brentwood here, the Board does not object to you speaking.

Mr. Vlasich read from the draft minutes of the River Advisory Committee regarding the vote for dam removal. Five of the members voted for dam removal and two abstained. Mr. Papakonstantis said he was one of the members of the River Advisory Committee that abstained, since he knew he would have to vote tonight.

Mr. San Antonio said this process started in 2011 when the State issued a letter of deficiency, and the town has since done numerous studies. The Dam Bureau has called for a decision by June 1 of this year. Paul Vlasich worked with the Bureau to extend that, but we must either modify or remove the dam by the end of 2027.

Several alternatives were considered. Alternative 1 was raising the top of the dam and building up the earthen embankments on the sides of the river. Alternative 3 was adding an auxiliary spillway to allow the flood to pass safely. Alternative 4 was dam removal, including removal of the lower weir, fish ladder, and a sediment island. He showed renderings of that option: there would be about a 10-foot water level reduction above the dam, which would taper to nothing [no reduction] around Haigh Road. He discussed the environmental, social, and economic impacts of each alternative. Regarding costs, Alternative 1, raising the dam, would cost about \$3.7M. Alternative 3 would cost about \$3.5M. Alternative 4, dam removal, would be about \$1.5M.

Regarding the schedule, we'll be looking for funding in Spring 2025, then move into the design and permitting phase, with construction to begin Summer 2027 and to be completed in Fall/Winter 2027.

Mr. Papakonstantis said whichever preferred alternative is decided on tonight would be written up as a warrant article. It would go to the Budget Committee in the fall and the budget hearing in January, then to Deliberative Session in February, and the legislative body would ultimately decide on it. He asked Mr. San Antonio to further discuss the timeline.

Mr. San Antonio said we assume funding would be secured in spring 2025 and available in summer 2025, and then we'd start the design process. There would be an initial review with soil samples and boring along the length of the embankments and collecting sediment data. There would also be a bit more surveying. The permitting phase would begin in the winter of 2026, which may take six months to a year. That's when the public meetings would occur for the different permits and notifications to abutters would be sent. We'd bid the project at the end of 2026 to allow for a summer 2027 construction.

Ms. Belanger asked how much leeway we have on the Fall 2027 completion date. Mr. San Antonio said that's the current request for action, but as long as the town is moving forward to a solution, they'll usually extend the dates.

Mr. Papakonstantis said after May 28 when Mr. San Antonio presented the feasibility study to the Select Board, he and Ms. Roy met with the Brentwood Select Board and told them this would be on the June 24th Select Board agenda. He asked if Brentwood would be interested in collaborating financially on the dam project but never heard back.

David Kovar of 38 Cross Road asked what is the legal definition of abutters and would it be possible to expand this definition. People who thought they were abutters were not notified. Also, what would the ballot look like next year?

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Select Board will choose one of the preferred alternatives tonight and that would be the one on the ballot, as a yes or no question. When he and the Board's counterparts in Brentwood met at the beginning of May, we talked about our obligations but also what more we could do. At that time, we decided to notify the Town of Brentwood of public meetings and they could notify their abutters if they wished.

Attorney Adam Dumville, Exeter Town Counsel, said the legal definition of abutter is anyone directly abutting the property at hand. Expanding the notice to everyone else will be done by the town, either by direct mailing, publication in newspapers, posting on the town website, or communications with the town of Brentwood. There are other notice requirements through the permitting process.

Mr. Kovar said his understanding is that an abutter shares a property line with the project. He's across the road from the project, so he feels like an abutter but he doesn't get notified. He appreciates that they have a plan for this going forward.

Robert Spahn of Brentwood said if you look at the graphic of the river and how it would change, the impact of this project will affect river abutters for several miles into Brentwood. Are they not abutters to be notified? Attorney Dumville said that notification in the newspaper will solve any issues with notifying abutters. Mr. Spahn asked who reads newspapers. He said this process started in 2011, and the first time abutters received the opportunity to comment was February 2024. Brentwood was founded in 1742, 90 years after the first dam was at the Pickpocket site. There's been a dam there for 370 years and the ecosystem that's developed will be drastically altered if the dam is removed.

Mr. Papakonstantis said we've had one public hearing to allow for public testimony. Prior to that, we've had posted River Advisory meetings and taken comments at those. All of those were posted. The issue was brought to the Select Board in October 2023, which was posted. There's been one public hearing but several public meetings, and there will be plenty of public meetings going forward as part of the permit process. We'll go above and beyond what's legally required to notify people.

Denise and Paul Pouliot, who were present remotely via Zoom, said they spoke on behalf of the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki people. Ms. Pouliot said for nearly 10,000 years, we had fish and water flowing. Removing that dam will return the ecosystem back to the way it should have been. Mr.

Pouliot said we've partnered with many community action groups in the Great Bay area. We see this as an environmental and social justice issue. These dams were banned in Europe because they recognized the destruction that the dams have on foodways. They were put in in New England because of greed and commerce. We support removing the dam totally.

Jim Breeling of 7 Nelson Drive said the difference between the dam-in and dam-out options is \$2M. Fiduciary responsibility is one of the reasons he supports dam removal. Consider the lens that a property owner versus a scientist would use to judge the environmental impacts. The feasibility study had limited scope, and there's actually a benefit to the entire Exeter River watershed and critical Great Bay Estuary watershed. Indirectly, the Atlantic fisheries also benefit. In support of the First Nations people that spoke, keeping in mind the environmental stewardship look of seven generations into the future, we should support and encourage that. To the point about it being a 300-year-old ecosystem, the water stored behind the dam is neither the habitat of the river or a naturally occurring lake, so that ecosystem is not well designed for species of either habitat. The dam-out option will restore the river ecosystem that has been there since the last ice age.

Catherine Edison of Conney Road said when the water goes down 10 feet, there will be a difference in the property line along the river for 6 miles up the dam. Who will pay the difference in the taxes? The town said "consult your attorney" and we didn't get any other guidance. Will the town maintain that area themselves?

Attorney Dumville said when you're looking at your deed or surveys, the change in the river level should have no effect. The deed was based on the conditions that existed at the time the deed was originally drafted and signed. It shouldn't have an impact on taxes.

Ms. Edison said she's against dam removal. Even if you don't have to legally contact the abutters beyond the direct abutters, your conscience should tell you it will be a wonderful thing to contact everyone affected.

Jay Garnett of 2 Stoney Water Road said she has 125 feet of frontage on the river. When it drops 10 feet, will she pay any more in taxes? When it starts to erode, will she pay less taxes? Attorney Dumville said there should be no change. Ms. Garnett said 286 people have now signed her petition not to remove the dam. Does their opinion matter, or will it ultimately be up to the voters? When it is on the ballot, is it going to be dam removal or keep the dam? If they vote not to remove it, what's the next step? 83% of that river footprint will disappear. A lot of animals will die that have been there for 370 years. Maybe we created this and the Native Americans don't like it, but what's there is there. Taking it away will kill a lot of animals. Why can't we just fix it?

Mr. Papakonstantis said everyone's opinion matters. We've taken opinions both orally and in writing. There was a long opportunity for people to submit comments. All of those comments were addressed in the feasibility study, particularly the questions and answers, because everyone's opinion does matter.

When he reviewed the petition submitted in May, most of the names were not from NH. That doesn't mean that he doesn't respect their opinion. Ultimately, what we decide will go on the warrant article. We're making a decision based on the evidence of experts, the questions folks have asked, and the testimony we have heard. It will be up to the legislative body of Exeter to cast a vote on the preferred alternative. Folks in Exeter determine the fate of the preferred alternative because they're the ones paying the taxpayer dollars. At the end of the day, the registered voters in Exeter have the final say. If the preferred alternative does not pass, it would come back to town staff and the Select Board to determine the next steps. The Public Safety complex passed this year, where it didn't pass the year before.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for further public comment, but there was none. He closed public comment and brought deliberations back to the Board.

Ms. Gilman said we've posted and tried to get as much information out there as possible. She feels comfortable making a decision tonight. We've had a lot of stuff come at us about our lack of transparency and notification. She wonders what Brentwood has done with their people. She's seen in their meeting notes that people have talked about it. Some pushback has to go upriver. We've done our due diligence. This process, as we know from the Great Dam project, does involve a lot more public input.

Mr. Chartrand said he was torn when we were considering removing the Great Dam. He was on the Select Board at the time. Municipal affairs are not done with a scalpel, but with a sledgehammer. Knowing what he knows now, he wishes that he had been in the vanguard on dam removal. There was a great effort to stabilize the banks. It was an unqualified success. The deoxygenated water behind that dam that no living thing can pass through is similar to Pickpocket. It's not a biome; nothing can live in it and it's very difficult to pass through it. He liked the Great Dam but what we have now is so much more beautiful and alive. It's hard to imagine that it won't be the same at Pickpocket Dam. Removal is his preferred alternative.

Ms. Belanger said we've done our due diligence. The realistic approach to this is overall what's best for our town. Change is difficult for all of us.

Ms. Cowan said she's learned that it matters when we don't take care of our infrastructure. We're not making this decision because we want to, we're making it because we have a letter of deficiency. She appreciates how hard these decisions can be but she doesn't see another choice. The other alternative is a huge investment for something that science tells us is not the right thing.

Mr. Papakonstantis thanked Mr. Vlasich for his work on this over the years, and recognized the members of the River Advisory Committee. He thanked folks from Exeter, Brentwood, and other communities who have commented. He also recognized Brentwood for giving the Board an opportunity to reach out.

MOTION: Mr. Chartrand said that upon review of the feasibility study, all of the preferred options, as well as all the public comments, both written and oral, we move to authorize the town manager or designee to implement a CIP and warrant article to remove the dam; we also seek to obtain all outside funding, including but not limited to State and Federal funding. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

c. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Theresa Walker, Rockingham Planning Commission

Emergency Management Director Eric Wilking and Theresa Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission were present to discuss the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Wilking said FEMA requires that the town maintain a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The original was from 2008 and should be renewed every 5 years. In the process of updating it, we met several times as a working group including public officials. On April 17, the draft plan was handed to Theresa to craft it.

Ms. Walker said FEMA requires a plan, and the town is not eligible for disaster relief if it's not in place. The town of Exeter was awarded grants to work on the plan, with a match of staff time. The first part of the plan discusses the natural hazards that impact Exeter; the second part talks about what we have in place to address them; and the third part is what additional steps we could take. We're not obligated by FEMA to do any of these things. To this version, we added infectious disease due to Covid. NH Homeland Security in Concord used to have the authority to review these plans, but now the FEMA office in Boston must also review them, which adds an extra hurdle. There are new requirements about transparency and making sure that vulnerable populations are aware of this. She recommends a 30-day comment period, with comments directed to Fire Chief Pizon. After that, we can send a draft to Concord and they will send it to FEMA. After they approve it, it comes back to the Board for adoption, and it's good for another 5 years. Tonight we're requesting a public comment period and that the town makes people aware of their ability to comment. After July 24 she will review any comments and send it to the State. It doesn't come back to the Select Board until after that approval.

Melissa Roy thanked Theresa Walker, who also acted as a neutral third party to moderate the Pickpocket Dam public meeting.

d. Public Works Projects Update

Stephen Cronin, Public Works Director, was present to give an update. Mr. Cronin said this is primarily infrastructure projects. The Kingston Road project is a NH DOT roadway and pedestrian safety project. It includes widening of the road out to Pickpocket Road and extending the sidewalk to Tamarind Lane, as well as a signalized crossing at RiverWoods. Construction started April 18. The first phase of widening is completed; next they'll be widening the shoulders,

installing drainage, and paving the sidewalk and shoulders. That project should be completed by the end of July.

Ms. Belanger asked about the pedestrian crossing. Mr. Cronin said it's similar to the ones at PEA but uses a push button. It will be a yellow light, not a red.

Mr. Chartrand said the personnel on that project are outstanding. There's very little traffic backup and it feels very safe.

Mr. Cronin said regarding Webster Ave Pump Station, we had a preliminary meeting April 10th and are reviewing some construction documents. We expect that the first phase of construction will start mid-July. We'll move on to the installation of a forcemain. There will be some heavy equipment in that area with noise. The abutters will be apprised of the schedule.

Regarding septage receiving, we issued a purchase order for the equipment and have been waiting for a delivery date. We have started the bid solicitation process for a month and will be back July 22nd to award installation. We would start construction immediately.

Regarding intersection improvements, for Columbus/Winter/Railroad, VHB provided three options and the town chose the least costly alternative with the least impact. Work began April 29 with geometric changes and curb-line adjustments. We've completed that work and have done loam and seeding. That project is complete.

Ms. Gilman asked if we proposed a stop sign on Railroad Ave. Mr. Cronin said no, that was not part of the project.

Mr. Cronin said regarding the intersection at Front/Linden/Pine, we're continuing to advance the design of a roundabout. We're on our fourth design concept. It will ultimately result in some property impact. We're working with one specific abutter; if we're not able to proceed we'll come back to the Select Board. Inspections showed that the sewer lines need replacement, so we'd be looking to replace those. The earliest construction would be spring 2025.

Regarding the Linden Street Bridge, we opened construction bids January 29 but they were higher than the existing appropriations. We asked DOT for additional Bridge Aid but it's not available. We tried to reduce the scope, but ultimately there are things that can't be eliminated. We've added a supplemental funding request to the 2025 CIP. If approved, construction would begin later that year. We're north of \$1M, but that includes turning back the initial town appropriation.

Regarding the Westside Drive utility project, we had some design changes that delayed that. We held a neighborhood meeting in March and residents expressed concern with groundwater levels. They asked us to re-look at the monitoring wells and make sure that the drainage system will address those. We did make some design changes and modify the stormwater BMPs, and had to go back to the State to review. We met with the State June 20th and they had some follow-up comments and questions we're working on. We're

hoping to have an approved design in the fall, bid it over the winter, and start construction in Spring of 2025.

Mr. Chartrand said there's been significant constituent inquiry here and he appreciates how Mr. Cronin has addressed that.

Mr. Cronin said regarding the new groundwater source on PEA property off Drinkwater Road, DES approved our permit in March. We've been working with PEA on a letter of intent and option agreement. This summer, we'll drill and test a new production well in July and August, which will tell us what the new source will be rated for. If that's viable, we'd bring that source through DES approval. There would be an article on the 2025 warrant, and construction would begin in 2026. This includes the rehabilitation of the Larry Lane well. The whole project will cost \$6M.

Regarding the Surface Water Treatment Plant conceptual design approved last year, he's been working with Paul Vlasich on a Request for Qualifications, and we hope to advertise that in July for a month.

e. ARPA Request for PFAS-Free Turnout Gear

Fire Chief Pizon and Assistant Fire Chief Matheson were present to discuss this request. Assistant Chief Matheson said when we respond to a fire, our skin is exposed to different chemicals, although our lungs are protected by our breathing apparatus. There are 8 kinds of cancers that we get as firefighters, and some of those rates are 200% higher than the general population. We do post-decon where we rinse off with water and the gear is sealed and taken back to the fire station. At the station, it's put through washing cycles, dried, and put back together. PFAS in our firefighting gear is also a problem. They're in drinking water and have a high persistence and toxicity. Some studies say 70% of firefighters will get cancer. The gear is an outside shell and two inner layers. In 2017, we switched our outside shell to a PFAS free shell, but in the middle, that layer contains the PFAS. In the vapor barrier, it gets onto our skin. There are no levels of PFAS that are considered safe. We wear PPE for all calls, not just fires. We don and doff this gear numerous times a day. One vendor came out with a material that is PFAS free which passed approval and is certified by UL. We've been working on a proposal with Bergeron Protective Clothing.

Chief Pizon said on May 3, he met with the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager regarding the PFAS-free gear. He wasn't comfortable with making a giant CIP request this year. On May 4 we instituted a spending freeze at the Fire Department, and \$26,000 of equipment to be replaced or procured will wait until 2025. Our goal is to secure funding for a single set of gear for each of our members and replace the second set at the regularly scheduled replacement time. Backup gear will only be worn during the time the primary gear is being cleaned. We got a bulk pricing opportunity. A single set of gear is \$3,988. For 32 sets, one set for every employee, it would be \$127,616. If we were to buy 35, it drops to \$3,622 per set, or \$126,770.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked what will be sacrificed with a freeze on spending. Assistant Chief Matheson said some equipment like saws, kits for technical rescue equipment, a battery-operated extrication tool, replacement iPads, and similar items. We can survive without them. Chief Pizon said we looked for items that would not sacrifice peoples' safety.

Ms. Belanger asked about the cleaning. Assistant Chief Matheson said about 2 hours. Chief Pizon said we feel comfortable with the backup set.

Finance Director Corey Stevens said he took the EMS fund off the table. For ARPA, we have \$130,000 funds left after the \$12,000 earmarked for the Swasey Park design, or \$142,000 total. If we were to take \$25,000 out of suppression, we would need \$101,700 from ARPA.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked about the deadline for ARPA funds. Mr. Stevens said we must obligate the funds by the end of 2024 and spend them by the end of 2026.

Ms. Belanger asked if there's something in the pipeline for the \$29,000 that would be left in the ARPA fund. Ms. Roy said we have people and departments that could come up with something. If the siphon project finishes by the end of July, we'll start getting questions about Swasey Parkway. We're coming back with a proposal for Iron Wood, and had thought we might use ARPA money. We'd only have \$29,000 left. In the upcoming year, we'll go through a revaluation, and have three union contracts we're negotiating. We're trying to be cognizant of the budget for next year.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if the Board agreed not to touch EMS funding, and they said yes. Mr. Stevens said after next year the fund will start to build back up again, but for the next 12 - 24 months it will be lean.

Ms. Roy asked if the number from the FD is \$26,000 or \$29,000? Chief Pizon said he was trying to make round numbers. It would be \$26,770 out of our budget and \$100,000 out of ARPA, for \$126,770 total.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to purchase 35 sets of PFAS-free turnout gear for the Fire Department, for a total not to exceed \$126,770, with the funds of \$26,770 to be paid by the 2024 General Fund Fire Department budget, with the remaining \$100,000 to be paid from the town's local ARPA funds, and further to authorize the Town Manager or his/her designee to sign any appropriate paperwork. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Cowan asked about the PACT Act, which covers smoke inhalation related to military service. Chief Pizon said he will look into it.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

- i. There were no abatements or exemptions considered at this meeting.

b. Permits & Approvals

- i. Epping Road Contract Award

DPW Director Steve Cronin said he's requesting to award the contract for construction of Epping Road near-term improvements to Severino Trucking, and to modify our contract with VHB. In 2021, VHB was contracted to design improvements from Continental to Route 101, including sidewalks, drainage, and widening turn lanes. Last year, we worked with Severino to come up with cost savings on the project and an estimate on construction, but it came to \$1.4M. The existing Epping Road TIF plan only allows \$1.1M. We asked them to come up with short-term improvements for this construction season and we can amend the financing plan next year. They will be widening the road and improving the drainage in preparation for new sidewalks and other improvements. If approved, the work would start this summer and be completed mid-October.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to award a contract to Severino Trucking Company for the construction of Epping Road near-term improvements in the amount of \$800,000, and to amend the existing contract with VHB to include construction phase engineering services in the amount of \$69,900. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

ii. E911

Deputy Fire Chief Jason Fritz presented a memo from Doug Eastman regarding a new public way cul-de-sac off Watson Road. This is for a 12-lot subdivision of the former Carlisle property. The proposed name is "Signature Circle," which was one of the options provided by the builder. We vetted it and there were no conflicts.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to name the newly created public street providing access to a 12-lot subdivision off of Watson Road as "Signature Circle" and to number the proposed dwellings accordingly in compliance with Chapter 14 of the Town Ordinance as depicted on the attached map. The tax map parcel is 33-26. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

iii. Dog Warrant

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the Select Board to sign the 2024 Dog Warrant. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. Ms. Roy said we held our biweekly leadership meeting.
- ii. She and Finance Director Stevens met with various departments that may be affected by proposals in the Keegan Report. We hope to bring a presentation to the Board at the end of July.
- iii. The Town Offices had an employee luncheon last week, which featured the annual service awards.
- iv. She met with Darren, Niko, and Dave Cowie about local businesses' concerns about parking related to the Ioka building project. This is a work in progress.
- v. The town celebrated Juneteenth with a day off last Wednesday

- vi. Last week during the heat emergency, although it was a holiday, the lifeguard staff and concession staff came in 9 - 5 so the community could enjoy the pool.
- vii. She continued to work on various personnel issues.
- viii. Mr. Papakonstantis recognized Mr. Bisson and Mr. Tovey. He said he asked them to find staff to provide at least a few hours of staffing, and they exceeded expectations by staffing it through the hottest part of the day. Our summers are not going to get any cooler. The library cannot always be the only option, and they were closed on the holiday as well. We should identify cooling locations or mechanisms for these heatwaves. Ms. Gilman said cooling and warming should be in our hazard mitigation plan.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Belanger attended a Recreation Advisory Board meeting. People should at the amount of programs Parks and Rec makes available. They're working on a grant for senior programming. The Planning Board met to continue a previous agenda because that applicant wasn't ready. It was a quick half-hour meeting. She said that Gwen English reported that Kristin Murphy received a Hayden Award at the Rockingham Planning Commission's annual dinner for significant contributions to the community.
- ii. Ms. Gilman gave an update on State issues.
- iii. Ms. Cowan had no report.
- iv. Mr. Chartrand had no report.
- v. Mr. Papakonstantis met with the Swasey Parkway Trustees for a quick meeting. He also attended the employee appreciation lunch and presented Melissa Roy an award for her 5 years of service. He said the owners of the loka are working with Darren and the local businesses. Ms. Belanger asked how much longer it will take, and Mr. Papakonstantis said we don't know. Mr. Chartrand said he's astonished by how long this process has taken. It has a big impact on downtown businesses. Whatever we can do to be conscious about when they take the spaces and how long, that would be good. Mr. Papakonstantis said he met with Mr. Sharples to debrief on the Rugg property and informally contemplate next steps.

e. Correspondence

- i. Two emails regarding Pickpocket Dam
- ii. An NHMA Legislative Bulletin

10. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next meetings are July 8, July 22, August 5, August 19, Tuesday September 3, September 16, and September 30. Ms. Roy said she leaves for vacation June

28 and she's out the week of the 4th, returning on July 8th. Corey Stevens will step into her place.

11. Non-Public Session

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 93-A:3II (a) and (c). Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

The meeting entered non-public at 9:29 PM.

MOTION: Mr. Chartrand motioned to seal the minutes of non-public session. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0

MOTION: Ms. Belanger motioned to exit non-public session. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Belanger motioned to adjourn. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The Board stood adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary