

Select Board Meeting
Tuesday September 3, 2024
6:00 PM
Nowak Room, Town Offices
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Non-Public Session

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3II(b) and 91-A:3II(e). Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0 and the meeting entered non-public at 6:03 PM.

3. Board Interviews - Tax Exemption and Credit Advisory Committee

- a. Betty Jean Wright
- b. Jeremy C. Myer

The Board reconvened in the Nowak Room at 7 PM.

4. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. Mr. Papakonstantis asked for a moment of silence for former town employee Joseph Baillargeon, who passed away recently.

5. Public Comment

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

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: August 19, 2024

Corrections: Ms. Belanger said on page 1, Board Interviews, Mark Furlong's name appears twice. On page 2, in the motion to authorize the work of Eagle Scout troop 323, they were supposed to come back with a design on the box, but it doesn't say if we're supposed to approve it. Mr. Papakonstantis said he didn't think that was part of the motion.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve the minutes of August 19, 2024 as amended. Ms. Belanger seconded. Mr. Chartrand did not vote. The motion passed 4-0-1.

7. Appointments and Resignations

MOTION: Mr. Chartrand moved to accept the resignation of Marissa Vitolo as Chair of the Exeter Arts & Culture Committee. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

8. Discussion/Action Items

a. Waste Zero Trash Metering Supplies and Services Agreement

DPW Director Stephen Cronin and Taylor Millspaugh from Waste Zero were present to discuss the proposed three-year contract for the pay-as-you-throw “blue bags” program. Mr. Cronin said we’re looking to enter into a contract to get some price certainty against market fluctuations over the next three years. Ms. Millspaugh said municipalities that have pay-as-you-throw programs see a 40% reduction in trash. Waste Zero manufactures all bags in the United States and takes care of all the orders and shipping. We have a customer service portion that makes it easy. It makes sure that people are taking accountability for their trash.

Ms. Belanger asked what their customer service encompasses. Ms. Millspaugh said we have a customer service team that residents can call and we’re able to ship replacement bags to their house. Ms. Belanger asked if the customer service number is on the website. Mr. Cronin said if not, we can add it. Ms. Millspaugh said Waste Zero can add the number to the bag and/or the insert.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if we anticipate the cost of the bags increasing. Mr. Cronin said we’re still working on that. There’s been a consistent increase in production costs year over year but that’s a separate issue. The last increase was in 2020. Mr. Dean said we’ve begun to do research on that.

Ms. Gilman asked if compost and textile recycling will reduce the amount of blue bags. Mr. Cronin said it hasn’t impacted the trash in a significant way. The blue bag program is working, our tonnage is fairly stable year to year. We did see a dip in our recycling tonnage so it may be time for more public education.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve a three-year supplies and services agreement with WasteZero for trash metering, and to further authorize the Town Manager or their designee to execute the associated agreement documents. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

b. Award of Septage Receiving Equipment Installation – Stephen Cronin, DPW Director

Mr. Cronin said regarding the bid award for septage receiving equipment installation, we received 3 bids that were reviewed by Wright-Pearce and DES. We got the go-ahead to award the contract to PRB Construction at \$165,000. Mr. Papakonstantis said the authorization allows the project to remain eligible for State Aid grant money. Mr. Cronin said that would be a reimbursement grant if we were to get it.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to award the bid for the septage receiving equipment installation to PRB Construction of Gilford NH in the amount of \$165,000, and to further authorize the Town Manager or their designee to execute all corresponding documents. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

c. Deed Waivers – Russ Dean, Town Manager

Mr. Dean said the tax collector brings this to the Board annually. This list is for the 2021 tax lien. We recommend a deed waiver because the properties

are subjecting the town to liabilities under RSA 80:76 II-a. We'll grant deed waivers to the properties listed in section 2 and work with the single-family homeowners listed in section 1 on a payment plan or other recourse to avoid a tax deed.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 103/13/41 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 64/105/30 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/350 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/111 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 111/5/5 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/202 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/116 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 32/12/29 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/239 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/78 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 110/2/77 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 87/14/21B under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/5 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/124 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/228 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 55/44 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/43 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/264 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 32/12/8 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 103/13/37 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/309 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 103/15/11 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/308 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 87/14/1A under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/324 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/270 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/15 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/47 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/180 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 104/79/217 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/343 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/125 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 104/79/144 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 104/79/611 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 111/5/8 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/212 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 110/2/7 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 104/79/105 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/37 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to grant a deed waiver to 95/64/41 under RSA 80:76 II-a. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

d. Grant History Update – Russ Dean, Town Manager

Mr. Dean said we've successfully obtained millions of dollars' worth of grants. The Departments work hard to seek sources of funding and execute the applications. In Public Works, the Westside Drive Construction Grant and School Street Construction Grant total \$3M. For Water/Sewer, there was a cybersecurity grant of \$100,000, a lead service line inventory grant of \$50,000, and the septage receiving upgrade was a NH DES State Aid Grant Plus which grants up

to 10% on septage receiving equipment. Parks and Rec had an energy assessment program grant of \$3,600, the Community Center Improvement project grant of \$800,000 and a Planet Playground grant of \$297,500. In Conservation and Sustainability, there was an energy grant for the energy efficiency of manufactured housing at \$200,000. There were Conservation grants of \$1,500 for a conservation dashboard, a Sea Grant, and a State Moose Plates grant of \$20,000 to support the Raynes Farm clapboard and siding project. There was a \$1,000 NH Grassroots Grow Grant to support the window dressing program. There was a State Coastal Resilience grant for initiatives on Swasey Parkway of \$18,000. The Police Department received two grants totaling \$25,000 grant from the Office of Highway Safety for driving and roadway enforcement, and a Congressional Direct Spending technical and equipment grant of \$112,000 for Police radios. In the Fire Department, there was an EMPG grant for security upgrades at the EOC for fencing, an EMT and AEMT grant for credentialing at \$6,354, and a grant to update our Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan at \$10,000.

Mr. Papakonstantis recognized the town employees and town volunteers who are aggressive about seeking grants, especially Renay Allen, formerly of the Energy Committee.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

- i. Mr. Dean said this intent to cut is on State property.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the cutting of wood or timber at 5/1. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

b. Permits & Approvals

- i. There were no permits or approvals considered.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. The MRI revaluation process continues with hearings; 379 hearings have been held. The appointment setting will end Wednesday September 4. Hearing reviews will take 4-5 weeks. The MS1 was given an extension by the DRA through October 15. MRI will look to get final values certified by the Board on September 30.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Belanger attended the Rec Advisory Board. Kids at camp named the first robot "Sir Jan." The Big Brothers Big Sisters pickleball tournament raised \$50,000. There's a push to upgrade our tennis and pickleball courts. There was a grant award for seniors from the Hospital. They discussed Planet Playground fundraising; it was suggested that a priorities list be made for extra things. The Housing Advisory Board had a second meeting to discuss short-term rentals and 79-E. We couldn't vote because we didn't have enough voting members. The Planning Board

meeting had a second public hearing on the Capital Improvements Program. They had no concerns but there were a few they really wanted to support. Case 24-10, Foss Motors on Portsmouth Ave, was approved for parking only. The building part of that project has been withdrawn. 24-11 was tabled because the applicants were not ready. 24-12 was approved; this is a residential duplex structure near Main Street School. The Arts Committee meeting was canceled.

- ii. Ms. Gilman attended an HDC meeting. They didn't have a quorum but were able to get everyone together Friday morning for the application for a change in materials and balcony on High Street.
- iii. Ms. Cowan had no report.
- iv. Mr. Chartrand attended the Conservation Commission meeting on August 13. There were two cases. In the case of Foss Motors, the Commission recommended to the Planning Board the building not be pursued because of its proximity to our surface water facility. They also took up an application on Portsmouth Ave for another dealer and made a recommendation that it proceed with care. They are fierce in defending our natural resources.
- v. Mr. Papakonstantis attended a short Swasey Park Trustees meeting. We were going to invite them to the Select Board this evening but we're not ready. They've been having conversations with Public Works, and Steve Cronin will be attending their meeting September 18. At our September 30 meeting we should have the Trustees back for next steps on the Swasey Parkway warrant article. Upcoming Select Board topics include a presentation from the Tree Committee, the quarterly finance report, a draft budget presentation, and the public hearing for cable contract. In October, the Pairpoint Park Committee will come forward with proposed next steps, and Mr. Sharples will discuss the parking study.

e. Correspondence

- i. A notice of the cable public hearing
- ii. Correspondence from Enbridge on vegetation maintenance
- iii. Correspondence to members of the Select Board from residents informing us of recently enacted HB-1014 which takes effect on September 10. Mr. Dean said this was adopted in the last legislative session. This certifies Columbus Day as the official holiday of that day under RSA 288:1. Ms. Belanger suggested raising another day [for Indigenous Peoples' Day] at the State level. Ms. Cowan asked if we can celebrate both. Ms. Gilman said only on a different day.

10. Review Board Calendar

- a. The election is next Tuesday, September 10, from 7 AM - 8 PM. The next Board meetings are September 16, September 30, Tuesday October 15, October 28, Tuesday November 12, November 25, December 9, and December 23.

11. Non-Public Session

- a. There was no non-public session at this time.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to adjourn. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary