MINUTES

EXETER TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

No. 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council led the Public in the Pledge of Allegiance

No. 2: CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The Regular Meeting of the Exeter Town Council was called order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2026, in Council Chambers, Exeter Town Clerk's Office, 675 Ten Rod Road.

Roll Call:	Daine Bampton Allen	Present
	Raymond A. Morrissey, Jr.	Present
	Jamie S. Schiffer	Present
	Joseph M. Turner	Present
	Calvin A. Ellis	Absent (ILL)

Also Present:	Kenneth Sylvia, Town Solicitor
	Kenneth Findlay, Town Administrator
	Patricia L. Whitford, Interim Town Clerk

No. 3: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. EARLY VOTING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION BEGINNING OCTOBER 14, THROUGH NOVEMBER 2, 2026 AT THE NEW TOWN HALL LOCATION, 742 TEN ROD ROAD, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY:
Public was made aware

B. RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE HOSTING PUBLIC SAFETY TRUNK OR TREAT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 5PM-7PM METCALF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT, 30 NOOSENECK HILL ROAD, EXETER RI, RAIN DATE OCTOBER 18, 2026: Public was made aware

C. Ms. Allen added Camp Canonicus will be open for Camping the Summer of 2027
Public was made aware

No 4: APPROVAL OF AGENDA ORDER: Motion made by Ms. Allen to Approve the agenda order; Seconded by Mr. Turner and voted unanimously in the affirmative

No. 5: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion made by Ms. Allen to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Seconded by Mr. Turner and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

A. REYNOLDS CHARITABLE TRUST: REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL:

1. **APPLICANT A. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TM, $7,000.00 VOUCHER FORM TO FOLLOW**
2. **APPLICANT B. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE LD, $7,000.00 VOUCHER FORM ATTACHED**
3. **ATTORNEY GENERAL FILINGS**
4. **VOUCHER FOR $100.00 COST OF FILINGS**

B. COMMUNICATIONS: None removed

C. BILLS, APPROPRIATIONS, AND ABATEMENTS:

1. **BILL SHEET: September 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026**
2. **TAX ASSESSOR'S ABATEMENTS: None**
3. **TAX COLLECTOR'S ABATEMENTS : None**
4. **TAX COLLECTOR'S REMITTANCES : None**

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026**
2. **REGULAR MEETING EXECUTIVE SESSION, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026**
3. **SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026**

No. 6: VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS:

A. VACANCIES:

1. **PERSONNEL BOARD (5 MEMBERS NEEDED)** No letters of interest

2. **EXETER RURAL LAND PRESERVATION TRUST COMMITTEE MEMBERS (THREE NEEDED) (TO SERVE FOUR-YEAR TERM BEGINNING DATE OF APPOINTMENT)** One letter received from David McWhorter.

Motion made by Ms. Allen to appoint Mr. McWhorter to the Rural Land Preservation Trust Committee; Seconded by Mr. Schiffer and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

3. **BOARD OF TAX AND ASSESSMENT REVIEW ALTERNATE MEMBER (ONE NEEDED) (TO SERVE THREE-YEAR TERM BEGINNING DATE OF APPOINTMENT)**-No letters of interest

4. **PLANNING BOARD CLERK**-No letters of interest
5. **TAX COLLECTOR CLERK**-Letters being reviewed
6. **DEPUTY TREASURER**-No letters of interest
7. **CLERICAL ASSISTANT**–Five letters received
8. **LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**-No letters of interest

No. 7: PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. AMENDMENT TO CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION: QUALIFICATION-BASED SELECTIONS PROCEDURES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FROM THE TOWN'S PREQUALIFIED ENGINEERING SERVICES LIST

Motion made by Ms. Allen to open the Public Hearing for Administration Qualification-based selections procedures for engineering services from the Town's prequalified engineering services list; Seconded by Mr. Schiffer and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Administrator Findlay stated now that we have a prequalified bid list, an ordinance needs to be created to go along with the list. There is no public comment.

Motion made by Ms. Allen to close the Public Hearing; Seconded by Mr. Schiffer and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Motion made by Ms. Allen to approve Amendment To Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, ADMINISTRATION: QUALIFICATION-BASED SELECTIONS PROCEDURES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FROM THE TOWN'S PREQUALIFIED ENGINEERING SERVICES LIST the ordinance of the Engineering Services from the Town's Prequalified Engineering Services list as presented; Seconded by Mr. Schiffer and voted unanimously in the affirmative

No. 8: PUBLIC COMMENT:

Wendy Fenner-Aubin looked at the agenda and saw the Dam information. Will this affect the Boone Lake Dam? They do have an emergency plan

No. 9: NEW BUSINESS:

A. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: AWARDING OF BID "WINTER RENTAL" A 16 TON-WHEEL LOADER WITH A 3+ YARD DETACHABLE BUCKET AND SNOWBLOWER ATTACHMENT

Public Works Director Shappy stated he is not moving ahead with the "Winter Rental" the rental cost was too high.

B. RESOLUTION #2026-21: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GLOCESTER AND OTHER RI MUNICIPALITIES SEEKING REFORM OF DAM EMERGENCY

ACTION PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Allen stated Resolution #21 & 22 have the same meaning. The state wants the Town to file every year; the Town is not responsible for privately owned Dams; we do not want the Town to incur the cost.

Motion made Ms. Allen to approve Resolution number 2026-21; Seconded by Mr. Schiffer and voted unanimously in the affirmative

C. RESOLUTION #2026-22: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE RI GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RELIEVE CITIES AND TOWNS OF THE UNFUNDED MANDATE TO PREPARE EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS FOR PRIVATELY OWNED DAMS, AND TO END THE PENALIZING OF MUNICIPALITIES FOR OWNER NONCOMPLIANCE

Motion made by Ms. Allen to approve Resolution number 2026-22; Seconded by Mr. Morrissey; and voted unanimously in the affirmative

D. LETTER OF SUPPORT: RI GROWS

This item will be moved to next month. They would like to come in and discuss their plan.

E. 742 TEN ROD ROAD: AWARDING OF BID; TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

Town Administrator and Library Representative, Findlay, stated eight bids have been received. All bids had alternatives within the bid which made them all come in within reason. Administrator Findlay recommended Dubon Masonry Construction, LLC.

Motion made by Ms. Allen to accept the bid of Dubon Masonry Construction, LLC for renovations to the new Town Hall, and authorize the Town Administrator, in consultation with the Town's architect and Town Solicitor, to negotiate and finalize the project scope, contract price, and other contract terms, including appropriate modifications or descoping of the work, consistent with the Town's available funding and the purposes of the RFP. And that the Town Administrator be authorized to execute the resulting construction contract and such related necessary to implement the award, subject to the availability and appropriation of sufficient funds and review and approval as to legal form by the Town Solicitor; Seconded by Mr. Turner and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

F. CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING: RELOCATION

Administrator Findlay suggested moving the Tree Lighting to the Library site where there is more room and better for traffic. DPW Director Shappy agreed. Director Shappy stated he has the location picked out where the tree can be enjoyed by all. Council agreed the library is a good choice.

No. 10: UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. REQUEST OF BEN HARDING: USE OF REYNOLDS FIELD FOR GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Administrator Findlay has been working with Mr. Harding on developing a plan for the Reynolds field. At present this item will be removed from the agenda until February, 2027.

B. FUTURE TOWN HALL, 742 TEN ROD ROAD: STATUS

Administrator Findlay reported things are moving along

C. NEW ROAD AND TEN ROD ROAD INTERSECTION: TRAFFIC SAFETY ISSUES: SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

DPW Director Shappy is waiting on a meeting with the State engineers

D. TOWN PROPERTY AND FACILITIES: PUBLIC USE

Administrator Findlay is working on a draft

E. SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES "SOP"

Administrator Findlay has a draft prepared

F. RURAL HEALTH GRANT APPLICATION: REVIEW POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE

Ms. Allen recognized Chris Ausura is OHHS Grant manager and an Exeter resident. Mr. Ausura spoke to the Council in regards to the Grant explaining the many parts of the grant. This is Federal Monies coming into Rhode Island for rural Towns. This is a five-year grant. Seventeen towns have signed. If Exeter signs, we will receive $155,000.00 the first year. The Council has control of the funds and decide where the monies should be spent there will be reports to keep accurate. Monies would pass from the State to where the Town has assigned the money to go. After much discussion Mr. Schiffer spoke, we could sign the contract have a public hearing do not take any money until Council has decided everything is in place.

Motion made by Ms. Allen to sign the Rural Health Grant Application. Council will not take any money, have a public hearing for input, then Council will make a decision; Seconded by Mr. Schiffer.

G. DECEMBER COMMUNICATION NO. 6: LETTER FROM NANCY ROTH REQUEST TO START A FOOD PANTRY FOR PETS IN EXETER

DPW Director has left leave this on until next month

No. 11: COMMUNICATIONS: There were no communications pulled

Motion made by Ms. Allen to have a 5-minute recess at 8:45 p.m.; Seconded by Mr. Schiffer and voted unanimously in the affirmative

Motion made by Ms. Allen to reconvene in open session at 8:50 p.m.; Seconded by Mr. Schiffer and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

No. 12: EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Ms. Allen to enter into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Litigation; Seconded by Mr. Morrissey and voted unanimously in the affirmative

Motion made by Ms. Allen to adjourn Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.; Seconded by Mr. Morrissey and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Motion made by Ms. Allen to reconvene in open session at 9:00 p.m.; Seconded by Mr. Morrissey; and voted unanimously in the affirmative

Motion made by Ms. Allen to seal the minutes of Executive Session there were no votes taken; Seconded by Mr. Schiffer and voted unanimously in the affirmative

No. 13: ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Ms. Allen to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.: Seconded by Mr. Schiffer and voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia L. Whitford
Interim Town Clerk

Approved: November 2, 2026