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**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2016**

PRESENT: KEITH R. LACASSE, CHAIRMAN; TOM CLOW, VICE CHAIRMAN; JAMES LEARY, SELECTMAN; JENNIFER BOHL, SELECTMAN; FREDERICK W. HIPPLER, SELECTMAN

RECORDING SECRETARY: Naomi L. Bolton

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Frank Campana; Jan Snyder; Jon Osborne; Donna Osborne; Jack Meaney; Eileen Meaney; Hailey Ries; Jack Ries; Tim Redmond, DPW Director; Police Chief Sean Kelly; Fire Chief Bob Vezina; Steve Roberts

7:00 p.m. Chairman Lacasse called the meeting to order.

CALL-IN PROGRAM (until 8 PM)

Chairman Lacasse informed those present and watching that tonight the Board will be taking phone calls from residents with questions regarding the Town warrant articles that will be voted on tomorrow. Chairman Lacasse stated that if you have a question the phone number to call is 529-7527.

The Board continued with the agenda items in between calls.

MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Hippler seconded to approve the minutes of February 22, 2016 as amended. Passed 5-0-0

The February 29, 2016 minutes will be taken up next week, as they were late in getting to the Board.

MANIFESTS

Chairman Lacasse moved, Vice Chairman Clow seconded to sign accounts payable and payroll checks dated March 10, 2016 as included in the following manifests:

Payroll Manifest	\$ 41,045.92 (Weekly payroll including payroll taxes)
Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 76,902.54
John Stark Payables Manifest	\$ 250,000.00 (March 3, 2016 Appropriation)
TOTAL	<u>\$ 367,948.46</u>

Passed 5-0-0

CALL IN QUESTION:

Regarding Article #10 – Highway Garage - What is the estimated tax impact on the garage after 2016?

Vice Chairman Clow stated that in 2017 the bond payment for the garage will have a tax impact of 0.22 cents. The Town paid the last bridge bond payment in 2015. In 2016 the last Ferrante conservation land payment will

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be made. Both of those payments together had a tax impact of about 16 cents. This garage payment would add an additional 6 cents to the tax impact.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

MOU between Teamsters Local 633/Town of Weare DPW Employees and Town of Weare: In the current collective bargaining agreement there is no provision for employees to save overtime as comp time, which is allowed in the personnel policy. This MOU is just giving the DPW the same privileges that are afforded to other non-union personnel. The union has signed the MOU and now the Board will be signing it to make it official.

Transfer Station Receipts for February: Town Administrator Bolton distributed the Transfer Station receipts activity for February of 2016. The Board asked about the ability to look back at history in 2015. In January the Finance Administrator provided the Board a 2015 yearly activity report with each month broken out. This is for 2016, so to be able to compare from one year to the next the 2015 and 2016 should be kept together.

CALL IN QUESTION:

Follow up on Article #10 – Highway Garage – looking for clarification, is the estimated tax impact 22 cents or 6 cents?

Vice Chairman Clow stated that it will be a 22 cent tax impact, but it is not a 22 cent tax **increase**. The current debt payments that are retiring (the bridge bond and the Ferrante conservation land) currently represent a tax impact of 16 cents. In 2016 both of those payments are paid off. In 2017 the garage payment would have an impact of approximately 22 cents, representing an *increase* is 6 cents, or approximately \$12 per year for a house assessed at \$200,000. Each year the impact will go down slightly as the larger interest is paid at the beginning. The Board has agreed that it would be a ten (10) year bond.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (continued)

Peaslee Road Bridge breakdown for clarification of reimbursement: Last week there was discussion regarding the final reimbursement of the Peaslee Road Bridge and the Lull Road bridge replacement projects. Finance Administrator Beth Rouse put together a detailed breakdown for the Board representing the 80/20 share and the Town's costs/responsibilities. Due to the fact that the Peaslee Road Bridge came in under the amount that was on the warrant article, there appears to be \$46,858.89 in the fund balance that could be used for Lull Road. This would likely not be enough for the 20% match, but another warrant article could be written like the Peaslee Road bridge raising the difference by taxation. Concerns have been raised and research will need to be done, as to if Lull Road was included in the large list of bridges to be replaced under the original \$1 million dollar bond. If it was not included the thought is that the remaining bridge bond money could not be used. Regardless the Board stated last week that it would commit to putting a warrant article on in 2017 for Lull Road in an effort to try and save the 80/20 match.

DPW Director Tim Redmond stated that Lull Road is really not a bridge it is a larger arched culvert that he feels the Highway Department could do and save a lot of money. Director Redmond stated that he did not put the Lull Road on the CIP this year because the River Road Bridge near Buzzell Hill Road, he felt needed attention first. It was brought to Director Redmond's attention that the River Road Bridge was in need of repairs in order to stay open. After further inspection of the bridge, Director Redmond was given an estimate of around \$500,000 to make the necessary repairs to the River Road bridge, so that was brought to the CIP. Director Redmond went to the State to see if the Lull Road 80/20 bridge funding could be used on the River Road

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Bridge, but whereas this bridge was replaced by the 80/20 program already, maintenance and repairs are not allowed for that type of bridge work. The CIP committee did not agree to move it forward for this year. It will need to be looked at again for 2017.

Director Redmond stated that he would recommend the Board look at combining both bridge projects for a bond for 2017 and get both projects done. The River Road Bridge is going to need to be dealt with very soon. That is a very highly used road and the repairs that are needed may require that the bridge be downgraded and/or possibly closed until the repairs can be done.

Summer Schedule: Town Administrator Bolton stated that typically the Board has gone to bi-weekly meetings for the summer beginning Memorial Day (May 30th) and ending Labor Day (September 5th). If that is still what the Board wants to do, a decision needs to be made as to which 2 Monday nightø it will be the first and third or the second and fourth. The decision should be made in the near future so it can be posted appropriately.

Columbus Day Holiday: Town Administrator Bolton informed the Board that Columbus Day is considered a floating holiday for our schedule. There has been inquires made from the staff as to seeing if it could be considered a holiday and close the office. The school, post office and Citizens Bank is closed. It is a very, very quiet day because people think we are closed. Half of the office takes the day off. The Board discussed the personnel policy in that a change was made a few years ago with regard to floating holidays. The policy now has the 16 hours of floating holiday front loaded to be used at the employeeø leisure versus waiting until October to use the holiday. The Board felt it should be left as a floating holiday and that the office be open.

CALL IN QUESTION: (Mr. Campana was present – did not call in)

Regarding Article 21 – Police Cruiser lease – His question was, when the Board approved the article for the warrant, did they get the proposed rotation schedule that was printed in one of the Weare Town Newspapers? Also, were they aware that the Chief was going to use the 2013 Explorer as his car?

Mr. Campana brought a previous article of the Weare Town Newspaper that showed a schedule of the police cruisers and proposed rotation, which was a schedule that was presented to the Capital Improvements Committee during the Chiefø meeting with the CIP Subcommittee. The schedule showed the 2008 Expedition and the 2008 Taurus being two vehicles that are being replaced. Mr. Campana stated that the Expedition had around 64,000 miles on it and the Taurus is the vehicle that the Chief is currently driving back and forth to work and it shows around 74,000 miles. Doing some simple math, Mr. Campana figured that the Expedition has only been putting on around 8,000 per year and he felt that at that rate it should still have some life left in it. The schedule is also showing an approximate trade in value of the Expedition of \$12,000.

Vice Chairman Clow answered Mr. Campanaø with yes and yes. Yes the board got the proposed rotation schedule and yes they were aware of retaining the 2013 Explorer for the Chiefø car.

Mr. Campana stated that he felt the Board should keep the current Chiefø car and get one less car. Mr. Campana asked if this article passes and the Chief get the 2013 Explorer, is there a cost for transferring any multi-media items from the 2008 to the 2013. Also, is he going to take the Explorer as is, lettered and marked or is it going to be stripped? Chief Kelly responded that there would be no cost for any transferring and the Explorer would remain as it is today.

CALL IN QUESTION: (Mr. Campana was present – did not call in – he has another question)

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Regarding Article 18 – Forestry Vehicle – He asked if the forestry truck or an SUV is more practical for the Fire Chief's vehicle.

Mr. Campana stated that the intent of Article 18 is to give the Fire Chief the current Forestry Vehicle Truck to replace the Durango and get a replacement Forestry Vehicle. Would an upgraded SUV be more practical?

Vice Chairman Clow stated that this article would purchase a more heavy duty truck to be used as a Forestry vehicle. It will be paid for completely out of the special revenue fund with no tax impact. This gives the Town the opportunity to get rid of the Durango as it is rusted out. If the Chief wants to change and possibly upgrade next year he can make that request at that time.

Chief Vezina stated that the current Forestry truck is undersized and they need a larger heavier duty truck to meet their needs. So the intent is to purchase a larger/heavier Forestry truck, moving the current Forestry truck, which is in better condition than the Durango, to the Chief's vehicle and get rid of the Durango, which will probably not pass inspection the next time as it is very rusty. The Forestry truck has a plow for it, which has been useful in the past, not only to help out the DPW for plowing the safety complex, but they have had to plow into a residence to get the ambulance there. A cap will need to be purchased and the command center will be moved over to the forestry truck. The intent also is that this swap will handle the needs of the department/chief for several years into the future.

Chairman Lacasse reminded anyone watching that if there are questions regarding any of the Town warrant articles they can call 529-7527 with questions.

CALL IN QUESTION: (Ms. Osborne was present – did not call in)

Regarding Article 10 – Highway Garage – Ms. Osborne stated that just the other day another Highway Garage had a fire and she would like the Board to convince her as to why she should vote for the new garage?

Chairman Lacasse stated that he has heard lots of comments regarding why do we continue to put the article on year after year when it keeps getting voted down. The fact is that the last two times that the article was put on the warrant the majority was in favor, but it didn't have the threshold to make 3/5ths. Chairman Lacasse praised the Highway Garage subcommittee group for all the homework they did. They looked at all the options, took field trips to other garages and tried to address the concerns that were brought up in the past. There is no real plan in place for people to look at but there is a concept that was very well thought out. The longer the Town continues to put this off the construction inflation is approximately 5% per year.

Steve Roberts, Highway Garage Subcommittee member stated that there has been 6 public presentations on this potential plan. Last year the voters voted no to have some real engineering plans drafted, so they got permission from the previous plan drafter to alter his plan and use that. The committee looked at the needs and wants and settled on only the exact needs. The proposal is a design build concept. They have made it easy to add on to in the future by not making a full cement wall on one end. The idea is that the end wall could be removed and the cement wall extended as the Town grows without having to build another new building. They took the time to go through the last few deliberative session minutes in an effort to address all the questions and concerns. One conversation was the idea of sprinkle or not to sprinkle. The committee felt that in light of the Hopkinton and Henniker garage fires with all the losses, it was important that we sprinkle this building for protection. The radiant heat issue was brought up at a prior meeting about condensation issues. Mr. Roberts and Jack Meaney both stated that they have worked in facilities with radiant heat and when you bring in the

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equipment the snow does melt off onto the floor. The floor then got swept or squeegeed and within minutes of removing the excess water the floor was dry. Both Newbury and Henniker put it in their garage floors.

Article 12 – Police Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Vice Chairman Clow stated that he would like residents to think about Article 12. This article is important for the consistency of the department. We are competing for employees to hire and we need a contract in place. The contract represents a 2% COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) to the step schedule, which has been a part of previously approved agreements. The step schedule would include a 10th step. Each step represents a 3.5% increase. There lots of minor, yet very important language changes in the contract. The other part of the agreement is that the officers currently pay 7% of the health care premium and this would move them to pay 10%, like the rest of the employees are currently paying. If the contract doesn't pass the officers remain at a 7% contribution. Each time the Town and the Union go to the negotiating table legal money is spent for the bargaining. This two (2) year agreement would help to stabilize the department. So, the Board is urging everyone to look closely at this article and give it due consideration.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Lacasse moved, Selectman Hippler seconded to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Naomi L. Bolton

Recording Secretary