

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 2, 2018**

PRESENT: TOM CLOW, CHAIRMAN; FREDERICK W. HIPPLER, VICE CHAIRMAN; AND JAN SNYDER, SELECTMAN.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Naomi L. Bolton

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Police Chief Sean Kelly; John Vanloendersloot; Frank Campana; Richard Butt; Gregory McDowell; Beth Rouse, Finance Administrator; Karyn Stogner, Parks & Recreation Director

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM before entering into nonpublic session.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Hippler seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 6:19 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (a & c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Clow – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler – yes. Passed 3-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Hippler seconded to exit from the nonpublic session @ 6:46 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Clow – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler – yes. Passed 3-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Hippler seconded to seal and restrict these nonpublic session minutes. Passed 3-0-0

Chairman Clow welcomed everyone present and watching, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Clow explained that the late start this evening was that the Board expected to cover a brief nonpublic session in 15 minutes when it took 30 minutes.

Chairman Clow stated that before the meeting gets underway he would like to take time to thank the Highway Department employees and the director for giving up Christmas to make sure the roads were in passable conditions. They do get paid to be out plowing and sanding but being away during a holiday was very much appreciated.

2018 DEFAULT BUDGET & WARRANT ARTICLES: Town Administrator Bolton stated that last week when the Board met to go over warrant articles there were some questions brought up regarding the police department articles and the parks and recreation article. Both department heads were asked to return to the Board tonight to answer any further questions. Karyn Stogner, Parks and Recreation Director has a prior engagement and needs to be out by 7 PM.

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Pavilions at Bolton Field: Chairman Clow stated that the discussion last week was not about the project specifically it was about each year the committee seems to be trying a different project versus continuing to put forth one article. He feels that loses momentum when that happens and projects become stale. Karyn Stogner agreed and stated that 3 years in a row they brought back a plan for Bolton field and each time it got defeated. The pavilions are part of the larger plan, but they were further down the road. The feeling of the parks and recreation committee was that they didn't want to continue to submit 3-4 packages of projects and get nothing. Chairman Clow stated that it was good to know that the pavilions (shade areas) are truly part of the larger plan. He asked if it would be feasible to break up the parking/drainage project to make it more palatable price wise. Selectman Snyder agreed that the parking down in that facility is awful and is worried about the rescue being able to get in and out if needed. Director Stogner agreed. Vice Chairman Hippler stated that last year we heard that safety was a concern regarding the boat ramp, the year before we heard that parking was a safety concern at Bolton field and this year we have a new project with nothing about safety being mentioned. Director Stogner stated that she did bring the boat ramp to the CIP subcommittee again this year and did not get a receptive response so they didn't move forward with it. They can continue to submit and resubmit to the CIP. Vice Chairman Hippler stated that if it is truly a safety item that he would continue to pursue it. Chairman Clow stated that part of the issue with the boat ramp request was that it was looking for planning money and that has been very difficult to pass town wide, for any project. Chairman Clow stated that he would like the Board to leave it on the warrant and let the voters decide. Vice Chairman Hippler and Selectman Snyder agreed.

Police Cruisers: Town Administrator Bolton reminded the Board that this was tabled from last week to allow Chief Kelly to be present. Chief Kelly stated that the problem with keeping the remaining cars is, we would be sliding down a slope if we put off buying cars until 2019. We would be putting more money into the old cruisers. His best recommendation is if we don't purchase 2 cars we will be back to old cars. Vice Chairman Hippler asked about using the 2013 Explorer. Chief Kelly stated that the Explorer is getting advanced in age as well. It has well over 130,000 miles on it today. It will be kept as the backup car. It has had a number of recalls from Ford. His goal is to level off the spending of money on the old vehicles. His plan is two this year and then every year starting 2019 to request one cruiser. Vice Chairman Hippler stated that he went by the safety complex yesterday and one of the Crown Victoria's still was covered with snow. He wants to make sure that all the cars are used equally, understanding that there are a minimum of two officers on at one time. Selectman Snyder stated that she feels better knowing the rotation of one car per year would start next year. Vice Chairman Hippler feels that four front line cruisers for two on duty at a time is sufficient. Chairman Clow stated that he would like to leave the article as written for two cars. Selectman Snyder agreed. Vice Chairman Hippler stated that his point is the perceived use, but he will go with the consensus as written.

Additional Police Officer: Chairman Clow stated that this article has the same concern in prior years and that is currently not all 11 spots are filled. Vice Chairman Hippler stated that he understands the need and is not against the article, he just wishes there was raw data of calls for service of a fully staffed crew of 11. Chief Kelly stated that there is more than enough data with the current staff of 9 officers. He added that if you push aside the data and just look at the statutory requirement and the CBA language we have obligations that are not going away. Chairman Clow pointed out that the consensus present tonight is to leave it on the warrant as printed.

Chief Kelly asked when the Board would be having a discussion regarding the ACO position. The Board agreed that within the next couple of weeks and it would include the Chief.

The Board proceeded through the rest of the draft articles. The article for the nonunion personnel has a new number that reflects the result of the new Town Administrator's contract. The Town Administrator will not be included in this article.

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Government Building & Maintenance Fund: Town Administrator Bolton explained that she has not had time to track down the information the Board was looking for regarding the list of items to be repaired/replaced at the Transfer Station. The Board discussed the need to put in a number based on a specific project. Vice Chairman Hippler suggested that the Board take the previously quoted number for the rot and corner board repairs on the Town Hall, add 5% and \$10,000 so that the number would represent a closer figure for today. That number the Board was provided is about 2 ½ years old. The other articles were not changed from the last meeting.

Fire Suppression at the DPW Garage: The Board is still waiting on a firm number for a water based fire suppression number. Vice Chairman Hippler stated this before and still stands firm that unless the Board has a firm number he is not going to support it. The Board felt that it is probably unrealistic to think a new number will be presented to the Board before having to finalize the ballot. The consensus of the Board was to remove it from the warrant all together.

Fireworks: Town Administrator Bolton stated that she was contacted by the Chairperson of the Patriotic Celebration Committee and they would like to reduce the original request from \$7,500 to \$6,500.

2018 Default Budget: Beth Rouse, Finance Administrator presented the Board with the 2018 Default Budget. This is the first time the Board has looked at the 2018 Default and with only 3 members present Ms. Rouse was not sure what the Board wanted to do this evening. The consensus of the Board was to take it and review it to be prepared for tomorrow night's Finance Committee meeting. After looking it over the Board will be prepared for a better discussion. The Board agreed to put this on for a discussion next week.

MEETING MINUTES:

December 27, 2017 Minutes: These minutes will be tabled until next week.

MANIFESTS

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Snyder seconded to order the Treasurer to sign accounts payable and payroll checks dated January 4, 2018 as included in the following manifests:

2017 Payroll Manifest	\$ 68,057.11 (weekly payroll)
2017 Fire Department Payroll	\$ 3,613.69
2017 Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 114,027.36
John Stark Coop Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 250,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 435,698.16

Passed 3-0-0

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### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Board of Selectmen meeting with the Finance Committee: Town Administrator Bolton wanted to remind the Board that tomorrow night, January 3, 2018 the Board will be meeting with the Finance Committee to go over the 2018 Proposed and Default budgets as well as the draft warrant articles.

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### PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Vanloendersloot, Walker Hill Road asked if the cruiser plan rotation included other departments. Selectman Snyder replied that it was within the department. Mr. Vanloendersloot asked if the warrant article would include a reduction of some amount from the vehicle maintenance if the two new cruisers pass. The Board replied that they hadn't really discussed it, but can re-visit that. Mr. Vanloendersloot asked if the additional officer was to restore the 24 hour coverage. The Board replied yes. He then asked if there was any damage to the DPW vehicle that was involved in an accident over the weekend storm. He asked how often the engine that is housed in the East Weare Fire Station is used. Vice Chairman Hippler stated that it is considered a brush truck and it doesn't go out that often. Mr. Vanloendersloot asked what the cost to run the East Weare Station is. The Board replied it is a total of \$1,150 for heat and electricity. Town Administrator Bolton received a reply from the DPW Director and the accident with the DPW truck occurred on Clark Mill Road. It was a young driver that hit the truck and there was no damage to the Town vehicle.

Gregg McDowell, Sugar Hill Road South, asked if the homeowner of the structure fire on River Road was going to be charged. He read that the reason for the fire was an improperly installed stove, so it would appear there was no permit or inspection. The Board didn't believe there will be a fine, but that question would be better suited for the Fire Chief. Mr. McDowell stated that he and the Finance Chairman has been trying to get some statistics from the Police Chief and it has been over 4 weeks and they still don't have the information. He also commented that he didn't feel the Town needs 7-9 cars for 9 officers and the chief.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, stated he had a couple of questions. First is he didn't hear the number that was plugged into the Government Building & Maintenance Fund article. The Board restated that it will be putting in a number but that was not done tonight. Next he asked if the 10-wheeler and backhoe were going to have any offsets this year. The Board replied that the 10-wheeler will have an offset of \$30,000 from the Highway Truck & Equipment Fund but the backhoe will not have an offset. Mr. Campana stated that the liability insurance is going down, but he would like to know where does he actually see that savings. Lastly, Mr. Campana stated that last week the Board spent funds from the 2017 surplus to purchase red dot optics and shields. His concern is that the Board approved those requests fairly quickly. He asked what is the Town gearing up for and what is the Board approving these for.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road, stated that he did a quick review of the default budget and there are over \$50,000 of items that are higher in the default than in the proposed. One example he provided was line item #231-part time officer wages. He hopes that the Board goes through all the line items and applies the same method of using the lower number. He stated that there is no justification to keep the higher number.

Next, Mr. Butt questioned adding a 30 hour per week part time secretary for the DPW. He stated that this is adding an additional position without going back to the taxpayers. Chairman Clow stated that the Town is simply going back to what we had previously before all the combining of certain positions. Mr. Butt stated he felt this was just a way of getting around the voters.

Mr. Butt then asked about warrant article for adding 10 hours in the Highway Department. He understands that it is to get the mechanic out of a plow route, but he would like to know why we are not using the current Transfer Station employees to help.

Mr. Butt questioned why the education incentive was removed from the police department. Chairman Clow stated that was part of the negotiations with the police. The stipend for each level of degree was divided up per

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hour. It was agreed that it would help to secure the staff. Mr. Butt felt that the overtime should be increased. Mr. Butt pointed out that for 3 years now the Town has been short 2 officers, so the Town has asked the taxpayers for over \$600,000 and provided zero service. He feels it is a failure on this Board's part. Now we are being asked for another officer, why are we doing that? In recent news the Town of Weare has been named the 2<sup>nd</sup> safest Town in NH based on towns with 1500 or more population. He feels that there has to be something flawed or wrong with our hiring process. Do we have the bar set too high? He felt that we should continue with the 9 existing officers and maybe give them a raise.

Next, Mr. Butt stated that this fall the Town received \$237,000 from the State of NH from the gas tax. It was his understanding that those funds could be used to purchase equipment. The Board confirmed that with the instructions from the State that it could. Mr. Butt wanted to know why we aren't using the money to purchase a truck, which is a much more needed. Chairman Clow responded that there are so many roads in disrepair in Town that would be the better use. It takes about \$200,000 to reconstruct one mile of road, but these additional funds could be used to apply an overlay on some roads now before they continue to deteriorate. Mr. Butt asked if the money didn't come in what would happen. He feels that the \$237,000 should be used to buy a truck which is something the taxpayers can actually put their hands on and save them money. There is a truck needed down at the DPW department and we have the money.

Mr. Butt inquired about the backhoe article. This is a new vehicle and not a replacement, so we are adding an additional vehicle. He asked what the Town was going to do when the current backhoe that is used and staying at the Transfer Station is no longer usable. Town Administrator Bolton stated that the DPW Director stated that his plan is that the old one will not be replaced.

Mr. Butt has concerns with the Park and Recreation CIP request. He looked at the Parks and Recreation minutes of October 10, 2017 and it was mentioned in those minutes by the Directory that the pavilion passed the CIP subcommittee and that the boat ramp request was dead in the water per a phone call from CIP Subcommittee Chairman Jack Dearborn to Director Stogner. He didn't see in the CIP minutes that the boat ramp request was even discussed, so he would like the CIP requests checked.

Lastly, Mr. Butt stated that a \$300,000 increase in the default budget is not acceptable. He feels that half of the increase is per the police department. Chairman Clow stated that a large part of the increase is due to last year's cut to the proposed budget, which caused the Town to defer filling positions that were in the proposed budget. What is being seen in the default here is 12 months of those positions that are now filled. Mr. Butt feels that this is going to be a contentious discussion.

Frank Campana asked if the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow night is going to be held in this conference room so that it can be televised. The room is empty. The Board responded that it was posted to be held upstairs.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Vice Chairman Hippler stated that he spoke with Selectman Osborne who wanted to bring this up but is not here tonight. The Town of Hopkinton gave all the highway department workers a \$50 gift certificate to the restaurant of their choice as an extra thank you for the great job they did at Thanksgiving and Christmas during the weekend storms. **Vice Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Snyder seconded to allow up to \$700 out of**

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the 2017 budget to be spent to purchase \$50 gift certificates for the DPW Workers for the extra time away while dealing with the weather conditions during Thanksgiving and Christmas weekend storms. Passed 3-0-0

### **NONPUBLIC SESSION:**

Selectman Snyder moved, Vice Chairman Hippler seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 9:12 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (a & c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Clow – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler – yes. Passed 3-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Hippler seconded to exit from the nonpublic session @ 9:35 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Clow – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler – yes. Passed 3-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Hippler seconded to seal and restrict these minutes of this nonpublic session. Passed 3-0-0

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Snyder seconded to adjourn at 9:36 PM. Passed 3-0-0

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A True Record.

*Naomi L. Bolton*

Naomi L. Bolton  
Recording Secretary