



FINAL

**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 12, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Thomas Clow, Chairman; Richard Butt, Vice-Chairman; Keith Lacasse, Selectman; Lee Marcroft, Selectman.

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Naomi Bolton, Town Administrator

**GUESTS:** Josh Solomon; John Lawton; Frank Campana; Chief Greg Begin; Tim Redmond, Public Works Director; Fire Chief Bob Vezina; Christina Marcroft; Chris Hague; Lynn Tacey; Steve Roberts; Forrest Esenwine; Ginger Esenwine; Elwood Stagakis; Carmella Stagakis; Barry Arnold; Gary Hopper; Brenda Lashway; Heleen Kurk; Jan Snyder; Sharon DeStefano

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clow at 7:00 PM.

**II. CALL-IN PROGRAM:**

*Question:* Elwood Stagakis stated that he has seen signs all over Town for Article 29. Do we have anyone that is on more than three committees?

*Answer:* Chairman Clow responded that to his knowledge we have only one person.

*Question:* Mr. Stagakis asked, are there State regulations that deal with that?

*Answer:* Chairman Clow stated that not that he is aware of.

Chairman Clow indicated that he was not in favor of this article and would not be voting in favor of it.

A call came in that commented, as he/she felt that the Selectmen should not comment on their vote for a particular article.

Chairman Clow agreed with the caller that it was not appropriate.

*Question:* John Lawton asked that a ZBA member can be on the Planning Board, but is it a requirement?

*Answer:* Chairman Clow stated, no it is not a requirement.

*Discussion on Article 5:* Forrest Esenwine stated that he would like to discuss Article 5 that has to do with common driveways. He has spoke to a couple of the Planning Board members and the way it is worded for this article is not correct. He is encouraging everyone to vote no as it is worded very poorly and he would like to have it go back to the Planning Board next year to be better clarified.

*Question:* Chris Hague stated there was some discussion at deliberative session regarding a couple of the capital improvement articles regarding the police cruisers, police communications and the computer systems and asked if the board would elaborate for those watching tonight that may have not made the deliberative session.

*Answer:* Selectman Lacasse addressed the computer system. As technology evolves and new programs come out the Town needs to stay up to date. This article would allow for all the computers to be allowed to upgrade the Microsoft Office program so that when people send in information it can be opened. Lots of time that is frustrating for both parties to have it resent in an older version. This will also be replacing the server at the police department.

*Answer:* Chief Begin addressed the police communications article. Chief explained that this would allow for a larger control box to be placed on Mine Hill which is where the central communications are for the department. There are small tower sites around the Town that are used for the dead spots but continuous use and extended days of unclear weather the batteries go dead and the communications are lost. This larger control box would allow the voters to be used a little less and communications to be better.

*Answer:* Chairman Clow stated that the police cruiser at Town meeting was zeroed out for this year.

*Question:* A caller phoned in with a question about Article 11 which has to do with the Public Works Union Contract. The caller asked, would year 2012 be considered a raise or increase to where employees should be?

*Answer:* Selectman Lacasse responded that there are a few employees that are not currently making the minimum of the range that was established during negotiations. So those 2-3 would be brought up to the minimum side as well as being eligible for a raise. All raises were going to be done through an evaluation process and the maximum raise that could be obtained is 4%.

*Question:* Frank Campana asked for an explanation of the narrative the Board used in Article 9 – the operating budget, particularly the area that states the increase is due to “increased retirement contributions, higher costs for electricity, heating oil and vehicle fuel; having to purchasing sand as the Towns pit is depleted; additional library expenses, police overtime costs, and custodial services for the Safety Complex”. He asked, doesn’t that hold true for both the proposed and default budget? That is not stated here.

*Answer:* Chairman Clow stated that is not true for all items. Not all of the items listed are the same in the proposed as the default. Vice Chairman Butt pointed out that the narrative is explained for the proposed articles. It points out the

increase of the proposed budget over last years and not the proposed budget versus the default budget.

*Question:* A caller had the following question regarding Article 26. Under conservation land, does the agreement state that proceeds of timber cuts would go to the Town? If not, would the Wood Family be able to receive the proceeds if this article was voted down?

*Answer:* Chairman Clow stated that currently if a timber harvest was to be done the proceeds would go into the general fund. If this article passes, the proceeds would go into the Town Forest fund, which can only be spent at a vote of Town meeting.

*Question:* Frank Campana stated that he would like hear from the Selectmen and not from the Public Works Director as to the condition of each of the pieces of equipment in Article 15 as well as the reason for the replacement.

*Answer:* Chairman Clow stated that he will start with the easy one, the pickup. This is a 2001 pickup that is just getting up there in miles and needs replacement. The truck would not be traded in. We would be keeping the truck as it has a use for going out and doing some small jobs around Town. Currently if there is a tree to cut down or parts to get a larger truck is being used and it would make more sense to use the pickup. It would be a lesser use, but still extremely valuable. As far as the backhoe he would really like for the Director to respond if that was fine. Tim Redmond, Public Works Director stated that the backhoe is currently being used at the Transfer Station and the Highway. It needs new pins and bushings as they are worn out. This would also not be traded in as there is no gainful trade left. It would be left at the Transfer Station permanently. The new backhoe would be used for getting the excess winter sand off the roads, ditching on the lesser traveled roads, etc. Right now they have to take the excavator all around because if they go to use the backhoe the transfer station may need it to compact the recyclables.

*Further Response:* Mr. Campana stated that this is the first time that he knew both the pieces were going to be kept. He is concerned with the cost associated with keeping the older equipment. He asked if the new pickup would be plow ready. Mr. Redmond stated, not originally, a plow ready truck was around \$45,000 and he felt that one without a plow would be a little less but he could possibly get something plow ready if he was allowed to go with the State bid prices. Chairman Clow responded that the operating budget for the public works department is down around \$40,000 from last year. Mr. Campana felt that the Board of Selectmen should have asked him what he needed.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that he would like to respond to Mr. Campana's criticism. He explained the process of how the CIP program works and pointed out the amount of oversight each taken at each step before it reaches the Board of Selectmen. Once it reaches the Board changes could still be made at this level and this year there were even changes made right up to the deliberative session.

The Board feels that the department head knows what their department needs and makes a case for it.

Chairman Clow then explained the estimated revenue with regard to an anticipated tax impact. He wanted everyone to know that as of today it is a lot of guess work. The revenues are not really know until the end of the year, but in the fall we have a better idea of where we will be then versus in March.

Chris Hague asked if the school has the ability when the tax rate is set to give back any surplus funds. She has seen a lot of the articles that use the surplus and wondered.

Chairman Clow responded that in the fall we usually have a representative from the SAU present, but their numbers are already finalized, possibly because they run on a fiscal year and not calendar.

*Question:* Elwood Stagakis wanted to know why the recycling rate for this Town is only 20% that is a way of increasing revenue and we are not taking advantage of. He also wanted to know why the schools are not recycling.

*Answer:* Chairman Clow stated that the school is recycling there is a paper trailer at the school for that reason. As far as the 20% he is not sure how factual that is and he feels that it is speculation on that and he doubts that number is true. Anything that the Town gets for revenue from recycling goes into the general fund.

Vice Chairman Butt stated that he just wanted to mention that the Town will be having a single stream discussion in the near future as an option at the Transfer Station.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business to come before the board the board, Chairman Clow moved to adjourn at 8:20 PM; Selectman Lacasse seconded the motion, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Naomi L. Bolton  
Town Administrator