

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2021**

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: JOHN (JACK) MEANEY, CHAIRMAN; FREDERICK W. HIPPLER, VICE CHAIRMAN; JONATHAN H. OSBORNE, SELECTMAN; SHERRY M. BURDICK, SELECTMAN; JOHN VAN LOENDERSLOOT, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/ZOOM HOST: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS VIA ZOOM: Jacqueline Coe, SAU Superintendent of Schools; Zach Lawson, JS School Board Chairman; Wendy Curry, SAU Vice Chairman School Board; Vincent Iacozzi, Consult NBAC., Frank & Mary Jo Campana; Town Moderator Eileen Meaney; Police Chief Chris Moore

Chairman Meaney opened the meeting at 6:30 pm., welcomed those via zoom to the January 25, 2021 Weare Board of Selectmen Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vincent Iacozzi called into the meeting tonight in the hopes of getting a CO, Certificate of Occupancy, for a new home in Duck Pond Estates Subdivision, Route 114. Currently, there is an approval issue with the BOFW required 30,000-gallon cistern. Mr. Iacozzi stated the cistern is due to be finished by the end of next week. There is an individual living in a hotel. Mr. Iacozzi is asking the Board to approve a temporary CO for this individual.

Vice Chairman Hippler stated this should be taken up with the Board of Firewards, the Fire Chief, the Building Department and the Building Inspector. Selectman Van agreed.

Mr. Iacozzi will bridge the discussion at his preconstruction meeting Thursday morning.

Chairman Meaney stated the school is looking to postpone, but the Town will move forward with the Deliberative Session for February 6, 2021.

Jacqueline Coe stated because of Friday's Emergency Order they will be coordinating dates within the District. Chairman Meaney responded the schools could coordinate amongst themselves that is their right. The Town will be moving forward. If the schools choose to decouple they will be responsible for the election polls. Ms. Coe replied, citing the example, if the school budget does not pass, they can revisit with a special meeting. She stated this would apply to a Town election. Zach Lawson stated the cost component in holding a separate election would be a burden of the School District.

Town Administrator Bolton read her email from Town Counsel Laura Spector-Morgan. *The Emergency Order does not authorize the school district to continue their elections if the Town does not. For your purposes, go forth and have the Town elections as planned. If John Stark/Weare decides to go off on its own path, they will need to figure how to do that and they will need to pay Weare for any services Weare would provide separately for that election.*

This would entail a 15-20 hour day's pay of election clerks, a moderator and people to count at the end of the evening.

Mr. Lawson and Ms. Coe stated a separate JS teacher contract was revisited three years ago. This involved a separate meeting and separate follow-up poll in both towns.

Town Administrator Bolton asked for an explanation why the SAU is interested in holding off. Mr. Lawson replied it is an issue of COVID safety. They are worried they will not get a representation of the community unless they delay.

Town Administrator Bolton explained no matter what time you pick, you would never please everyone. She spent Saturday investigating the 80' x 100' DPW garage as the Town's solution. This allows for people who choose to wear or not wear masks. Opening the doors allow for clean air. Citizens are accustomed to the routine for February and March. It could be forgotten if they waited until April or May. People could forget to place this on their calendar and then become upset, no easy situation. Keep things as normal as can be.

The Town already has all the tables, chairs, Cable Committee on board, Fire department willing to check temperatures/ask questions/with contract tracing forms. The garage provides for an area where no one with a mask would touch the unmasked people.

Wendy Curry stated having their deliberative session/election in April was to have it outdoors.

The School Districts to come together with a conclusion shortly.

Sign 2021 Town Warrant

Chairman Meaney asked the Board to discuss holding the Town Deliberative Session on February 6, 2021. Town Administrator Bolton stated the Warrant is done/signed, it just needs the date and where Session 1 will take place.

Vice Chairman Hippler stated he is in favor of the current date, particularly with the DPW Garage provisions in place.

Chairman Meaney responded he is in favor, having visited the garage also on Saturday with the Town Moderator, Town Administrator and DPW Director. They have it all planned, the far end bay for non-masked, others set up for social distancing. Laid out well, with heat there is plenty of room.

Selectman Burdick is in favor, especially, with this second round of an unknown virus that is worse.

Selectman Van agrees with Selectman Burdick, to hold it as scheduled.

Selectman Osborne is in complete agreement, February 6th at the DPW garage.

Town Administrator Bolton confirmed, Deliberative Session, February 6th at DPW garage and the Town Vote, March 9th at the WMS Gym.

Vice Chairman Hippler asked Chairman Meaney when will the Board discuss the comments on the budget made at the public hearing. Chairman Meaney answered right after the discussion on Town Office closing.

Discuss Town Office status regarding COVID-19

Selectman Van suggested the Board continue to keep the Office building closed, to revisit this in another month. However, he worries about the extra time and added workload this has put on Town Administrator Bolton with having to moderate every remote Zoom meeting.

Vice Chairman Hippler agrees, status quo for another month. Though he appreciates the added work this presents to the Town Administrator, he feels the consistency is welcomed by the town.

Selectman Burdick is in agreement, another month.

Selectman Osborne stated he agrees, another month.

Chairman Meaney also agrees to stay status quo, to revisit in another month.

Town Administrator Bolton to share with her staff.

Discussion on Public Hearing Comments

Vice Chairman Hippler stated among the good topics brought up, he suggested looking again at the payroll line for the Police Department as mention by Mr. Richard Butt. Not against what the Board did with regards to bringing in more experienced Police Officers, but the default number, potentially, needs to be changed. The default number should be aligned with last years, plus 3 or 3.5% CBA raise.

Chairman Meaney responded last year's number originally was not 3% just for the CBA. It was a bigger increase for them. This is reflected in the default.

Vice Chairman Hippler stated whatever follows the CBA ruling, frontloaded at 6%. He agrees, but the higher rate, accommodating a bachelor's degree and family plan on insurance, needs to line up accurately with the default per the Town warrant.

Chairman Meaney reiterates how the CBA was frontloaded the first year at 6%, then down to 3%.

Selectman Burdick restates it was 6.5%.

Vice Chairman Hippler added in the past when the Board has given raises, it became part of the proposed budget, not default. It needs to reflect accurately how it was derived.

Selectman Van mentioned employee raises given by the Board is different from new hirers hired at a higher step. He would like Finance Administrator Rouse to clarify.

Town Administrator Bolton to discuss with Finance Administrator Rouse.

The Board would like to thank everyone responsible for a smooth running public hearing.

MANIFEST:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated January 28, 2021 as included in the following manifests:

<i>Payroll Manifest</i>	\$	<i>66,567.21</i> (Weekly & monthly payroll)
<i>Accounts Payable Manifest</i>	\$	<i>91,800.30</i>
<i>Weare School Accounts Payable Manifest</i>	\$	<i>300,000.00</i>
<i>John Stark Accounts Payable Manifest</i>	\$	<i>250,000.00</i>
<i>Total</i>	\$	<i>708,367.51</i>

Chairman Meaney moved, Vice Chairman Hippler seconded to accept the manifest as follows, which passed. Passed 5-0-0

MINUTES:

January 17, 2021 Minutes: tabled

January 18, 2021 Minutes: tabled

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

General Items:

- 2021 Deliberative Session – Saturday, February 6, 2021 @ DPW Garage
- ZOOM Meetings as follows:
 - Monday, January 25, BOS @ 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, January 26, Finance Committee @ 6:30pm
 - Wednesday, January 27, Finance Committee @ 7:00pm, if necessary
 - Thursday, January 28, Planning Board @ 7:00pm
- Boston Post Cane Award - Robert Clement, Sunday, January 31st @ 3:00pm, waiting on confirmation, held at Fire Department for social distancing

Building & Maintenance Projects:

1. Stone Memorial Building – fire/freeze alarm, ESP, Inc. had a feasibility visit with the Fire Chief, no phone line in place, to use cable, internet or cell phone option, to perform the work in a couple weeks.

CORRESPONDENCE & OTHER BUSINESS: none

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Meaney made a motion, Vice Chairman Hippler seconded to adjourn at 7:22pm. Passed 5-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Karen Nelson

Karen Nelson transcribed from

TA Bolton notes & You Tube recording