

FINAL



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2020

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Police Chief Chris Moore, Police Corporal Michael Muise, Police Sergeant Ryan Frisbie, Police Sergeant Austin Maguire, Police Officer Paul Lewis, Police Officer Tom Ouellette, Assistant Fire Chief – C2 Robert Richards, Richard Butt, Tom Clow, First Net Representatives Lisa Benincasa, Chris Brown, Phong Lam

Chairman Meaney called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Van seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 6:31 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (b). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Van – yes; Chairman Meaney – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler – absent; Selectman Burdick – yes; Selectman Osborne - yes. Passed 4-0-0

Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Burdick seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 6:44 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Van – yes; Chairman Meaney – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler – absent; Selectman Burdick – yes; Selectman Osborne - yes. Passed 4 -0-0

The Board met for a personnel matter in the building department.

Chairman Meaney opened the meeting at 6:45 pm., welcomed those present to the October 19, 2020 meeting of the Weare Board of Selectmen and proceeded with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Police Sergeant Maguire spoke of the \$29,500.00 radio communications & infrastructure assessment proposal. He questioned the Board if they have reached out to the Board of Firewards and Police Chief Chris Moore about the proposal, using end of the year money.

Chairman Meaney responded no, but it is on their minds and they still have to wait to see how the finances go. There is still a ways to go for the end of the year.

Sergeant Maguire then asked if the Board has looked into another vendor.

Chairman Meaney answered it has been discussed in the past. He then reminded Sergeant Maguire this is public comment, a discussion within the meeting will take place later. The Board has a vendor coming in tonight.

Sergeant Maguire stated, as in previous meetings, the necessity for radio communications and infrastructures. He respectfully urged the Board to move forward with the assessment proposal, using end of the year money.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road, stated he is sick and tired of hearing this issue with communications. He does not know why it cannot be resolved. He continued, the town has spent thousands and thousands of dollars to resolve this issue and "...boy, we better do it quickly." There are issues with the current vendor. Maybe we need to start looking somewhere else. Communication problems are very serious; people's lives are at stake.

He asked if the tax rate was being set tonight. Chairman Meaney answered no. Mr. Butt then stated he hopes the Board considers the effect the pandemic has had on the citizens of this town. He suggested using a little bit more money from the Unreserved Fund Balance normally used to help reduce the tax rate. He would like consideration on holding back or deferring some items on the warrant for next year.

Mr. Butt mentioned the Police Department's request of three new policer cruisers that came before the CIP Committee, who only recommended one. He suggested the Board consider their recommendation as well as the needs within the Police Department.

Tom Clow, Concord Stage Road, seconds what Mr. Butt stated. As he, too, believes we need to keep the tax rate as manageable as possible.

Lisa Benincasa, AT&T/FirstNet Regional Principal Consultant, stated the radio coverage up here is turbulent. The need is "mission critical." She stated her company can "off set and augment some of that." She continued they would do a "deep dive into what the needs are before we can say what we really need to do up here." Lisa Benincasa gave an overview; FirstNet was born out of 9/11 first responders' inability to communicate. In 2017, AT&T won the RFP to build and maintain a nationwide contract for twenty-five years.

A comprehensive explanation from their website: *Why is FirstNet ideal for first responders? FirstNet provides America's first responders with highly secure and reliable connectivity while on the job, whether it be a crisis or a routine task in a congested area. FirstNet provides public safety with a dedicated lane of connectivity when they need it. To help ensure first responders have as much coverage and capacity as possible, FirstNet subscribers have access to all AT&T LTE commercial spectrum bands, as well as Band 14 spectrum. Band 14 is nationwide, high-quality spectrum set aside by the U.S. government specifically for FirstNet. We look at Band 14 as public safety's VIP lane.*

During an emergency, this band – or lane – can be cleared and locked just for FirstNet subscribers. That means only those on FirstNet will be able to access Band 14 spectrum, further elevating their

connected experience and emergency response. That's unique in the industry and something public safety won't get anywhere but on the FirstNet network.

Selectman Van asked if it would work during non-emergency use.

Lisa Benincasa responded it is always on, always available. It is only for first responders.

Selectman Van then asked if FirstNet Push-to-Talk, a 2way radio-type service, is in place in NH.

Chris Brown, Mobility Applications Consultant, AT&T Mobility, stated yes, in some towns and agencies.

Lisa Benincasa stated NH has sixty towers originally for FirstNet, built here.

Selectman Van asked how many of those towers are in and around this town.

Lisa Benincasa replied she was not sure, though she has a list. She stated they would make sure the coverage is good. She understands safety is paramount; her husband is a Police Officer. Anything with a sim card can be activated as a registered FirstNet device.

Chairman Meaney inquired if this would entail the town changing to AT&T as their carrier.

Lisa Benincasa responded yes, no contract with subsidized pricing.

Police Sergeant Frisbie asked if this is a supplemental communication system.

Lisa Benincasa replied, yes, supplement and augment, not replacing your radios. They do not yet have "mission critical radios."

Chris Brown explained the "augmentation" of a radio system. FirstNet installs a ruggedized gateway router, Radio over IP (ROIP), which augments 2way radio communications.

Chief Moore asked Chris Brown if he had a time frame when FirstNet might come live.

Chris Brown responded probably the end of next year. It will be "baked into that Band 14 core network," a more secure application.

Chief Moore asked if this would mean new radios.

Chris Brown displayed a phone corded to a 2way radio device, Sonim Standard XP8. He discussed the 4 C's, cost, capacity, coverage and capability. He stated the cost of the device is far less than that radio, pointing to Chief Moore's LMR, Land Mobile Radio.

Selectman Van added, the Sonim cannot monitor other agencies like the LMR they have currently.

Chris Brown replied, it could, as more agencies are coming on to FirstNet. This will allow for more interagency communication. Once a host is established, administration, they can add other agencies.

Selectman Van confirmed that if Chief Moore was the admin. in an incident in town, he could add in some of our neighboring agencies on the fly.

Chris Brown responded yes, there are primary FirstNet customers and extended primary. Extended primary might be the tow truck company, snowplows, tree removal, etc., for example. Chief Moore

could then uplift their access during a situation on this separate Band 14 spectrum. Mr. Brown continues explaining the evolution of broadband smart phones and adaptable devices.

Selectman Van asked how the radio differentiates which network it should be on, LMR or LTE, long-term evolution, a wireless data transmission.

Chris Brown answered the radios themselves are only going to be based on the channel selector that you have. They are prebuilt on their web-based portal. They can work on both Wi-Fi and broadband.

Selectman Van asked if the radio only talks to the cell phone or will other Officers be able to hear what is happening and vice versa.

Lisa Benincasa answered yes, both ways, they can hear, too.

Selectman Van asked what the delay between them is. With the demonstration, it was determined to be less than a second. It was also stated, they could be disinfected easily.

The conversation continues in depth as to the principles of the inner workings for their system.

Phong Lam, Business Acquisition Sales Executive for AT&T, discussed the costs and incentives associated with FirstNet. Talk, text, data, hot spots and monthly service fees, potentially, with the current promotion, you could get an iPhone 12, 64gig free. The requirement is a trade in phone worth \$95.00 or more.

The discussion broadens into a Demo setup account, using the Town's tax ID#. Selectman Van wants to make sure the Demo equipment incorporates the gateway router at dispatch. Chris Brown offers a "try and buy for thirty days," if not satisfied; they would give the money back.

Lisa Benincasa suggests once the Demo setup account is established, phones could then be tested for coverage and she will divulge exactly what the Town of Weare's tower coverage is at that time.

The discussion evolves around cell phone carrier service availability in town.

Selectman Van recapitulated the goal is to find a system that is going to augment and resolve our current radio issues.

Lisa Benincasa acknowledged the importance of the communication transmission back to dispatch. "If you can't get back to dispatch, that's a big problem." She then asked if there was another base station somewhere else.

Selectman Van replied in town, yes.

Lisa Benincasa stated FirstNet "...could set up the Radius Repeater there. We could set up a Cubic Vocality box there." Cubic Vocality acts as a radio relay.

Selectman Van asked the Police Department if the radio in the reception area still works. The response was no.

Selectman Van stated he knew it worked years ago.

Lisa Benincasa asked if it still had power.

The Police Department responded yes, and a big antenna off the back. An inaudible discussion ensues.

Selectman Van states "...we possibly have a radio at the police station."

Lisa Benincasa declares we could put another access point there. This Cubic Vocality box is a four port, scanning four channels.

Phong Lam, while sitting in the audience, has a conversation about service and accounts.

Chairman Meaney stated he is interested to see what the coverage is. He knows Reservoir Drive and part of Mt. William's hill is a terrible area for cell phones, depending on your carrier.

Selectman Van added you can lose service going down Rt. 114.

Lisa Benincasa then asked who would like a Sonim Demo phone. Fire will take two, Police will take two and Selectman Van and Chairman Meaney each, rounds it out to six. In addition, Police and Fire, each, to utilize a Nighthawk LTE Mobile Hotspot Router for data connection.

Phong Lam, seated in the audience, discussed Band 14 accessibilities, and the possibility of sim cards locking up.

Audience conversation ensues with Chris Brown and Phong Lam.

Selectman Van asked about antennas for the Demo Nighthawks. Phong Lam and Lisa Benincasa explained they do not have them.

Town Administrator Bolton to handle all Demo phones.

Chairman Meaney clarified with Lisa Benincasa the other agencies on their system. Derry Police Captain Feoli, Strafford County Emergency Management Department Director/Chief UAS Pilot "Skip" Parks Christenbury, NH Department of Safety Systems Analyst Arthur Durette, and Selectman Van added Bedord is using Push-to-Talk. Lisa Benincasa mentioned Scott Wilder of Brookline Mass. Police Department and David Chase, Communications Supervisor with the NH Department of Transportation.

Selectman Van and Chairman Meaney thanked FirstNet for their presentation. Chris Brown thanked Town Administrator Bolton for establishing this presentation. Town Administrator Bolton thanked our guests and Lisa Benincasa, stating she would be in touch.

DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE ITEMS:

Chief Moore confirmed car#8 has been delivered to the State Auction.

Assistant Fire Chief Richards was looking for permission to get rid of surplus hose to the State Auction. Selectman Van wonders if St. Jean Auctioneers will be taking items other than vehicles. Assistant Chief Richards stated in talking to them if the hoses did not sell, they would store them. The Board approved.

Assistant Chief Richards also mentioned his new Forest Fire Warden position. He is looking for compensation. To be discussed at a later date.

Police Sergeant Ryan Frisbie thanked Town Administrator Bolton for all her work in helping them with their CBA.

MANIFEST:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated October 22, 2020 as included in the following manifests:

Payroll Manifest	\$ 64,174.31 (Weekly payroll)
Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 68,056.28
Weare District Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 500,000.00
John Stark Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 250,000.00
Total	\$ 882,230.59

The following manifests were previously ordered to sign at the October 5, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting:

Payroll Manifest	\$ 59,226.21 (Weekly payroll checks dated 10/15/2020)
Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 54,176.00 (Checks dated 10/15/2020)

As there is no Selectmen meeting scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2020

Please vote:

To order the Treasurer to sign payroll checks dated October 29, 2020 estimated to be about \$70,000.00. Furthermore, to order the Treasurer to sign up to the amount of \$75,000.00 for accounts payables that cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting. Reports and actual check amounts will be reported to the Board of Selectmen by inclusion on the Manifest Memo at the next scheduled meeting.

Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Van seconded to accept the manifest as follows, which passed. Passed 4-0-0

MINUTES:

September 9, 2020 Minutes: Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Van seconded to accept the minutes of September 9th, as written, passed 4-0-0.

September 21, 2020 Minutes: Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Van seconded to accept the minutes of September 21st, as amended, passed 4-0-0.

October 5, 2020 minutes: Selectman Van moved, Chairman Meaney seconded to accept the minutes of October 5th, as amended, passed 4-0-0.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

On this Monday, October 19th, the Board signed:

- a. CBA
- b. Cemetery Deed
- c. Adopted the Town of Weare, Welfare Application

Appreciation for Selectman Van with his participation with the FirstNet Team presentation this evening. It was nice he asked questions with his broader knowledge of the subject matter. Prices to be compared to Verizon.

Selectman Van explained he spoke with Allenstown's Fire Chief and he stated they were getting "...deep discounts over there, over Verizon."

Chairman Meaney concurred stating a lot of cellular carriers discount pricing depending on who you are, along with how many people sign on.

Town Administrator Bolton stated to keep in mind, the Police have an account, Fire have an account, DPW and the Town Offices with Verizon.

Chairman Meaney stated he thinks they look at it as an aggregate, as the whole Town of Weare.

Town Administrator Bolton explained she researched our current Verizon account breakdowns and this included the Police MDT, Mobile Data Terminal. She added a US Cellular quote forthcoming. Based on the coverage with AT&T, she too, will be interested to see for a comparison.

Selectman Van stated considering they have the Federal Contract to do FirstNet throughout the United States. Also, he believes, AT&T network is going to increase.

Town Administrator Bolton stated the coverage map is going to be very fascinating. Selectman Van agreed.

General Items:

1. Furnace Cleanings- A.J. LeBlanc Heating, Inc., Bedford, NH., South Weare Fire Station
Wednesday, November 4, 2020
Morrill Heating & Cooling, Weare, NH., Complex, Transfer Station, East Weare
Fire Station, Town Office, Town Hall, and the Stone Building
Friday, October 30, 2020
2. Board Schedule – returning to weekly meetings, November 2, 2020
3. Forestry Contract – ready for November
4. PARC – non-resident fees, waiting on season numbers, to discuss after their 10/20 meeting

5. 2021 Annual Budget Hearing – Monday, January 18, 2021
6. 2021 Deliberative Session – Saturday, January 30, 2021

Building & Maintenance Items:

1. Town Hall List of Projects –
 - a.) Walker Roofing, looking to schedule for 2021, response was that no lift is needed, quote forthcoming
 - b.) ceilings and walls, maybe a proactive maintenance solution
 - c.) sign replacement, Roberge Signs emailed, sign ready, but maybe 4 to 6 weeks for granite posts.
2. Gazebo & Shmid/Banks Property – new sign, seal added
3. Stone Memorial Building- ESP, Inc. quote \$5997.00 for both, freeze and fire, with a \$480.00/yearly fee for monitoring.

Town Administrator Bolton commented on setting the tax rate. The Town is waiting on the DRA, Department of Revenue Administration, who is waiting on the school items from the DOE, Department of Education. When she gets the green light to set the tax rate she will set a special meeting and inform the Board.

Selectman Van stated he would like to table the Stone Building fire/freeze alarm until after the tax rate is set. The Board agreed.

4. Town Office Employee Ladies Room – proactive maintenance TBD

Selectman Burdick mentioned having DPW build a trench down by the barn on East Road for water runoff. Chairman Meaney suggested having DPW Director Knapp look at it because he is the expert.

CORRESPONDENCE & OTHER BUSINESS:

Selectman Van mentioned an email concerning a resident's complaint regarding the Police Department. On the agenda for November 2nd non-public at 6:30pm to 6:50pm.

Chairman Meaney shared the Finance Committee meeting will be Wednesday, October 21st, swearing in of the new members. Looking to initiate Zoom access. Sending an email request to join the group will negate any unauthorized inappropriate influx.

Selectman Van asked if Zoom would be interactive at some point or monitoring only. Town Administrator Bolton responded, users can ask questions and she will be able to relay the question to give answers. Perhaps, utilizing the raising a hand aspect, zoom meetings will be on a trial basis for now.

Town Administrator Bolton expounded Doug Alwine, Weare Cable Committee Technician, will be at the meeting to help record with the new HD camera for better quality. Then uploaded to You Tube.

Selectman Van and Selectman Burdick would like Town Administrator Bolton to include them in the Finance Committee meeting first broadcast.

Selectman Van suggested updating the website to inform residents of this new feature, remotely attending Town Committee meetings. To be updated after tonight's initial run.

Selectman Burdick mentioned a nonpublic personnel item to be addressed at the next Board meeting.

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Van made a motion, Chairman Meaney seconded to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Passed 4-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Karen Nelson

Karen Nelson transcribed from

TA Bolton notes & YouTube recording