

**Final**



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 8, 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:** Town Moderator Eileen Meaney, DPW Director Benjamin Knapp, Fire Chief Robert Vezina, Police Chief Chris Moore, Vice Chairman Planning Board Bruce Fillmore, Chairman Finance Committee Tom Downing, Vice Chairman Finance Committee Megan Thellen, Finance Committee Member Nicole Herbst, Richard Butt, Frank & Mary Jo Campana, Don & Lynn Carrara, Gil & Shelley Duquette, Vanessa Hippler, Dave & Kate Richards, Steve Roberts, Jennifer Schou

Chairman Meaney called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm., welcomed those via zoom to the March 8, 2021 Weare Board of Selectmen Meeting. Chairman Meaney roll called the Board members, all present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dave Richards, 71 Forest Road, addressed the Board in reference to a mailer that was sent to townspeople instructing voters to vote against his repeal of the Mount Dearborn Historic Overlay Warrant Article #8. Mr. Richards clarified inaccurate points. The mailer instructed voters to vote no on the repeal under the guise of three points: Keeping Mount Dearborn Road Scenic, Keeping Weare Rural and Keeping The Historic District. Dave Richards cleared up all three points: The Board of Selectman have an ordinance that establishes Mount Dearborn a Scenic Road, has been right along. Secondly, Weare will remain rural, nothing commercial; dissolving the Historic Overlay would not change this. His plan is to put his land in conservation, only two parcels for potential development would remain one across from Mr. Richard's sugarhouse the other Neal Kurk's property. Lastly, as it states now in the Overlay, beyond 600 ft. off the road you could put as many houses as you want.

The mailer is misleading; those that sent it should be ashamed. Last night, a bunch of Dave Richard's signs were stolen and one destroyed. He is anxious in finding the perpetrator, as it is a \$1000.000 fine/sign.

Shelley Duquette, 271 Quaker Street, stated she questioned why her neighbor sent a mailer to townspeople regarding Warrant Article #4 with a picture of her garage from over a year ago when it was not complete. She continued there was no back door deal, permitted three years ago. The mailer stated voting yes would allow people to put pigsties 15 ft. from their neighbors.

Don and Lynn Carrara, 272 Quaker Street, stated the Duquettes and Mr. Meaney are friendly neighbors; a suggestion of a back door deal is disgusting. Mr. Corcoran has had ruts in his road, with constant deliveries, fixed every spring. Mr. Meaney is not an abutter. Because of the cease and desist order the building has not been worked on for over a year. The Duquettes had an approved permit and stopped construction when asked to. Let them build their garage. Rules and regulations should not stop people from doing what they want from their property.

Planning Board Vice Chairman Bruce Fillmore stated he brought up Article #4, add accessory structures to be allowed with non-conforming setbacks, an innocent suggestion. He did not discuss it with Mr. Meaney, also, on the Planning Board. This was based on zoning applications and decisions from the past, nothing more. No back door deal. A unanimous vote by all Planning Board members. They were present and aware of Mr. Corcoran coming before the Planning Board when the garage permit was issued.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE ITEMS:** As discussed in a previous meeting the stop sign northbound at Shady Hill Road and Thorndike Road serves no purpose for traffic control; DPW Director Knapp and Police Chief Moore recommend its removal.

**Vice Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Van seconded to remove the stop sign, as it serves no purpose for traffic control and recommend removal. Passed 5-0-0**

Finance Committee Chairman Tom Downing addressed social media posts of voter recommendations from a competing committee circulating confusion. Tom Downing read a statement from the Weare Finance Committee:

*My comments represent the opinions of the vast majority of the Weare Finance Committee in an effort to increase transparency for all taxpayers.*

*We appreciate the cooperation of the Selectmen, the Town and School departments and their efforts of transparency, especially with the challenges of a national pandemic. We believe this finance committee season has delivered a much more organized and transparent process, as compared to previous years. With that said there are certain members of the community, which are a very small minority, that feel they know better and are spreading misleading information.*

*In particular, a member of our committee for the second year in a row has chosen to either sponsor, or by association this year as director of a conflicting organization, publish data to sway the Weare Voters against the recommendations of the WFC.*

*Our committee is made of a diverse group of citizens with differing opinions. But, if a Weare Finance Committee member doesn't believe in the process, they should step down, because it becomes very obvious their personal agenda is the only thing driving participation. We need members who are capable and willing to in good faith, consider the better good of the community as a whole.*

*I urge all taxpayers of the town to not only plan on voting tomorrow, but to vote based on all of the available information. The legitimate voter guides are the article mailers that have been supported by countless man hours of the Weare elected and appointed officials. Plus, all of the relative budget meetings are rebroadcast on Channel 6, and also on YouTube "Weare Channel 6."*

*We believe the minority should be heard and that's why committees are diverse and have deliberative sessions. But, misleading flyers and social media posts are an attempt to delegitimize the process and unethically sway voters. The public should be asking where is the transparency of the Coalition meetings that deliberated their voter recommendations. I think the taxpayer may have "the right to know" RSA 91-A:1.*

Tom Downing thanked the Board for letting him read the WFC statement.

### **Virtual Q & A's before Town Vote (Formerly Call-In)**

Steve Roberts, 815 Concord Stage Road, expressed his support for Warrant Article #11, two fulltime fire fighter/EMTs. This is very important. Now, in the third year of a very specific plan laid out to Selectmen and the WFC that was supported overwhelmingly by voters, in the last two years.

Eileen Meaney, 282 Quaker Street, asked the Board, Town Administrator Bolton or our Finance Administrator to address the unfamiliar Coalition Facebook post stating that taxpayers would save \$100.00/year on their taxes if they follow their recommendations. Are there unintended consequences and costs? What are the details to the savings?

Town Administrator Bolton explained this Coalition is recommending voters vote no on non-union raises. Raises that are supported by the WFC, and 70% of the non-union are First Responders. This Coalition also recommends to vote no on two fulltime fire fighter/EMTs, and PARC staff raises, to this end the park could close without adequate staffing. Also, to vote no on a fulltime Building Inspector, interest rates are down, building/construction is up, taking place inevitably without inspections. Another of their recommendations is to vote no on the Government Capital Reserve, designed to take care of all of the town's buildings repairs/maintenance.

Traditionally, there are no savings and the Coalition's math, also, miscalculated the \$6800.00 total in cumulative raises for the three highest paid town employees. The post also erroneously stated 400+ townspeople have lost their jobs. This figure was mentioned by a WFC member at a finance committee meeting based on statewide divisions. Exactly how was this number derived? The DPW plow trucks have an \$87,000.00 repair bill.

Townspeople have to do their due diligence in deciphering information for the truth.

Eileen Meaney reiterated the Coalition figures are not accurate, and does not represent the unintended cost of ignoring equipment repairs and maintenance, along with replacement/retraining of our personnel.

Chairman Meaney agreed, facts are shortsighted, not long sighted. Maintenance cost for vehicles, police or DPW, will outweigh the cost of new vehicles. Infrastructure repairs and maintenance are required. Hiring two EMT/fire fighters will negate suffering in service. On-call people contribute to overtime payouts when covering shifts. Following the Coalition will bring adversity to town services.

Tom Downing, 28 Winterberry Lane, would like someone to address the Coalition mailer sent to townspeople, referencing Article #11, as in, not hiring two fulltime EMT/fire fighters. He personally had to drive a family member an hour and half to a hospital on Super Bowl Sunday because a town close to Weare had per diam EMT/fire fighters unavailable.

Fire Chief Vezina explicated our EMT/Fire fighters are dual role employees. Paramedics, advanced EMTs with the requirement to also be structural fire fighters. Regardless of the community emergency, they are

capable of the appropriate action. Most calls are medical, whether a car accident or cardiac arrest, which is why qualified people are sought after and trained.

Nicole Herbst, 88 Hatfield Road, questioned the Coalition's quote of 1.3% standard cost of living adjustment, does that not correlate to social security information? Exactly where else was this figure derived?

Town Administrator Bolton concurs the 1.3% standard comes from social security as stated at town meeting.

DPW Director Benjamin Knapp commented he is hopeful townspeople will continue their support in updating plow equipment. He has not strayed away from his plan, stating from the beginning, to update a plow truck annually. If this plow truck purchase fails, financially irresponsibly, he will just need two trucks next year. He is most heartened with his employees receiving their non-union raises as government jobs are thankless jobs. Ensuring raises is the best way to thank your employees.

Eileen Meaney returned her attention to the flyer, is Article #4 and Article #8 related?

Chairman Meaney explained Article #4 pertains to changing zoning amendments for setbacks and Article #8 is a petition to repeal the Mount Dearborn Historic District Overlay.

Eileen Meaney questions if not related then why are these two distinctly different articles on the same flyer?

The Board denotes there are two separate flyers. Article #4 with the Duquette's garage under construction, setbacks, zoning ordinance and Article #8 Historic Overlay.

Kate Richards inferred there is a common denominator between the two flyers. This person in question is responsible for both Mount Dearborn Road Historic Overlay and the Riverdale Road Historic Overlay, and two signatures on the Mount Dearborn flyer live at the same residence, the rest live on Riverdale Road.

Don Carrara added, regarding DPW Director Knapp's comment that government jobs are thankless jobs, he would like to personally thank DPW Director Knapp, great work! The roads have been great, much appreciated. Especially with the plowing of the roads. He supports the raises, well deserved.

DPW Director Knapp expressed his gratitude for the kind words.

Dave and Kate Richards seconds Don Carrara.

DPW Director Knapp thanks them as well.

### **Town Seal Policy**

RSA 31:93 indicates that: "[E]very Town shall provide for the use of its town clerk an official seal, bearing the name of the town and the date of its incorporation, and of such general design as may be approved by the selectmen thereof. Papers issued from the office of the town clerk may be attested therewith."

The Town of Weare has produced a seal which graphically represents the municipality and is inclusive of the name of the Town of Weare and the information that Weare was incorporated in 1764.

As part of the statutory responsibility, the Town has an embossing seal which is used on certain official documents. This embossing seal is in possession of the Town Clerk as required by RSA 31:93.

Beyond this embossing seal, the Board of Selectmen has authorized the Town Seal to be used for a number of official municipal purposes. These uses include, but may not be limited to:

- Letterhead and envelopes for various Town officials, boards and commissions
- Business cards for various Town officials
- Checks issued by the Town of Weare
- Publication of the Annual Report of the Town of Weare
- Publications of various regulations and ordinances of the Town of Weare
- With the department logos of the Weare Fire Department, Weare Police Department and Weare Public Works Department as seals appearing on vehicles owned by the Town of Weare such as fire trucks, ambulances, police cruisers, and public works vehicles
- As an identifier on official Town of Weare websites
- Street signs and other official information signs posted by the Town
- On the official ballot used for Town of Weare and Weare School District elections
- Identifying clothing that is worn by the Town of Weare officials or personnel

The seal of the Town of Weare is intended to only be used for official business of the Town of Weare, its officials, departments, boards and commissions.

The design, arrangement, presentation and layout of this seal is the property of Town of Weare, NH and may be used only for official use by the Town of Weare as outlined in this policy.

No other use of the Town seal is permitted without prior written permission from the Board of Selectmen.

The Town reserves the right to take appropriate legal action to remedy any unauthorized use of the Town of Weare seal, including but not limited to, seeking injunctive relief, costs and attorney’s fees in the Superior Court.

**Selectman Osborne moved, Chairman Meaney seconded to adopt the Town of Weare Town Seal Policy as just read. Vice Chairman Hippler – abstained, Selectman Osborne – yes, Selectman Burdick – yes, Selectman Van – yes, Chairman Meaney – yes. Passed 4-0-1**

**MANIFEST:**

***To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated March 11, 2021 as included in the following manifests:***

<i>Payroll Manifest</i>	\$	<b>63,456.54</b> (Weekly payroll)
<i>Accounts Payable Manifest</i>	\$	<b>103,392.09</b>
<i>Weare School District Manifest</i>	\$	<b>300,000.00</b>
<i>John Stark Regional Manifest</i>	\$	<b>250,000.00</b>
<i>Total</i>	\$	<b>716,848.63</b>

**Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Burdick seconded to accept the manifest as follows, which passed. Passed 5-0-0**

**MINUTES:**

**March 1, 2021 Minutes: Selectman Van moved, Chairman Meaney seconded to accept the minutes of March 1<sup>st</sup> as written, passed 5-0-0.**

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

*General Items:*

- Weare Middle School Gym is set-up and ready for 2021 Town Election
- Selectman Burdick inquired about Walker Roofing Update, Town Administrator Bolton placed a call to them with Chairman Meaney present, vendor assured a return phone call forth coming, and the call never came. ESP, Inc noted nothing wet in the attic of Stone Memorial Building when they were there working, ceiling dry, missing Cap is only decorative in nature. Vice Chairman Hippler and Selectman Osborne suggested hiring a new vendor. Chairman Meaney agreed, RFP for new vendor. Selectman Burdick stated the only other NH vendor for copper work is Melanson Company, Keene, NH. Chairman Meaney replied the Town Hall roof has work that needs attention.

**CORRESPONDENCE & OTHER BUSINESS**

Vice Chairman Hippler thanked the Board, he is hopeful for another three more years to serve. He stated he is grateful and it has been his honor and privilege to serve alongside his Board members for the past six years. Chairman Meaney thanked Vice Chairman Hippler.

Selectman Burdick added she is unable to attend tomorrow's Town meeting due to crowd size on recommendation of her doctor.

Election Selectmen Schedule as follows:

- Chairman Meaney arrive at 6:30 am, stay till 2:00 pm, then a return in the evening
- Selectman Van arrive at 1:30/2:00 pm, stay till the end, with a break early evening
- Selectman Osborne arrive at 12:30 pm, stay for 3 or 4 hours

Chairman Meaney wished Vice Chairman Hippler and Selectman Burdick luck in their re-election to the Board of Selectmen. Urging townspeople to come out and vote, he is hopeful and thanked the voters for their past support. Selectman Van gave a shout out to the Finance Committee for all their hard work. Chairman Meaney agreed and thanked the Planning Board as well for their hard work with amendments for the warrant.

**Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chairman Hippler made a motion, Selectman Van seconded to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Passed 5-0-0**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A True Record.

*Karen Nelson*

Karen Nelson transcribed from  
TA Bolton notes & You Tube recording