



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2020

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L Bolton

GUESTS: Police Chief, Chris Moore; Town Moderator, Eileen Meaney; Donna Osborne; John Van

Chairman Hippler called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 6:32p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (b). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Osborne - yes; Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney - yes Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 7:33p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Osborne – yes; Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney – yes. Passed 5-0-0

The Board interviewed three candidates for the open tax collector position.

Chairman Hippler opened the meeting at 7:34pm., welcomed those present to the March 9, 2020 meeting of the Weare Board of Selectmen and proceeded with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE ITEMS:

Police Chief Moore shared a copy of the prototype of a new website design, approved by the Board, with a mobile application.

Town Administrator Bolton explained it is a sub account with the town through Civic Plus.

Police Chief Moore pointed out their home page as a direct link to the Town Website.

Chairman Hippler was impressed with the 911 mobile app direct link from the site.

Chief Moore answered, yes, that is the intention.

The Board and Town Administrator Bolton were very impressed and thanked the Chief.

MINUTES:

February 24, 2020 Minutes: Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to accept the minutes of February 24th, as written, passed 4-0-1 (Selectman Snyder - abstained)

March 1, 2020 Minutes: Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to accept the minutes of March 1, as written, passed 4-0-1 (Selectman Snyder – abstained).

MANIFEST:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated March 12, 2020 as included in the following manifests:

<i>Payroll Manifest</i>	\$	<i>51,159.30</i>	(Weekly payroll)
<i>Accounts Payable Manifest</i>	\$	<i>148,262.21</i>	
<i>Fire Department Accounts Payable Manifest</i>	\$	<i>3,817.04</i>	(Pending BOFW approval)
<i>John Stark Regional Manifest</i>	\$	<i>250,000.00</i>	
<i>Weare School District Manifest</i>	\$	<i>300,000.00</i>	
<i>Total</i>	\$	<i>753,238.55</i>	

The following manifests were previously ordered to sign at the February 24, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting:

Payroll Manifest	\$	56,712.94	(Weekly & Fire monthly payroll checks dated 03/05/2020)
Accounts Payable Manifest	\$	49,794.43	(Checks dated 03/05/2020)

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- As of 3/4/20, we have 182 E-subscribers for the Town Website
- Class VI Road Discussion: A property owner on Sawyer Rd was placed on the March 16, 2020 agenda
- Tax Collector interviews were conducted tonight
- Bi-Weekly Board Schedule; to discuss over the next couple of weeks

Government Building-

- Gordon Brown building site walk: Sunday, March 1, 2020; to hold on for further discussion after town vote.
- Stone Memorial building: fire/freeze alarm, to hold on for further discussion after town vote.

Renshaw Road: Vice Chairman Meaney took over discussion regarding an email pertaining to a lot line adjustment. Debra Gilbert came before the Planning Board in reference to a lot line adjustment on Renshaw Road. When Renshaw Road was put in back in the 1980's, part of the road infringed on the property of Debra Gilbert and Enid Mackenzie, stated Vice Chairman Meaney. The owners are looking to give the right to this part of the road back to the town. This will correct the fact that the owners are currently paying taxes on property that is Renshaw Road.

Town Administrator Bolton explained counsel for the town side has approved the deeds; the Board just has to approve it, as the town owns the road.

Vice Chairman Meaney made a motion to accept the property, lot line adjustment between Enid Mackenzie, Deborah Gilbert of 42 Renshaw Road and the Town of Weare. Selectman Snyder seconded, Selectman Osborne – yes; Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney – yes. Passed 5-0-0

PROW at the DTC: Town Administrator Bolton explained there is a long-standing, 10+ year old, lawsuit that involves 40 clients vs. utility companies such as Granite State, Eversource and Fairpoint. The law firm of DTC, Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella, from Exeter, NH is looking for the Town of Weare to join in on establishing a PROW, *public right of way* ordinance. At a cost of \$1000.00, this new regulation gives clearance for the town to tax the utility companies that use the town's right of ways.

Vice Chairman Meaney and Selectman Burdick moved and seconded, to authorize the Chairman Hippler to sign the authorization for the PROW agreement with the law firm, DTC. Selectman Osborne – yes; Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney – yes. Passed 5-0-0

The updated Welfare application was adopted and signed by the Board of Selectmen.

CORRESPONDENCE & OTHER BUSINESS:

Town Administrator Bolton addressed the letter to the editor from Frank Campagna on page 12, in the publication, *The Messenger* and the Yellow Mailer distributed to town residents recently. She is astonished as to the degree of transparency she and her team has provided, repeatedly, given explicit explanations at every turn imaginable, specifically, with respect to the binder they put together for the public hearing, and yet, there is this underlying current of deception that still exists.

Town Administrator Bolton points out the letter to the editor from Frank Campagna writing about “when you vote March 10th, you may be a uniformed voter.” To this, she explains, an “uninformed voter” can be trained where as a “*misinformed* voter,” with respect to the Yellow Mailer, is more costly. One example within this Yellow Mailer is the \$300,000.00 line depicted as surplus, extra money in the budget. However, this money is a direct result of the town's inability to hire or keep employees because of wage disparages among other nearby towns. Specifically, concerning the police and fire departments wage ranges. This information deliberately left out of the Yellow Mailer *misinforms* voters. She continued, “...share that, don't just hang a carrot out that says we ended up with \$300,000.00 in excess, do you really need to increase the budget?” This money, returned, transparently, not encumbered, used or spent as it could have. The town is asking for it back to be upfront. This Yellow Mailer neglected to tell people why. Police Chief Moore has been telling people that he has lost three employees in a month because of the money.

Town Administrator Bolton explains the town's transparency is the exact opposite of “hiding something.” Taxpayers pay for the town mailer. Much time and effort put into explaining the purpose and not encouraging you on how to vote. The finance committee responded, yet, out of the thirteen members, four decided as a group to spend money to make a flyer expressing their opinions, separately.

Town Administrator Bolton raises the question, “When you belong to a committee that, whether it's right or wrong, they'd be like two of you, (Board members) wanted to put a mailer because you didn't agree to something else.” She reasoned, “I think it does some damage after what we worked so hard for and we've been

upfront and transparent, to not tell everybody what it's about," the \$300,000.00 is for positions we do not pay enough. One town over pays five dollars more an hour.

Chairman Hippler ingeminated, the people who sent out this Yellow Flyer were on the finance committee. He again addressed the \$300,000.00 line relates to the fact that Chief Moore could not fill positions. That amount is in place in the event the Chief is ready to hire personnel. It is not surplus money. It came back into the fund balance, "...given back by very fiscally... concentrated people, the Chiefs ...returned it, because they didn't use it." He also explained, the town could have bought a cruiser, but they did not. They put the money back where it belongs, doing the right thing.

Vice Chairman Meaney spoke explaining how the finance committee spent a lot of time evaluating this and did their due diligence, having eight of the thirteen in favor of the town's portion of the budget, with four against and one abstained. He went on to explain some of the things in this Yellow Mailer is not accurate. In his opinion, distributing this mailer is not exactly ethical. The budget needs to move forward, as there is not much difference between the default and proposed. All things increase and if you do not meet those increases you "end up playing catchup ball," stated Vice Chairman Meaney.

Chairman Hippler concurred, "And we're still in that boat now!"

Vice Chairman Meaney conveys, eleven years of default budgets puts the town fifteen years behind and in reality, our tax rate has not grown that drastically.

Chairman Hippler and Vice Chairman Meaney wished the Yellow Mailer was accurate.

Town Administrator Bolton stated you can print and say anything you want, but you have to be accurate. One of the signers on the Yellow Mailer is finance committee member, Neal Kurk. Mr. Kurk sued the town of Weare over the default budget. This year, he stood up several times at both the deliberative session and at Board of Selectmen meetings inquiring about the default number for the four elections, *looking for an increase*, that we have to hold and now he is asking you to *vote default*. Why wasn't the four finance committee members held to transparency when they sent out their Yellow Flyer? They should have told the whole story.

Vice Chairman Meaney emphasized the Board was accused of being underhanded and hiding stuff concerning salary adjustments, when they were made to keep high quality employees. This was done to keep key people instead trying to go out, replace them, and start over again, costing us twice as much.

Town Administrator Bolton expressed that Police Chief Moore may have to reduce to a twelve-hour coverage instead of twenty.

Police Chief Moore summarized these same staffing issues and stated it cost \$44,000.00 every time he has to replace someone. Not to mention how small the pool is, he is having a hard time filling vacancies.

The reality is our current pay scale does not fare well. Especially, when hiring certified individuals, this Yellow Mailer is detrimental as to what Police Chief Moore needs to do to run his department effectively.

Town Administrator Bolton stated it is detrimental to the town and school as well, because the state of New Hampshire has approved a house bill mandating the bus company transport the kindergarten children. The bus company, now, has to make two daily bus runs for a morning and afternoon kindergarten at a cost of \$65,000.00 to the town. She went on to expound on the fact that misinformation creates misinformed voters and if you are going to give information, give the facts, all the facts.

Town Administrator Bolton mentioned, though she is not on Facebook, she has been made aware of the ruthless, nasty comments made on a Weare Facebook page that attacks families with children, among other disparaging comments, even beyond the articles. This is sad and does not boost well for the town committee these people are unfortunately associated with.

Chairman Hippler agrees, this kind of intolerance does not belong on Weare Facebook accounts.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 8:11p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (a & c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Osborne - yes; Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney - yes Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 9:13 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Osborne – yes; Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney – yes. Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Burdick seconded to seal and restrict these nonpublic session minutes. Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 9:13p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Osborne - yes; Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney - yes Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 9:28 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Osborne – yes; Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney – yes. Passed 5-0-0

The Board discussed outstanding tax issues for two residents.

Chairman Hippler apologized that this should have been done when the camera was on. A Service Award Plaque presentation to Selectman Jan Snyder for her long service for the Town Of Weare in her capacity of Deputy Town Treasurer, Treasurer and Selectman. She will be greatly missed and the Board and Town Administrator Bolton wish her well.

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to adjourn at 9:30pm. Passed 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Karen Nelson

Karen Nelson transcribed from
TA Bolton notes & YouTube recording