

DRAFT



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 20, 2020

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

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:** Naomi L Bolton

**GUESTS:** Steve Roberts

Chairman Meaney opened the meeting at 6:30pm., welcomed those present to the April 20, 2020 meeting of the Weare Board of Selectmen and proceeded with the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Meaney stated Selectman Osborne is seated in the audience, Selectman Burdick is home sick and he wished her to get well soon.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** eliminated until further notice, contact Town Administrator Bolton if you need to have something addressed.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE ITEMS:** No Department heads present.

Steven W. Roberts, 815 Concord Stage Rd., looking to put in a driveway access, stonewall issue:

Mr. Roberts' 11.8-acre property has approximately 800' frontage on Sugar Hill (North) Road. He is looking to remove 20' of stonewall, basically, a pile of rocks that were at one time a stonewall, for a driveway to provide access to his field from Sugar Hill Road for agricultural work. Mr. Roberts explained he needs springtime access to plant the field and the Sugar Hill Road side has dryer ground to maneuver his tractor. He continued, some of the rocks in the area are as big as the podium or bigger and may have been base rocks for the original stonewall. Mr. Roberts stated DPW Director Knapp came out and said he was not sure he even had equipment to move the rocks. Invasive plant species are growing in amongst the rocks as well, without moving some rocks Mr. Roberts cannot get to them. After looking at the pictures Mr. Roberts provided, Chairman Meaney and Vice Chairman Hippler stated they are not sure if there was a stonewall in place originally, perhaps a bar way instead. Selectman Van asked if he went to the Planning Board.

Mr. Roberts explained he applied two weeks ago and was told he had to go before the Selectmen. He talked to our Land Use Coordinator who suggested getting pictures to her for our DPW Director, which he did. Town Administrator Bolton explained Mr. Roberts is asking for 20', for an agricultural purpose, which deems it essential. **Vice Chairman Hippler moved, Chairman Meaney seconded to allow Steve Roberts to remove 20' of stonewall for a bar way to farmland, Map 403 Lot 17, barring conditions knowing it has not been to the Planning Board. Passed 3-1-0 (Jonathan H. Osborne) (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

**March 18, 2020 Minutes: Vice Chairman Hippler moved, Chairman Meaney seconded to accept the minutes of March 18th, as amended, passed 4-0-0. (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

**April 6, 2020 Minutes: Vice Chairman Hippler moved, Chairman Meaney seconded to accept the minutes of April 6th, as amended, passed 3-0-1. (Abstained: Johnathan H. Osborne) (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

*To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated April 23, 2020 as included in the following manifests:*

**The following manifests were previously ordered to sign at the April 6, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting:**

*To order the Treasurer to sign payroll checks dated April 30, 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 4-0-0 (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrative Topics:**

James R. St. Jean Auctioneers has postponed indefinitely their spring 2020 NH State Surplus Live Auction due to the COVID-19 response and stay at home orders from N.H. Governor Chris Sununu. However, all Municipalities and Non-Profits can still sell their assets in an online auction.

Town Administrator Bolton talked about adding Plexiglas in the Town Clerk's Office over the counter. DPW Director Knapp to send a crew to install. Vice Chairman Hippler suggested running U-Channel on either side of each station cutout, inserting a piece of Plexiglas, resting 6 inches off the counter to allow paperwork to pass under.

Vice Chairman Hippler proposed having evening hours for the Town Clerk's office on Wednesdays making it easier for residents, especially those who are still working fulltime, to pay their taxes or register their vehicles. Selectman Van suggested having at least one employee available for an evening, as in our regular Wednesday night hours.

Chairman Meaney discussed having the boat ramp at Chase Park open by appointment only in order to accommodate resident landowners putting their boats in the water. Town Administrator Bolton stated PARC is on board.

Vice Chairman Hippler would like to leave staffing at status quo until the State, or higher levels, indicate otherwise. The Board to revisit later.

The Board will leave Town Committee meetings and Town Hall rentals at status quo.

### **CORRESPONDENCE & OTHER BUSINESS:**

Town Administrator Bolton referenced an email from Heleen Kurk who questioned what the Board's plan was concerning opening campgrounds in lieu of COVID-19/Governor's orders. After a discussion, the Board concluded to ask the Town's legal Counsel if the Town has a legal right to close public or private campgrounds.

Town Administrator Bolton read a Thank You card she received from the Gunther Family to Town employees. The Gunthers graciously took the time to send a note thanking the Town employees for their hard work and being essential during the outbreak. They hoped we are all staying safe and to let them know if we need anything. Town Administrator Bolton and the Board were very grateful.

Chairman Meaney thanked all Town employees. He feels they have done an outstanding job in view of this difficult time with COVID-19, trying to stay safe while still performing their functions that they were hired to do.

Town Administrator Bolton addressed pistol permits can be done over the phone and processed with a debit card, receipts can then be brought to the police station where it will be issued. Chairman Meaney suggested having the Town Clerk send an email to the PD once the fee has been paid.

Vice Chairman Hippler discussed multiple failed attempts concerning radio communications contact for our Police Officers. Officers to the dispatch and dispatch to the Officers, transmissions are failing both ways. Vice Chairman Hippler reiterated the transmissions are not making it to the tower on Mine Hill. Selectman Van stated what upset him tonight was he heard one of our Police Officers ask dispatch, "Did you hear my request to have the ambulance come in." Vice Chairman Hippler concurred as he heard that call come in tonight as well and even that particular transmission was not clear, but understandable.

Selectman Van stated it is absurd to make a request for an ambulance and wonder if it has been heard, having to make multiple requests. Vice Chairman Hippler agreed, "It is unacceptable." The Board concluded something has to be done to improve vital radio communications for the safety of all Officers, Firefighters and residents. Town Administrator Bolton to talk to Town Counsel and the town of Goffstown.

Town Administrator Bolton to ask Jeffery Barden, President of R & R Communications, Swanzey, NH if he is aware of or has ever seen a log from our Police Department with transmission issues. Vice Chairman Hippler suggested providing R & R Communications a log of the date, time and place where the transmission issues occur.

Selectman Osborne inquired about hiring a Building Inspector for the Town. Town Administrator Bolton responded she is in the process of redoing the job description. At the moment, the Town utilizes a mutual aid Building Inspector.

Because we are no longer recycling trash, Selectman Van requested to see the increase in the Town's transfer station trucking and debris fees. Town Administrator Bolton stated they are noted in the quarterly reports from our Finance Administrator. Chairman Meaney stated there has not been much of an increase.

Selectman Osborne discussed the situation on East Road concerning the sign and gate. He stated the property owner was sent a letter to remove the gate, but it was still there. Town Administrator Bolton explained the gate will come down and a sign will be posted on either side, as the property owner is concerned as hunters are going on the property behind his house. There is no definite delineation marking where Town property ends and the resident's property begins, it is just grass. Town Administrator Bolton to clarify with Town Counsel for particulars in proper posting to alert hunters.

#### **NONPUBLIC SESSION:**

**Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Van seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 7:48 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (a). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Van – yes; Selectman Osborne - yes; Chairman Meaney – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler - yes  
Passed 4-0-0 (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

**Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Van seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 8:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Van – yes; Selectman Osborne – yes; Chairman Meaney – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler – yes. Passed 4-0-0 (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

**Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Van seconded to seal and restrict these nonpublic session minutes. Passed 4-0-0 (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

#### **NONPUBLIC SESSION:**

**Chairman Meaney moved, Selectman Van seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 8:01 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Van – yes; Selectman Osborne - yes; Chairman Meaney – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler – yes  
Passed 4-0-0 (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

**Vice Chairman Hippler moved, Chairman Meaney seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 8:21 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Van – yes; Selectman Osborne – yes; Chairman Meaney – yes; Vice Chairman Hippler – yes. Passed 4-0-0 (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

**Vice Chairman Hippler moved, Chairman Meaney seconded to seal and restrict these nonpublic session minutes. Passed 4-0-0 (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

**Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Van seconded to adjourn at 8:22pm. Passed 4-0-0 (Absent: Sherry M. Burdick)**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A True Record.

*Karen Nelson*

Karen Nelson transcribed from  
TA Bolton notes & YouTube recording