

**FINAL**



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 1, 2019**

**PRESENT:** JON OSBORNE, SELECTMAN; JAN SNYDER, SELECTMAN; FREDERICK W HIPPLER, CHAIRMAN; JACK MEANEY, VICE CHAIR

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Hannah Smith  
**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:** Naomi L Bolton

**GUESTS:** John Van, Rachel Cisco, Sharon DeStefano, Frank Campana, Derek Winsor, Bev Cotton, Donna Osborne, Tom Clow

At 6:30 PM, Chairman Hippler opened the meeting and requested those present join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Hippler requested those present join the Board in honoring Maureen “Joey” Slattum with a moment of silence, as she passed away this week.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Before the public comment period began, the Board agreed to add an item to the agenda regarding the political sign ordinance that will be addressed by Tom Clow.

Frank Campana was present to express concerns with the new Police Chief’s “roots.” Norfolk, VA (where he previously served), has a canine patrol, a harbor patrol, substantially more traffic than Weare, a SWAT team, a motorcycle patrol, and a police force of 750 officers. Virginia is “the seat of real big government” and Mr. Campana expressed concern with “wanting to bring that mentality” to Weare. Mr. Campana also expressed concern that the Town’s savings do not get returned to taxpayers but “plowed into” the next year’s budget. Mr. Campana also expressed concern with holding a public hearing regarding the new Police Chief *after* the contract was signed and commented that he would prefer this kind of position be voted on at Town Meeting.

**POLITICAL SIGN ORDINANCE DISCUSSION:** Tom Clow was present to discuss the Town’s political signage policy. Common across the State and passed by the Board in 2004, political signage is prohibited on Town-owned property. A 2011 revision to the zoning ordinance also prohibits political signage on Town- or SAU-owned property unless an election is being held that day. There is a history of disregarding these ordinances. None of these policies make reference to the Town Hall sign. Town Administrator Bolton confirmed that renters of the Town Hall get priority use of the Town Hall sign. On behalf of the Weare Democrats, Mr. Clow inquired regarding the possibility of a political candidate’s name being displayed on the Town Hall sign if they are speaking at the Town Hall. The Weare Democrats are not officially supporting anyone until the primary on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This will be a unique election cycle due to the number of candidates; the Weare Democrats feel they are providing a service to the community by having many of them appear locally. There are 6138 registered voters in the Town, 2710 of which are independents.

**At 6:52 PM, Chairman Hippler opened the discussion to the public.**

Derek Winsor was present to thank Tom Clow for bringing this topic to the Board. Mr. Windsor agrees with the spirit of political neutrality and suggested the group sponsoring/hosting the political candidate could be required to be listed as well. Chairman Hippler commented regarding space constraints on the Town Hall sign.

John Van was present to suggest requiring the Town Hall sign to include “not endorsed by Town” when listing a political candidate.

Selectman Snyder inquired regarding rules and regulations of the Town Hall, as related to those who rent the space; Town Administrator Bolton commented that the rules and regulations pertain to the Town Hall itself and not the sign. Chairman Hippler commented regarding the Town’s right to remove a sign if deemed inappropriate.

Bev Cotton was present to remind the public that when listing a political candidate, the phrase “all are welcome” is included. Ms. Cotton is the person who updates the Town Hall sign.

Selectman Snyder commented regarding the phrase “town hall events” used by many political candidates.

Vice Chair Meaney requested confirmation regarding the Board’s right to suspend a policy – public hearing necessary? Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding fairness to previous political candidates and suggested publishing the political candidate’s name in *Weare in the World* or on Channel 6. Chairman Hippler inquired regarding policy changes – voted on by the public or by the Board? Town Administrator confirmed Board vote, but public hearing required. Selectman Snyder inquired regarding definition of “political signage”; Vice Chair Meaney suggested reaching out to Town Counsel Laura Spector Morgan and commented regarding the spirit and intent of the policy. Chairman Hippler inquired regarding an original signed copy of the policy; Town Administrator Bolton will follow up, as it should be in the policy binder. Chairman Hippler commented regarding care of updating policy language to specifically address the Town Hall sign.

Tom Clow commented regarding the spirit and intent of the policy and confirmed he is requesting the Board’s interpretation on the policy as it does not explicitly mention the Town Hall sign. Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding “on or in” Town property. Mr. Clow clarified need to interpret “political signage” regarding an announcement that a specific political candidate is speaking. Mr. Clow also expressed concern with duct tape use on new tracks and paint on the Town Hall sign.

Town Administrator Bolton will reach out to Town Counsel Laura Spector-Morgan and there will be a follow-up discussion at the next Board meeting.

**As there were no further comments, Chairman Hippler closed the discussion at 7:07 PM.**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMITTEE ITEMS:**

Tax Deeded Property Discussion: Tax Collector Sharon DeStefano was present to discuss the deed list, per the July 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. The deed list encompasses 2015, 2016, and a forecast for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Many of the parties have returned signed payment arrangement documents and are aware of the deadline. There are 14 houses/ businesses. Chairman Hippler inquired regarding payment plans; Tax Collector

DeStefano confirmed appropriate rates, usually paid off by July 15<sup>th</sup>, or another payment arrangement, usually with a December deadline. Town Administrator Bolton suggested Board review of payment plans. Chairman Hippler inquired regarding liability for businesses; Tax Collector DeStefano anticipates all of the businesses listed to pay off by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Vice Chair Meaney and Chairman Hippler expressed concern with the campgrounds and mobile homes. Town Administrator Bolton clarified regarding deceased parties. Town Administrator Bolton suggested notifying the Board of Directors of the campgrounds and mobile park associations regarding lot rent. Vice Chair Meaney and Selectman Snyder suggested increased taxes for campgrounds or mobile parks with noncompliant parties. Chairman Hippler suggested stronger contract language for campgrounds or mobile parks. Town Administrator Bolton will follow up with Town Counsel Laura Spector-Morgan.

DPW - Knotweed Spraying 2019-2020 Proposals: As DPW Director Benji Knapp was not able to attend this evening, Town Administrator Bolton presented the bids received for knotweed spraying. The bid has four proposed phases: fall 2019, spring 2020, fall 2020, and spring 2021. Despite reaching out to 4 potential vendors, only 2 bids were received:

- **Lawnboy Landscaping LLC**, of Hillsboro, totaling \$11,901.33
- **Landscape Weed & Pest Solutions**, of Lyndeborough, totaling \$16,800.00

Both vendors included certificates of insurance. Chairman Hippler inquired regarding funding; Town Administrator Bolton commented regarding lack of maintenance funding. Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding a sickle mower. Selectman Osborne commented regarding 100-day timeline for a knotgrass spraying permit. Selectman Snyder inquired regarding the background of the vendors – Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding the vendor's licenses, Selectman Osborne commented regarding State water testing, Chairman Hippler commented regarding GPS tracking submitted to the State, and Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding the DES and State pollution controls. **Selectman Snyder moved to award the DPW knotweed spraying bid to Lawnboy Landscaping for \$11,901.33, with the funding to come from where DPW Benji Knapp deems prudent, Vice Chair Meaney seconded; passed 4-0-0.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Meeting Minutes 5/20/2019: **Chairman Hippler moved to approve the minutes of May 20<sup>th</sup> as amended, Vice Chair Meaney seconded; passed 4-0-0.**

Meeting Minutes 6/3/2019: **Chairman Hippler moved to approve the minutes of June 3rd as amended, Vice Chair Meaney seconded; passed 4-0-0.**

The Board agreed to table the minutes of June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**MANIFEST: Chairman Hippler moved to pass the manifest as follows, Vice Chair Meaney seconded; passed 4-0-0.** Selectman Snyder inquired regarding an error in reimbursement. Chairman Hippler confirmed 58¢. Town Administrator Bolton suggested the check in question be voided and an amount of \$514.16 be subtracted from Payables to be addressed later.

***To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated July 3, 2019 as included in the following manifests:***

<b><i>Payroll Manifest</i></b>	<b>\$ 63,976.38</b> (Weekly & fire monthly payroll)
<b><i>Accounts Payable Manifest</i></b>	<b>\$ 118,553.12</b>
<b><i>Supplemental Accounts Payable Manifest</i></b>	<b>\$ 651,500.00</b> (to Trustees per Town Vote)
<b><i>Supplemental Accounts Payable Manifest</i></b>	<b>\$ 84,168.72</b>

**The following manifests were previously ordered to sign at the June 17, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting:**

Chairman Hippler inquired regarding the Safety Complex roof completion; Town Administrator Bolton confirmed 3-4 days. Chairman Hippler suggested the yard signs be removed as they have been displayed for a month now.

Eversource has requested permission from the Town to cut a dead cherry tree on the corner of the Town Forest, on Poor Farm Road/ Old Francestown Road, as it is leaning on the electric wires. Town Administrator provided diagrams for the Board. Town Administrator Bolton has previously reached out to Joe Sarno and Boisvert Brother Tree Services regarding this tree. The Board agreed to grant permission to Eversource to remove the dead cherry tree.

The Town has received a \$715 bill for court costs from when the Town went to court over the default budget. Town Counsel Laura Spector-Morgan has reviewed this, and it is the Town's responsibility and it will be reflected on the next manifest.

As the Police Department has been short staffed, one officer is requesting to carry over his vacation time so he won't lose it. Police Chief Chris Moore is aware of this. Town Administrator Bolton commented regarding exceptions that have been made previously. Selectman Osborne suggested 1-year timeline. Chairman Hippler expressed concern with the sergeant's letter, as the officer in question is still in probation and this request is an exception to the personnel policy.

#### **GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE PROJECTS:**

Town Hall: Selectman Snyder provided photographs of the Town Hall to clarify changes made by Walker Roofing. Town Administrator Bolton commented regarding the missing fence on the bottom, which is still on the Town Hall stage.

Gazebo: Vice Chair Meaney inquired regarding follow-up from Reed's Ferry; Town Administrator Bolton confirmed not yet but she will follow up with them. Town Administrator Bolton inquired regarding pressure-treated post with sign placed next to gazebo. It is unclear if this sign is meant to honor the Eastman family. Vice Chair Meaney expressed concern with lack of permission for this sign. Selectman Osborne expressed concern with the many negative comments made during the Patriotic Celebration. Selectman Snyder commented regarding the original intention of gazebo and suggested a more permanent installation. Selectman Osborne inquired regarding a missing section of railing and the original plaque; Selectman Snyder confirmed they are in the Gordon Brown barn. Vice Chair Meaney inquired regarding legacy electrical equipment; Selectman Snyder confirmed it is also in the Gordon Brown barn along with extra shingles. Chairman Hippler suggested the Board ask the Historical Society to install a more permanent sign with the Board's approval. Vice Chair Meaney expressed concern with zoning process.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

ACO Position: There is 1 candidate who has received a conditional offer (amount per Town meeting) and is going through background screening now.

Mildred Hall Expenditure for PLC Purchase: Town Administrator Bolton received an email from Tom Jones updating the Board on the project. Per the Emma Sawyer trustees, the deed was closed on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Town Administrator Bolton had followed up regarding Town review and language discussed but has not yet received a reply. Selectman Osborne inquired regarding the timeline. Vice Chair Meaney inquired regarding PLC follow-up with the Board. Town Administrator Bolton reminded the Board of the ARM grant deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board expressed concern with reimbursing expenditure.



Class VI Road Discussion: Town administrator Bolton met with Art Siciliano regarding the Wiss property and will forward the Board an email. The Board will finish up the discussion at their next meeting, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE/ OTHER BUSINESS:**

Selectman Osborne reminded the Board of emails they had received regarding a code enforcement issue on Boyce Road. Town Administrator Bolton confirmed that Kelly Dearborn-Luce is looking into it and will follow up with the owner. Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding previous court decision and lack of enforcement from DES.

Selectman Osborne inquired regarding the posting of the vacant Administrative Secretary position vacated when Merry Rice retired; Town Administrator confirmed she will look to advertise in the next month or two. Selectman Osborne commented that he would like that position to be filled.

Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding some concerns on social media regarding the parking and traffic enforcement at Chase Park. There have also been concerns about how the Board has handled PARC and WAC (catering to older residents of the Town). Town Administrator Bolton agreed that very little funding is put into maintaining the PARC and WAC programs; many programs are being added without enough field space. Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding non-regulation size of Bolton field and lack of public support. Chairman Hippler commented regarding Board support of PARC vs ballot support for PARC. Selectman Snyder suggested concerned parents should attend the deliberative sessions. Chairman Hippler suggested fundraising from teams in addition to Town contributions.

Selectman Osborne informed the Board that the Patriotic Committee was approached with a complaint regarding accessible parking. Police Chief Moore will look into it, and it was suggested that 5-6 spots on East Road should be designated accessible. Vice Chair Meaney expressed concern with enforcement, especially during non-event times. Selectman Snyder inquired regarding steepness of the area leading to the gazebo from the handicap access area.

Chairman Hippler commented regarding updated the Town website to reflect the new Police Chief, Chris Moore. Town Administrator Bolton commented regarding the DPW Director position. Chairman Hippler commented regarding a second and out-of-date version of the Town website. Vice Chair Meaney expressed concerns with inconsistencies across the website.

Chairman Hippler commented regarding a recent stone wall removal on Route 149 – about 25-30 feet for a second driveway.

Chairman Hippler received an email regarding truck traffic on River Road and Riverdale Road, and passed it along to Police Chief Chris Moore and DPW Director Benji Knapp, who followed up with Town Administrator Bolton. Town Administrator Bolton commented that not much can be done because of Parker Station Road in Goffstown.

Chairman Hippler was approached at the Patriotic Celebration regarding volunteering at the Transfer Station swap shop. The swap shop used to be cleaned regularly but not recently. Vice Chair Meaney expressed concern with liability due to lack of supervision. Chairman Hippler inquired regarding a liability waiver; Vice Chair Meaney suggested they check with Primex. Selectman Snyder suggested they reach out to DPW Director Knapp to get his input.

Being as there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Hippler moved to adjourn, Vice Chair Meaney seconded; passed 4-0-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A True Record.

*Hannah Smith*

Hannah Smith  
Recording Secretary