

FINAL



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2019**

PRESENT: JAN SNYDER, SELECTMAN; FREDERICK W HIPPLER, CHAIRMAN; SHERRY BURDICK, SELECTMAN; JACK MEANEY, VICE CHAIRMAN

RECORDING SECRETARY: Hannah Smith

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L Bolton

GUESTS: Connie St Clair, Chris Hague, Richard Butt, Donna Osborne, Frank Campana, Wendy Clark

Chairman Hippler opened the meeting at 6:05 PM before entering into nonpublic session.

NONPUBLIC

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 6:06 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney - yes. Passed 4-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 6:39 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Snyder – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes; Vice Chairman Meaney – yes. Passed 4-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to seal and restrict these nonpublic session minutes. Passed 4-0-0

At 6:40 PM, Chairman Hippler opened the meeting and requested those present join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Connie St Clair was present to request written permission to cut brush up to 10 feet on the Town's property on Daniel's Road across from her home. The brush causes obstruction in the winter. Chairman Hippler requested photographs; Ms. St Clair will send a video and pictures.

Chris Hague was present to thank the Board for their part in restoring the Town Hall, as it is a "source of pride for our town," and for their part in introducing the road bond, as it will enhance the Town and keep up property values. Ms. Hague also thanked DPW Director Benji Knapp and the entire Highway Department for their hard work. Ms. Hague also expressed concern with lack of regular custodial care for

the interior of the Town Hall (floor not washed regularly, ants, toilet paper un-stocked, doors left open, etc.) and commented regarding the need for stewardship of public property.

Richard Butt was present to comment on the great work being done on the Town Hall - “as close to what I would consider original.” Mr. Butt expressed concern with a comment made by a member of the Board regarding the gazebo’s structural integrity and suggested this be resolved before the gazebo is accepted. Mr. Butt also commented regarding the Gordon Brown barn, as part of the Mildred Hall Advisory Committee’s original recommendation for the Town to purchase this was for the land (to increase cemetery lot space). Mr. Butt expressed concern with spending tax money on structural upkeep when that was not the original intention. Mr. Butt suggested the Mildred Hall Advisory Committee look into an escrow account to maintain the Gordon Brown buildings. Mr. Butt also inquired regarding road reconstruction, as chip coating has not been discussed at the deliberative session. Selectman Snyder clarified it has been discussed. Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding terminology – “chip seal” or “chip coating.” Mr. Butt inquired regarding the CIP report; Chairman Hippler confirmed it had been included. Mr. Butt commented regarding the preliminary list on the Town website of a schedule of road reconstruction through 2020. Selectman Snyder reminded Mr. Butt the schedule is weather-dependent. Mr. Butt requested a presentation on chip seal (as compared to shim and overlay) and inquired regarding 5-year lifetime; Selectman Burdick clarified 10-year lifetime. Selectman Burdick and Chairman Hippler requested confirmation regarding chip seal project funding coming out of bond or the DPW Department’s regular maintenance budget; Town Administrator Bolton will confirm and follow up.

Frank Campana was present to express concern with the Police Chief agreement. Mr. Campana read the definition of “agreement” from the dictionary and commented that he thinks the Police Chief’s agreement is a contract. Mr. Campana inquired as to the decision to use the word agreement, and inquired if that eliminated the need for a public hearing. Chairman Hippler confirmed the Board will follow up later during the meeting.

Donna Osborne was present to comment regarding the sign post at the gazebo, as it’s an “eyesore.” Mrs. Osborne suggested cutting down the post to the height of the gazebo railing.

MINUTES:

As there were no department head/ committee items and the Board will be tabling the Sawyer Road Class VI discussion until after the Planning Board meeting of August, 26th, the Board reviewed the minutes.

Meeting Minutes July 1st, 2019: Chairman Hippler moved to approve the minutes of 7/1/2019 as written, Vice Chair Meaney seconded; passed 4-0-0.

Meeting Minutes July 29th 2019: The Board tabled the minutes of 7/29/2019 until the next meeting.

MANIFEST:

Chairman Hippler moved to approve the manifest as follows, Vice Chair Meaney seconded; passed 4-0-0. Town Administrator Bolton made a correction – the next meeting is August 26th. The Board will be meeting August 19th as a work session.

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated August 15, 2019 as included in the following manifests:

<i>Payroll Manifest</i>	\$	55,114.05 (Weekly payroll)
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Accounts Payable Manifest	\$	57,341.15
Fire Department Accounts Payable Manifest	\$	4,561.70
<i>(Up to the following amount, pending approval by the BOFW)</i>		
John Stark Regional Manifest	\$	250,000.00
Total	\$	367,016.90

The following manifests were previously ordered to sign at the July 29, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting:

<i>Payroll Manifest</i>	<i>\$ 60,157.48 (Weekly payroll checks dated 08/08/19)</i>
<i>Supplemental Payroll Manifest</i>	<i>\$ 442.00 (Payroll check dated 08/01/19)</i>
<i>Accounts Payable Manifest</i>	<i>\$ 39,605.12 (Checks dated 08/08/19)</i>

As there is no Selectmen's Meeting scheduled for Monday, August 19, 2019

Please vote:

To order the Treasurer to sign payroll checks dated August 22, 2019 estimated to be about \$65,000.00. Furthermore, to order the Treasurer to sign up to the amount of \$70,000.00 for accounts payables that cannot wait until the next scheduled meeting of August 26, 2019. Reports and actual check amounts will be reported to the Board of Selectmen by inclusion on the Manifest Memo at the next scheduled meeting.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Town Hall List of Projects: Town Administrator Bolton thanked John Van for volunteering to take pictures of the Town Hall, Town Office, and Gordon Brown buildings with his drone, as they will be helpful for a future RFP. The photos clearly show water damage to the ceiling of the Town Administrator's office, and rot at the Town Hall. Town Administrator Bolton will print some photos for the Board to review.

Town Administrator Bolton inquired regarding a 2020 RFP for CIP, as CIP starts meeting again next month; Chairman Hippler agreed, as the Board has a much better idea of what is needed. Town Administrator Bolton commented regarding the need to plan creatively with CIP regarding the Town Office heating system and AC units.

Town Office Propane Tank Conversion: Town Administrator Bolton has only received one quote (and it is over \$15,000 CIP cap). Vice Chair Meaney reminded the Board that the furnace is still working and suggested switching over the electric heat via new AC units as a short-term solution. Selectman Burdick suggested solar with battery storage bank. Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding the wood chip furnace at John Stark High School, installed by a company from Peterborough. Chairman Hippler expressed concern with reactive solutions in the event of an emergency. Chairman Hippler inquired regarding the age of the current system; Town Administrator Bolton confirmed 2006. Chairman Hippler inquired regarding the size of the current oil tank; Vice Chair Meaney reminded him between 500-1000 gallons. Town Administrator Bolton commented regarding recently installed whistle. Most Town buildings are propane except for the Town Office and the East Weare Fire Department. Right now, propane is cheaper than oil. Vice Chair Meaney reminded the Board the current heating system will be going through another winter, as this discussion is for the next fiscal year.

Air Conditions at the Town Office: Town Administrator Bolton received three quotes, but after the refurbishment, the AC units appear to be running fine. Selectman Burdick inquired regarding the age of the AC units; Town Administrator Bolton confirmed 15-20 years. Town Administrator Bolton suggested requesting an estimate with heat pumps; Chairman Hippler agreed.

Bell Tower: The bell tower project is complete.

Gazebo: The gazebo project is complete and has been reviewed by the Reeds Ferry representative. Per the public comment made earlier this evening regarding accepting the gazebo: the donation was accepted after the public hearing earlier this year.

Gordon Brown Barns: The Board is still looking for someone to put an asphalt-based paint on the red barn. Selectman Burdick suggested painting just the first roof. Chairman Hippler suggested replacing nails with screws as needed. Selectman Burdick commented regarding the \$6,000 cost of partial roof repair when a full roof replacement costs \$8,000-\$10,000 (labor and lift rentals are the major expenses). Chairman Hippler expressed concern with spending so much money on cold storage. Vice Chair Meaney suggested coating it, pounding the nails down, and sealing it; Chairman Hippler commented regarding “patch job” nature of repairs. Town Administrator Bolton will solicit additional quotes. Selectman Burdick suggested reaching out to the Historical Society or Mildred Hall Advisory Committee regarding additional funds. Chairman Hippler commented regarding stewardship of a Town resource.

Clinton Grove Underpinning: Selectman Burdick is continuing to work on this project.

Town Administrator’s Office Ceiling/ Walls: Chairman Hippler suggested this project stand by until the outside of the Town Office building projects are completed.

Dog House at the Town Office: The DPW has offered to help with this project in the fall.

Town Office Security Cameras: Town Administrator Bolton is looking into installing home security cameras through a Homeland Security grant. Selectman Burdick inquired regarding RING. Vice Chair Meaney expressed concern with the cost of cameras and a server.

Town Hall Sign Repair/ Replacement: Tom Clow has met with one person, has plans to meet with a second person, and will be meeting with the Trustees of the Trust Fund.

General Contractor for Building Projects: The Board agreed to continue using Kyle Parker for now.

Update on Water Situation at the Library, Town Hall, Stone Building: The total cost of the replacement pump, boom truck, piping, and troubleshooting from Granite State was \$6,225.50. Town Administrator Bolton has a coupon and suggested this bill be paid out of the Government Building & Maintenance Fund. After the final payment to Walker Roofing, the Fund will be down to \$65,910 in case of emergency. Chairman Hippler commented regarding the furnace for the South Weare Fire Department. **Vice Chair Meaney motioned to approve \$6,225.50 out of the Government Building & Maintenance Fund, Selectman Burdick seconded; passed 3-1-0 with Chairman Hippler opposing.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Animal Control Officer Position: The ACO candidate is done with the background check and may be at the next meeting with Police Chief Chris Moore.

Hometown Hero Nomination: Granite State Communications needs to be informed of the nomination by the next Board meeting to prepare for the open house on September 14th where the award will be presented.

Class VI Road Discussion: The resident from Sawyer Road did attend the Planning Board meeting in July but the Town Attorney's opinion wasn't able to be shared yet. The resident will be going to the Planning Board on August 22nd and then will be attending the next Board meeting.

Capital Improvements Schedule: CIP will be meeting again starting September 17th.

Tax Deeded Property Auction: The auction is scheduled for November 16th at 9:00am at the Middle School.

2020 Deliberative Session: The deliberative session is scheduled for February 8th at 9:00 am at the Middle School Cafetorium.

Town Administrator Schedule: On August 13th, Town Administrator Bolton will be taking a personal lunch. On August 23rd, Town Administrator Bolton will be out on vacation.

CORRESPONDANCE/ OTHER BUSINESS:

The Board has received a letter of resignation from Police Officer Matt Belletete, effective August 15th. The Board thanked Officer Belletete for his service to the Town.

In 2007, the Town accepted a warranty deed from NBAC Corporation; a correction is now needed for one of the lot numbers on the easement. A lawyer for Owen Law Offices, PLLC has sent a corrected copy of the document, which has been reviewed by Town Attorney Bill Drescher, and requires notarized signatures. At the time, the document had been signed by the Chairman of the Conservation Commission and the Chairman of the Board of Selectman, and requires updated signatures from both parties. **Vice Chair Meaney motion to allow Chairman Hippler to sign the revision of a lot number for a property off of Route 114 owned by NBAC Corporation of Londonderry, Selectman Snyder seconded; passed 3-0-1 with Chairman Hippler abstaining.** Chairman Hippler signed the document; Town Administrator Bolton will notarize it and pass it along to the Conservation Commission.

Due to the recent data breach, the Fire Department's access to the server will have to be severed. The Fire Department's internet vendor is Granite State and will need to be "upgraded." Town Administrator Bolton will be requesting clarification and following up with the Board at the next meeting.

The Town's oldest citizen, Albert Reade, passed away on July 28th at 99 years old. The Boston Post Cane has been returned to the Town Office. Town Clerk Maureen Billodeau has a list – the next oldest citizen is Barbara Knox. Town Administrator Bolton will reach out to the Knox Family.

The Board received an email from Neal Kurk following up on the public comment made at the previous meeting regarding the Police Chief "contract" vs "agreement." There is no termination date. After a termination with cause, the Police Chief would receive three months additional salary (originally was 6 months). Per article 54, which is advisory, there were two public hearings. The Board does not have the intention to ignore past practice. The Board reminds the public of former Police Chief Myles Rigney, who

had no written contract and was only eliminated by the position being made elect-based. Town Counsel has reviewed this issue. Before the hiring process began, the Board held an informational night - every criteria except "in state" has been met and at the time the Board didn't receive any feedback related to this issue.

Chairman Hippler updated the Board on Police Officer Paul Lewis after the shooting last week. Police Officer Lewis visited the Department today and is in great spirits and thanks every agency that was involved. Chairman Hippler commented regarding the effectiveness of the mutual aid agreement, and expressed condolences for the family who lost a loved one. Vice Chair Meaney thanked Police Sergeant Austin Maguire for a job well done. Chairman Hippler commented regarding the understaffed Police Department; Vice Chair Meaney commented regarding the State Police increasing patrols of the Town because of this. Selectman Snyder thanked the other Towns who helped out due to the mutual aid agreement.

Chairman Hippler read an email he had received from John Van regarding radio issues that have been ongoing since 2014, which read as follows:

Good evening Board

Officer Williams was lucky in more ways than one last week. He had Sgt. Maguire with him, Officer Williams was only hit in the arm, and the radios eventually worked.

Yes, this is the radio discussion again. This has been an ongoing issues for years. For as long as I have been in town and well before that, it has been widely known and understood that the radio commutation system currently in place is a life safety issue and has some serious deficiencies with band-aid repairs.

- *Dec 29 2014 Board of Selectmen meeting - "There is portable communication in only 60% of the town and the in-vehicle repeaters would raise the coverage to 85%."*
- *January 5 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting - "This is truly a safety issue that needs to be dealt with" - Chief Vezina*
- *2015 Town Warrant Articles - Article 14: "It is anticipated that this money will provide in-vehicle repeaters for fire vehicles; a reconfiguration and upgrade of antennas on Mine Hill and special adapters in police vehicles for better contact with Bow Dispatch"*
- *April 15 2015 Board of Selectman meeting - Two of three invoices have been received from R&R Communications for 12 repeaters and the installation. Vice Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Bohl seconded to approve \$46,514.50 to R&R Communications for the upgrades stated in the warrant article. Passed 5-0-0*
- *September 23 2015 CIP meeting - "Chief explained that the purpose of this project is, in essence, the emergency replacement of an outdated police radio communication system that is reported to be on the threshold of catastrophic failure"*
- *December 27 2016 Board of Selectmen meeting - The AC repeater article for the radio communication was next. The safety aspect and importance of this article was discussed. Jack Meany stated this is a "Life safety issue"*
- *July 31 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting - "Vice Chairman Hippler stated that he would like to make a comment as a citizen as to how terrible the radio coverage is across all Town departments. He admitted that he rides that horse often but in some instances he feels it is creating a real safety concern"*

I could go on but it's quite obvious from about a 10 minute search on the town website using keywords "radio" and "repeater" there is plenty of chatter on this. You all know the radio system is junk. The people who rely on this lifeline know it's junk. We have invested thousands upon thousands of dollars into this antiquated system that still has major holes in its coverage. We have tried in-car repeaters, this failed. We have raised the antenna on Mine hill, this slightly worked. We have run AC power to the repeater/voter sites, but there has been no noticeable difference.

“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”

Selectman Burdick commented regarding the need for the right people to come look at the radio system. Vice Chair Meaney suggested a new vendor for radio repair. Selectman Snyder inquired regarding the length of the contract with current vendor; Chairman Hippler confirmed it is an open-ended contract. Chairman Hippler also informed the Board that the Board of Fire Wardens lists radio concerns on its agenda almost every week. Chairman Hippler will follow up with Police Officer Frisbie and ensure findings are documented.

Chairman Hippler received a report from the Town's lawn care vendor that a telephone pole at Ineson Field was removed for vehicle access, which damaged the grass. Chairman Hippler would like everyone to be aware and has shared the information with the Police Department and PARC.

Vice Chair Meaney inquired regarding the bear baiting concern; Chairman Hippler confirmed this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Selectman Burdick expressed concern with the electrical box by the gazebo, as it is not locked. Vice Chair Meaney inquired if it had previously had a lock; Town Administrator Bolton confirmed not – however, there is a lock on the water box.

NONPUBLIC

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 7:53 p.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

The Board discussed the Hometown Hero candidate and a taxpayer's payment arrangement.

Chairman Hippler moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 8:04 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, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 8:05 p.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 @ 8:14 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 Hipper moved, Vice Chairman Meaney seconded to seal and restrict these nonpublic session minutes. Passed 5-0-0

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Hippler received a letter at his home address from NH Department of Transportation, which he feels should have been sent to the Town of Deering. Town Administrator Bolton will get it to the Town of Deering.

Town Administrator Bolton wanted to remind the Board that next Monday, August 19, 2019 the Board will be having a work session to discuss the political sign ordinance and East Shore Drive. Each Board member was handed a copy of the East Shore Drive discussion which pointed out the issues that Mr. Smith was looking to address.

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Vice Chairman Meaney moved to adjourn at 9:10 PM, Selectman Burdick seconded; passed 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Hannah Smith

Hannah Smith
Recording Secretary