

DRAFT



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
July 17, 2023**

PRESENT: KEVIN J. CAHILL, SELECTMAN; BENJAMIN D. KNAPP, VICE CHAIRMAN; FREDERICK W. HIPPLER, CHAIRMAN; SALIM BLUME, SELECTMAN; SHERRY M. BURDICK, SELECTMAN.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Mark Carey- Library Trustee Chair, Clay Kriese-Library Director, Tom Clow, Jennifer Ramsey, Mike Provencher

Chairman Hippler called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Library Expansion Discussion: Clay Kriese introduced himself, Mark Carey-Library Trustee Chair, and Tom Clow who is a member of the library foundation. They came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the library expansion. They are still in the design phase of the expansion. Last year they put out a survey to the Town and were able to come up with a priority list. Library Director Kriese listed the following as priorities:

1. Large meeting room potentially dividable in case of multiple events in one night;
2. Small study rooms;
3. Children's shelving and play area with more table space;
4. Adult seating and teen seating areas with additional teen shelving;
5. Storage space;
6. Staff bathroom, work stations, break room;
7. Drive-up book drop off
8. Hospitality station

The current property is a little more than an acre and the current facility covers about 10% of the property. Library Director Kriese played a three-minute simulated walk-through of the potential expansion for the Board of Selectmen's viewing. The current estimated expansion proposal cost is \$5.3 Million which equals out to \$ 330 per square foot to construct. Chair Hippler asked if there was any thought to putting the community room closer to the legion side of the building. It looks like it is cramping the stone building. The designer said that he had to put it in that area because of a roofing issue. Chair Hippler asked about the size of the Community Room. Library Director Kriese said it is about 1,000 sqft. Chair Hippler said with twelve and a half feet between the two buildings and two roof pitches going in the same direction it seems that it would be a lot of water draining in the same area. Selectman Cahill suggested that a civil engineer should look at the property. Selectman Cahill said the north side parking is substantially higher and the walkway leaving the north parking lot runs directly down into the doors, and would like to know how they will be addressing the drainage for that issue. Selectman Cahill said that he is not in favor of the encroachment look of the larger meeting room. Library Director Kriese said right now they have people parking at the middle school for larger events which is not ideal but it is the best they can do now. Selectman Blume asked if he understood correctly that up to this point, this project has been privately funded for all

of the design. Library Director Kriese said no most of the money has come from the foundation which was donated by Ruth Jones with the intention of expanding the library building or services. Selectman Blume said it has not been up to this point a modification to people's taxes for instance. Library Director Kriese said no it has not been paid for by tax dollars. Selectman Blume asked how they anticipate getting to the five-million-dollar proposed cost of the project. Library Director Kriese said that they will have to find private donors and have sought out a fundraising consultant. Selectman Burdick asked if the architect could put the meeting room on the other side of the building. Library Director Kriese said he can check into and if the architect says it is then it could be something to look into.

John Stark Jr. Generals Football Field Discussion: Jennifer Ramsey said that the numbers for sports have increased. They have 75 children signed up for tackle football and 50 children for flag football. Mike Provencher with the Weare Athletic Club (WAC) said they have about 100 children signed up for lacrosse, about 200+ children signed up for soccer, and for baseball and softball, 190-210 children signed up sharing the middle school. Vice Chair Knapp asked if they had any thoughts on where they would like to put new fields. Mr. Provencher said he has several thoughts, the initial thought would be to add three multi-use fields and a couple of additional baseball fields. The entrance would be moved to 114 and come up by the police station which is the Ineson section. Selectman Burdick asked if the field on 77 is being used. Mr. Provencher said yes for soccer. Chair Hippler asked if he could email the conceptual plans. Mr. Provencher said he could. Town Administrator Bolton asked if the kids still started football in Henniker. Ms. Ramsey said no they do everything at Bolton. Selectman Blume said it does not seem feasible but how does PARC move forward on the East Road site plan? Vice Chair Knapp said he doesn't know where you could even put fields out there because of all the gravel. Chair Hippler said it may require a site walk.

Work Sessions: Selectman Cahill asked the Board members how they felt about limiting the work session to two hours and not having guests and keeping them strictly work sessions. Vice Chair Knapp agreed. Selectman Blume agreed but would like to go back to only having Board meetings every other week. The Board members agreed to the idea of limiting the work session to two-hour meetings and limiting the guests.

Solid Waste Ordinance: Two drafts were presented to the Board of Selectmen. One was by Vice Chair Knapp which followed the Frankestown Solid Waste Ordinance, and the other from Selectman Cahill following the Newbury Solid Waste Ordinance. Vice Chair Knapp said he is a firm believer in keeping the ordinance open rather than very specific. The market changes so much that every Board would need to look at it to redo it. Selectman Blume had a question under unacceptable materials is commercial waste which is acceptable in the current ordinance? Vice Chair Knapp said he figured that would be the biggest topic. Selectman Cahill said it becomes a big question if the business is not doing business within the town and at the end of the day the trash ends up in the town it takes away from the residential waste. They have been sending the building permits to the transfer station to see that the waste is truly from the town's people. Vice Chair Knapp said going back to Selectman Blume's question he took that from another town expecting some discussion. Selectman Blume is concerned that it may disincentivize business. Selectman Blume said he would rather solve this problem as it comes up. Vice Chair Knapp said maybe it is something they take out of the ordinance. Chair Hippler asked if Wheelabrator has a list of what they deem acceptable to go into the hopper. TA Bolton to ask Frank to reach out to Wheelabrator.

Timber Sale Discussion: Chair Hippler said the Board of Selectmen received a letter from Hopkinton Land Clearing in regards to how the bid for the Flech Farm was selected. Vice Chair Knapp said that it was not known that there were zeros put for access to recreational and high-viewed piece of property. It is a big deal when you have anywhere from thirty-five hundred to ten thousand dollars' worth of work and the company puts zeros in an important part of the bid. Reading an email, it says they were going to do it for free which is hard to believe. Selectman Cahill said he did attend the Conservation Commission meeting and as Vice Chair Knapp stated the commission did discuss how there were numbers all over the place. Selectman Cahill did inquire as to why. He said there is no clear description in the RFP. Selectman Cahill

said the bid was not open to the public. Selectman Burdick said they have not done that in the Conservation bidding process. Chair Hippler said the opening of the bids should be done in a public meeting. TA Bolton said that the Conservation Commission has put a hold on this topic and no one has been awarded the bid. They would like to have a joint meeting with the Board and the Town Forester. They would like the Board to attend their meeting on August 9th. The Board of Selectmen agreed to meet with Conservation Commission on August 9th.

MANIFEST: Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Burdick seconded:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated July 17, 2023, as included in the following manifests:

Checks Dated July 17, 2023

Payroll Manifest \$ 81,654.13(Weekly payroll checks)

Accounts Payable Manifest \$ 62,457.27

TOTAL: \$ 144,111.40

Passed: 5-0-0

BOS Signatures:

1. Eviction notices for town-owned properties that are being lived in;
2. Cemetery Deed- McLaughlin
3. Junkyard License-Allied Auto Wrecking
4. Comcast Franchise Renewal not signed due to South Weare Station & Chase Park.

Exit Interviews: Vice Chair Knapp asked that the two officers be reached out to see if they would like exit interviews.

Chairman Hippler moved; Vice Chair Knapp seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 8:16 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Cahill – yes; Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 8:49 PM. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Cahill – yes; Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 5-0-0

The potential DPW applications were reviewed. Three applicants are to be interviewed on July 24th for ten minutes each. Selectman Cahill left the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Speed Limits: Speed limits were briefly discussed in lowering or changing them.

Selectman Blume motioned to hire Jack Shepard at \$250 per week stipend to assist with Building Inspections. Seconded by Chair Hippler. Motion passes 4-0-0

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Hippler made a motion, and Vice Chair Knapp seconded to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Passed 4-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Kearsten O'Brien

Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker