

DRAFT



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 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: Jason Fiske- Interim DPW Director, Interim Fire Chief Christopher Olsen

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

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Cahill seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 6:31 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (b). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Cahill – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 4-0-0

Selectman Knapp arrived at 6:38 p.m.

The Board of Selectmen interviewed 2 candidates for the Public Works Director position and 2 candidates for the Building Inspector position.

The Board had a short discussion and agreed to invite the third applicant for Building Inspector that was unable to make the meeting tonight due to work restrictions.

Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded to exit the nonpublic session pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (b). A @ 7:41 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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Denise Purington came to a meeting to discuss the vandalism at the tennis courts. She stated there are locks on the gates but there needs to be more done. She would like the Board of Selectmen to purchase cameras to catch the vandalism. She has filed a report as of today. Selectman Burdick asked how they are getting in if there are locks. Ms. Purington said all they would have to do is call the number provided. Selectman Cahill asked who the last two calls were. Ms. Purington said the last two calls were made on Monday at 6:32 pm and 6:40 pm. The Police have both numbers but there is no evidence to prove who the vandalism is from because there are no cameras at the tennis courts. Selectman Cahill asked when the last time the code was changed. Ms. Purington said before today the last time would probably be in May. Vice Chair Knapp said he saw the pictures and wanted to know if the vandalism was marks from skateboards and bicycles or if it was painting. Ms. Purington said it was marks dug in by the skateboards and bicycles. There are tire marks from last year but the marks today are yellowish white.

Selectman Cahill said any contact by law enforcement would help get the point across and would suggest changing the locks more frequently.

Flanders Memorial Road Speed Discussion: Paul Gannon of Flanders Memorial Road asked the Board of Selectmen to give serious consideration to reducing the speed limit on Flanders Memorial Road. It is currently posted at 35 miles per hour. All the surrounding roads are at least no more than 30 miles an hour and visibility and the width of the roads are better than Flanders Memorial Road with the exception of Quaker Road. He would like to see if the Board of Selectmen would consider reducing it to 25 miles per hour with all the turns. Vice Chair Knapp said if they do verify that the speed limit is 35 miles per hour and not 30, they could change it by having a Public Hearing. They cannot change below 30 unless it is a school zone. Mr. Gannon said they could follow the RSA to change it to 25 if they do the road study. Vice Chair Knapp said they could look into that because he is not sure of what that would entail. Chair Hippler asked roughly where about is Mr. Gannon's residence. Mr. Gannon said that he is nine-tenths of a mile up Flanders Memorial from intersection 114. Mr. Gannon said the reason he is proposing 25, is because human nature you see the sign posted at 25mph you are probably going to end up doing 30 mph. Selectman Cahill said he would agree that people will press the limits, especially on some of the back roads. Rebecca Nelson said that there is no reason for people to do 50 mph at the top of the hill. Mr. Gannon said that he has spoken with the Police Chief and he has been helpful. Selectman Blume said he lives around the corner from Mr. Gannon on Duck Pond Road and sees the same thing. He would suggest the same thing that Mr. Gannon did that maybe parts of Flanders Memorial Road be reduced speeds. Many people walk that road and there are no shoulders. Selectman Cahill asked Police Chief Moore why Reservoir Drive is posted at 30 mph when the road is very similar to Flanders Memorial Road. Police Chief Moore said they do not have a say in setting the speed limits. Selectman Cahill said he is more curious about the roads having the same characteristics and why would the town make one road 30 mph and the other 35 mph. Police Chief Moore said one thing the Police Department can provide is accident data to compare the two locations if you believe there are too many accidents. Selectman Cahill would entertain the opinion from the Police Department of a similar road with a lower posting. Chief Moore said it is a slippery slope because setting the speed limit is a legislative procedure and the Police Department is more of an executive procedure where they enforce. The accident data would be able to help influence the decision along with providing real-time data which will show what time speeders are coming through the area and at what rate they are going. Chief Moore informed the Board of Selectmen they would like to be able to have more speed enforcement but the issue is turnover. The Department is in a constant state of turnover of 3.8 officers a year that they lose. With that comes more training than just speed training. Vice Chair Knapp suggested having a Town-wide speed limit unless otherwise posted. Chief Moore said there are many areas in Town where someone can be going in one direction going 40 mph and then the opposite direction going 35 mph. Chief Moore said it would fix the issue if there was just a town-wide speed limit unless posted otherwise.

Department Head/ Committee Items:

River Road Bridge Status: Interim DPW Director Jason Fiske informed the Board of Selectmen that the Bridge Committee met with a representative from DOT and the funding they thought would be available in 2026 will now be available in 2025. We received an email on Friday going over things that DOT suggested. Once the repairs of the stringers are done, we will be able to open the bridge to a C2 load rating. This means that one truck can go over the bridge at a time. The floor beams will still need to be repaired. Vice Chair Knapp asked at what GVW. Interim DPW Director Fiske said GVW full load at 100,000. Selectman Cahill said that the shop drawings as provided do not have the final stamp on them, so before they approach anyone for pricing, they would need the nod and he is hoping to get that to them by Wednesday.

Landfill Discussion: Interim DPW Director Fiske said that one of the drainage pipes at the landfill is clogged and not allowing water to flow through. Some of the material that is on the hillside slipped down, the engineering firm that they went through will take care of all the permitting and inspections. They are

trying to get a plan together for the engineer and permit costs and how they will fix the issue personnel and equipment-wise. Chair Hippler asked whereabouts in the landfill is located. Interim DPW Director Fiske said if you are looking at the access road it is on the backside to the right and starts fifty yards back from the tree line. Selectman Cahill asked how they prevent it from happening. Interim DPW Director Fiske said that it would need better maintenance of the drainage pipe. It was covered with fabric and he had gotten down there with the engineering group and there is about a foot of the pipe that has roots and dirt. Everything else is growing up in it. They are not marked and he has talked to CMA Engineers and the liner does not extend past those pipes. It would be okay for them to go out there with some delineators and mark them. Interim DPW Director Fiske said when they do the repair, if possible, they will want to rent a mini excavator and then get a mulching head on it and a mower head so they can go around and mow the tree line back. They do mow every year but it isn't always possible to get close enough to clear all the rip wrap to get the pipes cleaned up. They were able to find the other pipes and get them cleaned out. Vice Chair Knapp suggested using the mower they have now. Interim DPW Director Fiske said that the motor is not working well and that the engineering company did not suggest using an excavator out there. Their idea to fix the issue would be to use something that is rubber tracked or rubber tire something small that is noninvasive for the sake of the liner.

Update on Fire Department Transition: Interim Fire Chief Olsen presented the Board of Selectmen with the package that they go over at the Board of Fire Wards meeting. There are personnel changes and would like to recognize retired Chief Robert Richards, Captain David Hewey, Captain Scott Dismore, and Captain Rick Hippler. Interim Fire Chief Olsen presented the Board with the letters thanking the four individuals. Selectman Cahill said he does believe that the four individuals he spoke of are deeply woven into the fabric of the Town of Weare. Their duty should not go unnoticed and thank you for recognizing them. Selectman Blume said the last time Interim Chief Olsen spoke with the Board of Selectmen he spoke about training and he was wondering if he was reading the financial report correctly that there was only about \$6,500 remaining for training. Interim Chief Olsen said he believes he is reading that correctly. Selectman Blume said last time Interim Fire Chief Olsen spoke it sounded as though he was unsure it would get through the rest of the year. Selectman Blume asked if he has worked on this situation more. Interim Chief Olsen said the question is still there but by October they will have a Fire Department that is all advanced life support. They are drastically trying to catch up with their advanced level so they can always have an ALS ambulance. Interim Fire Chief Olsen said what he is nervous about is the budget because it is not his budget. He did not put this budget together but now that he is in the Interim Chief position, he owns it. He said he looked at the budget and knows what they are spending going forward. Interim Fire Chief Olsen said this is a line-item budget and that other lines in the budget could help make it so the Department does not go over their total budget. He said this is a very tough budget to work with but they will be very creative with the budget. Selectman Blume asked what the status of the ambulance that was out of commission. Interim Fire Chief Olsen said they are waiting for a new turbo because the one that was originally ordered to fix the ambulance came broken.

MANIFEST: Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Cahill seconded:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated July 27, 2023, as included in the following manifests:

Checks Dated July 27, 2023

Payroll Manifest	\$ 77,723.38 <i>(Weekly payroll checks)</i>
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Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 95,249.26
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John Stark Regional School	\$ 400,000.00
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Weare School District	\$ 1,000,000.00
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TOTAL:	<u>\$ 1,572,972.64</u>
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Passed: 5-0-0

MINUTES:

June 19, 2023 Minutes: Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Blume seconded to approve the June 19, 2023, minutes as written. Passed 5-0-0

July 10, 2023 Minutes: Selectman Blume Page 2 instead of “power out” should say “cable out”. Instead of “Business with Town of Weare” should say “Business within the Town of Weare” On Page 3 Member of the audience asked why they cannot bundle phone, Comcast Rep. said “They are protected” Selectman suggests that sentence should include [Granite State Communication] after “They”. Throughout the minutes Selectmen and Selectman are used incorrectly. The minutes do not read in order of the meeting. Chairman Hippler motioned to approve the July 10, 2023 minutes as amended. Selectman Blume seconded. All in favor 5-0-0.

July 17, 2023 Minutes: Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Blume seconded to approve the July 17, 2023, minutes as written. Passed 5-0-0

Correspondence/Other Business: Selectman Blume said he had brought up the issue with the water level at Duck Pond, and that Interim DPW Director Fiske came up with a plan and presented it to the Conservation Commission. Selectman Blume said at a previous Board of Selectmen meeting that there would be a PARC meeting where they discuss the Chase Park numbers, and they are not hitting capacity therefore no residents are being turned away. Capacity numbers are up and will continue to monitor at the monthly PARC meetings. Selectman Blume said if something does change, he will then bring it up at a Board of Selectmen's meeting so they can do something about it. Selectman Blume said there was an email from Kyle Parker and that he was a little frustrated after some miscommunication with Town Administrator Blume and hearing that people were going to the Goffstown Building inspector. He had offered to step in for a couple of months until they hired someone full-time for the Building Inspector position, but he was not taken up his offer. Selectman Cahill said to follow up on the library discussion he did go and shoot a couple of grades but did not leave any markers. This was to give people a feel of what is going to happen there with contours. If you are on E street six inches above the compressor for the air conditioning is what the grade will have to be raised, to make the mid-level entrance okay. Selectman Cahill said he can assist in it but it would be a good idea to put some stakes in the ground to see where the corners are. Selectman Cahill said he would like the Board Members to consider the elevation of the roof line for the 100-person common room and what it will look like. Selectman Blume asked if it slopes to the West. Selectman Cahill said yes they actually have to crown at the entrance and then drop to stone. Selectman Blume asked how are they east to west in the current state today. Selectman Cahill said east to west they are fairly level and then they start to climb and slope towards stone. It would be higher on the east sloping westerly towards stone. Chair Hippler still thinks that Civil Engineering still needs to be looked at there. Selectman Cahill said the last thing he wanted to bring up was why John Stark is fueling up at their pumps. Chair Hippler said they pay the town for fuel. Chair Hippler said the only thing he has to bring up under correspondence is the NH Energy Expo it is in Dunbarton and is sponsored by the Bow, Dunbarton, and Weare Energy Committees. It will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at the Dunbarton Elementary School. They will be speaking about how to do your energy heat pumps and other low energy costs. It is 9 am to 2:30 pm.

Set Work Session Agenda: The following items will be put on the July 31, 2023 work session:

Old Home Day update
Police Department Policy/ updates and accreditation process
Chief Moore Contract
Record Direction
Solid Waste Ordinance
Nonpublic
Manifest

Chairman Hippler motioned to close the public meeting and enter into non-public at 8:36 pm for purpose of RSA 91:A-3 II (b). Selectman Cahill seconded. All in favor. 5-0-0.

Chairman Hippler motioned to close the nonpublic and enter the public meeting at 9:02

Chairman Hippler made a motion to hire Jason Fiske as the Public Works Director effective immediately at a salary of \$77,500 and at six months if Mr. Fiske obtains his Waste Water Operators License he will obtain \$6,000 annually additionally. For a total of \$83,500. Selectman Blume seconded. All in favor 5-0-0.

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Hippler made a motion, and Vice Chair Knapp seconded to adjourn at 9:04 pm. Passed 5-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Kearsten O'Brien

Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker