

DRAFT



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2024

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

ABSENT: JANICE MATHEWS, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: DPW Director Jason Fiske, Police Chief Christopher Moore, Richard Butt, Frank Campana,
Kyle Parker, David Pratte, Jackie Pratte, Tom Flaherty, Tom Clow

These minutes were transcribed from the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-e7o331KeM>

Chair Hippler opened the BOS meeting at 6:34 PM.

Nonpublic Session:

**Chairman Hippler motioned to enter into a nonpublic meeting at 6:34 p.m. to RSA 91: A-3 II (a &c).
Selectman Mathews seconded. Roll call vote: Selectman Mathews-yes; Chairman Hippler-yes;
Selectman Blume-yes; Selectman Burdick-yes. All in favor. 4-0-0**

Vice Chair Knapp arrived at 6:35 pm.

**Chairman Hippler motioned to exit the nonpublic meeting at 6:44 PM. Selectman Blume seconded.
Roll call vote: Selectman Mathews-yes; Vice Chairman Knapp-yes; Chairman Hippler-yes;
Selectman Blume-yes; Selectman Burdick-yes. All in favor 5-0-0**

The Board met with Police Chief Chris Moore regarding an employee.

**Chairman Hippler called the public meeting to order at 6:45 pm and asked those present to join in
the pledge of allegiance.**

Public Comment: Richard Butt, 90 Old Town Road, said that he was disappointed at the board's actions at the deliberative session in not supporting an amendment to the Police Cruiser Article. Mr. Butt asked the BOS when they discussed the article. Selectman Mathes said that she thought it had to do with the unassigned fund balance and the BOS had a general discussion about what they would use the unassigned fund balance for in the budget discussions. Mr. Butt said at the deliberative session there was 6.39% in the unassigned fund balance and asked why the BOS could not take the \$46,000 and approve that as part of the amendment and brought the article down by a percent. Mr. Butt said the real reason that the article was amended was to get the finance committee to reconsider their recommendation not to approve the article and the only way the finance committee would reconsider it is if the amendment was if the article was

amended. Mr. Butt said the other thing on the warrant are the two articles regarding the Schmid property and it is very confusing. Mr. Butt said the lack of leadership by the board to bring the groups together to get this resolved before it appeared on the warrant. They are competing articles and neither one seems to be funded. Mr. Butt asked if the board knew the repercussions of the competing articles.

MANIFEST:

Chair Hippler moved; Selectman Mathews seconded:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated February 29, 2024, as included in the following manifests:

Checks Dated February 29, 2024

Payroll Manifest **\$ 82,087.46** (*Weekly payroll checks*)

Accounts Payable Manifest **\$ 58,213.49**

TOTAL: **\$140,300.95**

The following manifests were previously ordered to sign at the February 12, 2024, Board of Selectman meeting:

Payroll Manifest *\$73,267.89 (Weekly checks dated 02.22.24)*

Accounts Payable Manifest *\$34,221.95 (Checks dated 02.22.24)*

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Chair Hippler moved to award Austin Maguire 100 hours of sick leave to come from the sick bank. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.

License to Sell Firearms: Police Chief Moore information from the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives agent who went and visited Mr. Tower in town to inform him he does not have a permit to sell pistols or revolvers. Chief Moore said that he had not issued a license before, and he had to look up the RSA. Chief Moore said he called the State Police and the RSA which governs the license requires the Selectmen of the Town and Police Chief to grant the license. Chief Moore said there are no issues Mr. Tower has passed the criminal background check and he has approved the license and just needs the board's approval as well.

Selectman Blume moved to authorize the Chair to sign the application for permit number 6-027-011-07-4L-02614 for Michael J. Tower. Seconded by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 4-0-1 abstention from Hippler.

Minutes: Chair Hippler motioned to approve the February 12, 2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 4-0-1. Abstention from Mathews.

Public Hearing: Chair Hippler opened the public hearing at 7 PM to hear public testimony and comment on changing the disposal fees at the transfer station.

DPW Director Fiske said that the prices the Town pays for Demo have gone up and they need to adjust the fees accordingly. DPW Director Fiske said it would be a \$4 increase for wood siding and a \$10 increase for shingles and sheetrock. It is going from \$40 to \$44 per yard for wood siding and \$110 to \$120 for shingles and sheetrock. DPW Director Fiske said that mattresses have gone up in price from \$16 to \$20. Recliners went from \$10 to \$15. Passenger tires went from \$4 to \$5. Truck tires are going from \$65 to \$35 which would be the price of a 225 to a 265 rim. The larger tires have gone up considerably and DPW Director Fiske said that he wanted to put a price out there to offer it as a service it is \$85 to get rid of a

99 large tractor tire. TVs and Electronics are going from twenty cents per pound to twenty-five cents per
100 pound. Air conditioners and refrigerators are staying the same price. Propane tanks one pounders are going
101 up from \$1 to \$2. The tanks that are between 5lbs to 60lbs are going up from \$2 to \$3 and they are not
102 getting charged for those as long as the valves worked. Fire extinguishers are going from \$5 to \$6. DPW
103 Director Fiske said there is not a lot of law yet but they are looking into a better way of getting rid of
104 batteries and recycling them, so as of right now lithium batteries button cell batteries, and other types of
105 batteries that don't include dry cell are going to be a dollar a piece. Most of the searching DPW Director
106 Fiske has done he has not been able to find anything cheaper. Selectman Mathews asked how long the price
107 list was good for. DPW Director Fiske said they did one last year and he would like to get it to a point
108 where they can set the price and have a good flat line and not worry about changing them. Selectman
109 Mathews asked if NRA has given a guarantee on prices or said that the price list is good for an amount of
110 time. DPW Director Fiske said they will not guarantee the price will stay the same. Selectman Blume said
111 the price went up a few weeks ago and the town has been taking on the difference for demo for about four
112 weeks and part of that is because they didn't have a meeting last week because of the holiday.

113
114 Kyle Parker, 483 Old Francestown Road said that he is in favor of the raises, he does construction work in
115 other towns and goes to towns where there are scales and does not think there is enough to cover the cost
116 of the debris much less whoever is operating the skid steer.

117
118 Frank Campana, 322 Quaker Street said he does not know why a copy of the price increases could not have
119 been printed for tonight. Mr. Campana said if there is a possibility of a handout it should be made available.

120
121 Richard Butt, 90 Old Town Road, said he wanted to make sure he heard correctly that they are being
122 charged more for mattresses and if they were separated out when they are deposited. DPW Director Fiske
123 said there is a fee. Mr. Butt said he did some research and other towns seem to be all over the place. Mr.
124 Butt said his primary concern that he has raised before is the discrepancy between the sizes of the mattresses
125 and the costs associated with that. DPW Director Fiske said they sent the town a letter stating your price
126 per ton on demolition is there is a price per mattress and unfortunately there is no specification on what
127 size mattress it is. Mr. Butt said that based on what DPW Director Fiske stated there should be no confusion
128 on what should be charged. Mr. Butt said it is concerning that the Town was \$27,000 short in collecting
129 fees and the fees collected in 2023 were \$64,500 Mr. Butt said that he wants to make sure something gets
130 put into place to make sure it does not happen again. The comment was made once before and there was
131 no follow-up. Chair Hippler said the BOS did follow up. Selectman Blume said they did have to have a
132 nonpublic about it and they did meet with the DPW Director to make sure the loss stopped. DPW Director
133 Fiske said that he believes they are \$1900 under on the demo but they have a trailer that has gone out and
134 the books have not caught up. Mr. Butt said that it should be made public knowledge as to the reason why
135 it was short. Selectman Blume said he does not think that they could ever publicly say exactly what the
136 problem was, but he thinks they can say the problem has been resolved to the best of their abilities and
137 knowledge and continues to be monitored much more aggressively than it used to be.

138
139 Tom Clow said that he knows it had been discussed about getting a scale and was wondering what the cost
140 of the scale would be. DPW Director Fiske said around \$100,000.

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142 Chair Hippler closed the public hearing at 7:21 pm.

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144 **Chair Hippler motioned to accept the fees as presented. Seconded by Selectman Burdick effective**
145 **February 27, 2024. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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147 **DPW Update:** DPW Director Fiske said that they got news that the truck that got voted on last year was
148 received from the dealer and is now at the upfitter to get the body and plow and more than likely will not
149 see it until next winter. DPW Director Fiske said he reached out to Thom from Jacobs Engineering
150 regarding the River Road Bridge, and he now has a proposal and is waiting for someone in his office to re-

review it and then he is going to get the final copy sent to him. DPW Director Fiske said he has an ad going for a truck driver on Indeed and one for a mechanic and has had a lot of interest from people without commercial licenses. DPW Director Fiske said that they do not have the time to train someone without a commercial license. He would like to explore the option of sending someone to a class and have them sign paperwork stating they will pay back the cost of the class to train them if they leave before so many years. Chair Hippler asked if they had to go to the training center or would the training center come to them. DPW Director Fiske said that they would have to go there. Selectman Blume said that DPW Director Fiske said they can't spare their in-house trainer right now but what is there several what it would cost. Discussion ensued regarding the CDL drivers and training. Chair Hippler said that they would like to see first if they can create a legally binding document before they agree to it. Vice Chair Knapp said they would also want to know the estimated cost of what the payroll would be. TA Bolton asked when roads will be posted. DPW Director Fiske said that he knows that one town has posted today, and it will be soon. It will probably be at the end of this month or early next month.

Budget Line in PD for cruiser discussion: Frank Campana read the definition of capital expenditure. Selectman Mathews said that she thinks it also depends on the life cycle. Mr. Campana said that is a cop out and if it is at the end of the life cycle and you want to replace it are you replacing it? Mr. Campana asked if the board supports a cruiser that belongs in a budget. Selectman Burdick said yes. Selectman Blume said that he has gone back and forth on this and the spot, and he would say no. Chair Hippler said yes. Vice Chair Knapp said no. Selectman Mathews said yes different things need to be in a budget. Mr. Campana said that on January 8th he had made a public comment and he had requested the board consider eliminating that line in the budget. Mr. Campana said that Police Chief Morre responded to him and he was critical of Mr. Campana for not going to him directly and circumventing him and going to the BOS to ask the question. Mr. Campana said that he does not want to be told by a department head telling him who he can and cannot ask questions to. It was recorded in the minutes at approximately 57 or 58 minutes when the board discussed it and there was a lot of discussion. Mr. Campana said that he would recommend to the BOS that they go rewatch the YouTube video of January 8th. Mr. Campana asked when any of the board members had been aware that the budgets handed to them were working budgets. Selectman Burdick said when they were handed to her. Selectman Blume said until they finalize them. Chair Hippler would use working and proposed as synonyms. Vice Chair Knapp said this year. Selectman Mathews said until they finalize the budget. Mr. Campana said that Police Moore had commented that the line had always been there since he started. Mr. Campana said that he is not sure that is true because if you look back at budgets it has been removed. Mr. Campana stated that Police Chief Moore said that Weare is one of the few towns where the cruiser is not in the budget. Selectman Blume explained the numbers that are assigned by the state. Selectman Mathews said that they did remove the line from the budget this year. Mr. Campana said that it is not the case because Police Chief Moore went through the CIP process. Mr. Campana said it is not funded in the budget and the line is still present. Chair Hippler stated that it was the BOS consensus that they did not want the minutes verbatim. Selectman Blume stated in Mr. Campana's defense the BOS made that decision after January. Mr. Campana said that everything stated during public comment should be mentioned. Police Chief Moore said that Mr. Campana stated it had been through the CIP process and did not need the line. Police Chief Moore said that Mr. Campana has made three public comments on the topic and has had various conversations on the topic with department heads which resulted in his assertions not occurring those conversations were the Town Administrator, Finance Director, and the Chief of Police indirectly through Police Chief Moore's comments which Mr. Campana read from the January 8th minutes. Police Chief Moore summarized RSA 32.4 and 32.5. Police Chief Moore stated new line items cannot be added to default budgets. Discussion ensued regarding the line in the budget. Police Chief Moore said that the Finance Director was asked for unfunded lines in the budget and if Mr. Campana wanted all of the lines. Police Chief Moore said that Mr. Campana only wanted the Police Departments. Police Chief Moore said there is bias. Police Chief Moore said from the transparent NH website the budget is often mistaken for an expenditure plan it is however a plan to meet the public's needs and priorities. Police Chief Moore said that he has had many conversations with the public and they want to ensure they have services where police respond to their calls for service. Police Chief Moore said with the population

in Weare there is a turnover of one car per year and that is why it needs to be in the budget. Chief Moore said a proposed working budget is a tool for him to prepare an efficient budget to deliver professional law enforcement services to the residents and visitors of Weare. Discussion ensued regarding the matter. Mr. Campana said that he has stated many times without the vehicle in the budget it does not preclude the fact that as many years of history, the CIP process is there for that specific purpose.

Building Inspector Inspection roles: The BOS discussed the MOU with Goffstown and the Building Inspector role. Selectman Blume said it does not sit well with him that the person said he didn't want to help anymore but then decided he would. Selectman Burdick said that she spoke with a resident who was having difficulties trying to get an inspection. Discussion ensued regarding the inspections. Selectman Mathews said that they do need someone to issue new home permits. Selectman Mathews asked Mr. Kyle Parker if he would be willing and available to do work as described for the next three weeks. Mr. Parker said that he would be willing to, he is not looking to fix something that is not broken. He has recently had contractors ask for his work opinion. Mr. Parker said it is silly to him that the town doesn't accept the help. He has had a certification for twelve years. It is not the same as the plumbing license, it is an actual license for the building official certification. Mr. Parker said he did let his certification lapse, but he does have forty years of experience. Vice Chair Knapp asked Mr. Parker if he would be opposed to getting recertified. Mr. Parker said that he was not it is just a matter of taking it and it can be done remotely.

Selectman Burdick motioned to hire Kyle Parker as the part-time building inspector until the BOS hires someone permanently. The rate of pay will be \$25 an hour and not to exceed 30 hours a week. Seconded by Selectman Mathews.

Chair Hippler said since Mr. Parker is okay with getting the recertification again, he would feel more comfortable making it contingent if he passes it. Selectman Blume agreed. The motion was modified to read as the following:

Selectman Burdick motioned to hire Kyle Parker as the part-time building inspector until the BOS hires someone permanently. The rate of pay will be \$25 an hour and not to exceed 30 hours a week and is contingent on Mr. Parker getting recertified and will be reimbursed if he passes the certification up to \$350 and is to provide the BOS documentation of the certification. Seconded by Selectman Mathews. Passed 4-0-1 (Hippler abstained)

Draft for Engineering & Legal RFPs: The BOS reviewed other towns' RFPs for Engineering and Legal RFPs to have a starting point. Not everyone was prepared to do a deep dive into the RFP's. With regard to the legal RFP, Selectman Mathews went through her review. Selectman Blume briefly went through his findings as well. On the engineering RFP, Selectman Mathews went through her review. Selectman Mathews offered to scan and send her work for the Board to review. She suggested that DPW and Planning take a look at the draft engineering RFP with regard to scope of work.

Minutes:

Chair Hippler motioned to accept the January 8, 2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Chair Hippler motioned to accept the January 15, 2024 minutes as amended with clarification of the \$19,000. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Chair Hippler motioned to approve the January 22, 2024 minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 4-0-1 abstention from Selectman Burdick.

Chair Hippler motioned to approve January 29, 2024, as amended. Seconded by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 4-0-1 abstention from Selectman Burdick.

Chair Hippler motioned to approve February 5, 2024, as amended. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Administrator's Report: TA Bolton said the BOS needs to figure out a time to meet to narrow down the companies for the River Road Bridge work. The BOS said they would meet that week around 7 pm. TA Bolton discussed the Radio Communication project with the BOS. TA Bolton said the minute taker position for Parks and Rec is placed as an advertisement. TA Bolton spoke with the board regarding boat ramp repair options and Bolton Field drainage work. TA Bolton said the asbestos remediation on 487 North Stark Highway RFP has been posted on the Town Website, the messenger, and the construction summary. Pre-bid inspection 3/18/24 @ 9 am; bids due by April 10, 2024, to be opened that evening at CC meeting. Two companies reached out as being interested. Felch Farm Timber re-bids were received and opened publicly on 2/14 at the CC. Bids were reviewed and a motion was made for the chairman or vice chairman to sign the contract. Discussion regarding clarification on the re-bid needing to come back to the BOS with a recommendation, which was not done. The CC Chairman signed the contract and wetlands permit without returning to the Selectmen, which was disappointing as it appeared clear to return with a recommendation for the BOS to approve.

Lease for East Road Hayfield: It was brought up that manure/fertilizer was being dropped onto the hayfields on the East Road property. The Board asked for a lease on the hayfields, which has not happened and now the farmer is putting down manure/fertilizer. The Board asked for an RFP for the haying, followed by a lease agreement and that needs to be done ASAP. The Board asked TA Bolton to reach out to CC and remind them of an RFP and lease needs to be done.

Correspondence/ Other Business: Selectman Burdick said that she received an email from Perry Brothers late fall for the headstones that need repair. They gave a rough quote for 169 headstones which will cost about \$35,000. The Board will look into getting some of them done, but if the warrant article passes there is only \$30,000 in there and there are trees in need of being taken care of first.

Chair Hippler said that they received an email from the residents of Concord Stage Road regarding logging in and out and the condition that the road has been left in. Selectman Burdick said that she went down there today, and they were all done cutting because it was too wet.

Selectman Mathews said they did get correspondence from the Pratte's. TA Bolton asked the Board for clarification and input from the Board as to the next steps. TA Bolton informed the Board that in today's mail a letter from Mr. Bailey's attorney was received looking for additional information as well. The Building Department and Zoning Administrator provided the process that they follow when issuing building permits. TA Bolton will forward the building process information and the letter from Mr. Bailey's attorney to the Board.

Chair Hippler motioned to enter into a nonpublic meeting at 10:09 p.m. to RSA 91: A-3 II (m). Selectman Blume seconded. All in favor. 5-0-0

Chair Hippler motioned to exit a nonpublic meeting at 10:57 p.m. to RSA 91: A-3 II (m). Selectman Blume seconded. All in favor. 5-0-0

The BOS met to review the 2023 sealed non-public minutes.

Chair Hippler motioned to release the nonpublic minutes of 1/5/2023; Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.

306 **Chair Hippler motioned to release the nonpublic minutes of 1/16/2023; Seconded by Selectman**
307 **Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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309 **Chair Hippler motioned to release the nonpublic minutes of 3/6/2023; Seconded by Selectman Blume.**
310 **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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312 **Chair Hippler motioned to release the nonpublic minutes of 7/31/2023; Seconded by Selectman**
313 **Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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315 **Chair Hippler motioned to release the nonpublic minutes of 9/25/2023; Seconded by Selectman**
316 **Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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318 **Chair Hippler motioned to release the nonpublic minutes of 11/20/2023; Seconded by Selectman**
319 **Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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321 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 1/24/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
322 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

323
324 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 2/13/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
325 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

326
327 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 3/2/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
328 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

329
330 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 3/20/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
331 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

332
333 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 6/5/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
334 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

335
336 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 6/5/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
337 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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339 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 6/19/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
340 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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342 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 7/10/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
343 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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345 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 8/7/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
346 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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348 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 9/11/2023 (b) sealed and restricted;**
349 **Seconded by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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351 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 9/11/2023 (c) sealed and restricted;**
352 **Seconded by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

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354 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 9/25/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
355 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

357 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 10/9/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
358 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**
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360 **Chair Hippler motioned to keep the nonpublic minutes of 10/16/2023 sealed and restricted; Seconded**
361 **by Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**
362
363 All minutes kept sealed were regarding exit interviews, personnel matters and tax deed evictions.
364
365 The Board will be meeting on Friday, March 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM in nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91:
366 A-3 II (a & c) to finalize the annual evaluations for DPW Director, Police Chief and Town Administrator.
367 TA Bolton will post the nonpublic session on Wednesday.
368
369 **Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Burdick made a motion,**
370 **and Chair Hippler seconded to adjourn at 11:30 p.m. Passed 5-0-0**
371
372 **ADJOURNMENT**
373 A True Record.
374 *Kearsten O'Brien*
375 Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker