

DRAFT



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2024

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Denise Purington, Sylvia von Aulock, Executive Director of SNHPC, Kyle Parker, Richard Butt, Frank Campana, Maria Fossiano, Ben Hebert, Heleen Kurk, Tom Flaherty.

These minutes were transcribed from the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMWXnSnPi0Y>

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

Public Comment: Kyle Parker, 483 Old Francestown Road, said that it is hard to hear TA Bolton through the microphone on YouTube. TA Bolton said that has been rectified and was fixed. The microphone in front of TA Bolton did not work. It was trying to pick up her voice with Selectman Mathews.

Frank Campana, 322 Quaker Street, said that he can be corrected and that happened last week and had to do with the minutes of January 8th. Mr. Campana stated that he commented strongly that the minutes did not contain any indication from the previous meeting for discussion of the cruiser line in the Police budget and stated he was wrong. He thanked Selectman Blume for bringing it up and said that he read further down into the minutes and saw that the discussion was in the minutes.

Richard Butt, 90 Old Town Road, stated that he believes that the Police Chief had put together a great plan in terms of rotation of the police vehicles it is six-year plan rotating vehicles every six years. Mr. Butt said that he thinks it is something that is needed and they do not want to jeopardize the safety of officers and the safety of the people in town by having vehicles that are too old. The question is where does it belong? It can go in the operating budget because it is an annual request. Every year there is going to be a vehicle purchased or attempted to be purchased. Mr. Butt said he would disagree with putting it into the operating budget, one reason being the cost you have to get an operating budget approved first to guarantee that the vehicle is going to be there every year. The second reason is if there are any grants or other revenue sources that could help offset that cost it cannot be applied to an individual line item in the budget. If the vehicle was placed as an individual warrant article, then you could use grant money towards the purchase. Mr. Butt said that he would hope the board would enter into some discussions because he thinks the Chief is adamant about putting it into the Police operating budget, but Mr. Butt said he is sure the Chief might be open for discussion as well, Mr. Butt said he would like to see the discussion happen before the budget season to get the issue resolved.

47 **SNHPC-Weare Transportation Study:** Heleen Kurk said that she is one of the five Directors of Hand
48 and Hand Senior Center which is a 501c3. Ms. Kurk explained the program to the board. Ms. Kurk said
49 something that has come up is that there is no public transportation. Ben Herbert, Regional Mobility
50 Manager for Region Eight, which is the Southern New Hampshire Regional Coordinating Council for
51 Community Transportation spoke. Mr. Herbert said one thing he would like to make clear is that regional
52 coordinating councils for transportation such as RCC are different than Regional Planning Commissions.
53 Mr. Herbert explained what mobility management does. Weare is the only town in this region with no
54 community transportation and some of the residents are struggling from it. The purpose of the survey is to
55 allow Weare residents to share their experiences regarding the lack of transportation in Weare. The results
56 of the survey will catalyze the community of Weare to develop a solution that addresses their transportation
57 needs. Selectman Burdick asked if the survey would be sent out to all households. Mr. Herbert said that
58 they have it online and in paper form. There are drop boxes for people who did want to fill out the paper
59 survey. There is also a way for people to send the survey to Mr. Herbert and there are postcards with a QR
60 code on them for people to fill the survey out on their phone. They will have a table at the local elections
61 next week giving people the opportunity to fill out the survey there. Vice Chair Knapp asked how this
62 would be funded. Vice Chair Knapp said he thinks the town may support purchasing some sort of vehicle
63 in the future but getting an employee to be in charge of that, he does not think it would fly in the town. Mr.
64 Herbert said there are volunteer driver programs available throughout the region and they could serve the
65 Town of Weare. If Weare was able to volunteer for them they would do all the operating and background
66 stuff. The survey will run from now until May, which gives a good amount of time to get as many people
67 as possible to give their input. Mr. Butt said we all seem to be pretty independent individuals in Weare and
68 Weare is very large geographically. From a practical standpoint, how does that fit in with other
69 communities? Mr. Herbert said that when it comes to transportation and getting people where they need to
70 go it does bring some sort of independence to people who can get their rides to go to their medical
71 appointments or go grocery shopping. Mr. Herbert said that having transportation available to people in
72 Weare is making people less dependent and more of giving people their independence. Syliva Von
73 Executive Director of Southern NH Planning Commission said that she worked quite a bit with Ben to
74 visualize what would work in Weare. Looking at the neighboring town of New Boston, what they do is
75 work with MTA Manchester Transit and they have a program that they work through where they pay 20%
76 of the program where they get fifteen rides a month. Ms. Von explained how the program works. If Weare
77 had their drivers they could have an easy transition into developing a volunteer driver program and it would
78 be no cost to the Town. The driver picks up their hours. Ms. Kurk said that the survey would help determine
79 the needs of the town and then go from there.

80
81 **PARC Update:** Ms. Purington said at their last meeting they started to have some discussion about who
82 can and cannot vote and they do not have any guiding documents. Ms. Purington said that she did research
83 on other towns and what they do. The committee voted unanimously at the last meeting to start to develop
84 and craft a set of bylaws and probably follow the same format as other towns. Ms. Purington said that they
85 will use the RSA that governs Parks and Rec when creating their bylaws. Ms. Purington said that the job
86 description for the director was ten years old and had not been updated. There are many positions open.
87 They have two candidates that they interviewed, currently, there are only three members the director and
88 Selectman Blume as Ex-Officio on PARC. Ms. Purington asked if the BOS would be willing to look at the
89 two candidates at next week's meeting and appoint them to the PARC so the committee can get up to at
90 least five members. Selectman Blume said he wanted to have the discussion last week, with the three year-
91 terms he did not want to rush in and appoint people and then find out that they have done more or something
92 wrong. Selectman Blume said he does not remember putting a timeline on it. Discussion ensued regarding
93 membership, voting, and nonvoting members and bylaws. Ms. Purington said she thinks it will take about
94 five to six months to get the bylaws in draft form to give to the BOS. Chair Hippler said if PARC is
95 comfortable bringing in the two candidates next week, he is okay with it. Selectman Burdick asked if they
96 had thought about adding alternates. Ms. Purington said that they could add that to the bylaws and would
97 need to discuss it with the committee. The BOS agreed to have the two candidates come to the March 11th
98 meeting.

MANIFEST:

Chair Hippler moved; Selectman Mathews seconded:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated March 7, 2024, as included in the following manifests:

Checks Dated March 7, 2024

Payroll Manifest	\$ 73,439.68 (Weekly payroll checks)
Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 47,866.49
Supplemental Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 4,800.00
Weare School Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 600,000.00
John Stark Accounts Payable Manifest	\$250,000.00

TOTAL: **\$976,106.17**

Other Business: Selectman Blume said last Monday was the first exercise of the release and review policy of nonpublic minutes. Selectman Blume presented a few amendments to the policy. Selectman Blume said that he would like to amend it so the vote shall include the dates on which the minutes were unsealed. Discussion ensued regarding amendments to the policy. Selectman Blume will make formal amendments and bring them to the next meeting.

Selectman Burdick read the following letter into the meeting:

"To the Board of Selectmen

I am writing this letter because on February 12th, 2024, during a non-public meeting to review the minutes from non-public meetings in 2023, I learned that the board at that time discussed me being derelict in my duties as a selectman. None of the followings is a reflection on Selectmen Blume, Knapp, or Mathews. It is a reflection of the past board. I was outraged that the board discussed my dereliction of duties and not a single member of that board had reached out to me. It is against the law in the State of New Hampshire to hold a non-public meeting about a selectman. Again, this does not surprise me. You make up your own rules as you see fit. For the board to discuss and state that I was in dereliction of my duties is a 100% false statement. On December 8th, 2022 I became very ill and was still sick and unable to able to attend the Board of Selectmen Meeting on December 19th, 2022. I called my Primary doctor on December 19th, 2022 and the first available appointment was on December 21st, 2022. I also called the Town Administrator on December 19th to let her know that I would not be attending the meeting that night because of illness. During the time of my illness (not able to attend BOS meetings), I was seen by doctors and medical staff eight time and continued to see doctors and medical staff during March and April of 2023. I called and spoke with the Town Administrator on two occasions and left three messages to make her aware of my continuing illness. In addition, the Town Administrator called me once. On February 17th, 2023 I attended the BOS meeting; it was the first since the start of my illness in December. I brought a copy of a letter from my PCP dated February 13th, 2023, and gave it to the Town Administrator. The letter stated that I could return to meetings as tolerated."

Selectman Burdick said that she did not know why she was being singled out when she was sick and under doctor's care it does not make sense. The other person that was out eight times in roughly the same time frame was not living in Weare and was still on the Board and that is another violation.

Chair Hippler motioned to enter into a nonpublic meeting at 7:42 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91: A-3 II (a &c). Selectman Mathews seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Selectman Mathews-yes; Vice Chairman Knapp-yes; Chair Hippler-yes; Selectman Blume-yes; Selectman Burdick-yes. All in favor. 5-0-0

Chair Hippler motioned to come out of a nonpublic meeting at 8:15 p.m. Selectman Mathews seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Selectman Mathews-yes; Vice Chairman Knapp-yes; Chair Hippler-yes; Selectman Blume-yes; Selectman Burdick-yes. All in favor. 5-0-0

Chair Hippler motioned to seal and restrict the nonpublic minutes. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Chair Hippler motioned to enter into a nonpublic meeting at 8:16 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91: A-3 II (a &c). Selectman Blume seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Selectman Mathews-yes; Vice Chairman Knapp-yes; Chair Hippler-yes; Selectman Blume-yes; Selectman Burdick-yes. All in favor. 5-0-0

Chair Hippler motioned to come out of a nonpublic meeting at 10:53 p.m. Vice Chair Knapp seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Selectman Mathews-yes; Vice Chairman Knapp-yes; Chair Hippler-yes; Selectman Blume-yes; Selectman Burdick-yes. All in favor. 5-0-0

In nonpublic session:

- The Board met with DPW Director Fiske regarding an update on the Transfer Station.
- TA Bolton left the nonpublic at 8:42 PM for the Board to conduct annual evaluations with DPW Director, Police Chief and TA Bolton.
- The Board discussed having a third party do plan review for the building department.
- The Board reviewed and signed a transition letter to go to Chairman Steve Roberts of the Board of Firewards.
- The Board reviewed a sample of the letters to go to all Fire Department personnel (fulltime, parttime and call force employees), which TA Bolton will sign on behalf of the Board.

Chair Hippler made a contingent motion to hire Dario Carrara to perform the plan review for new homes at a cost of \$35/hour with the caveat that Jack Shepard will continue to do the inspections for the projects until such time an inspector is hired. Selectman Burdick seconded the motion. All in favor 5-0-0.

Selectman Mathews motioned that the Board of Selectmen vote to maintain current position rank, pay and benefit status for all fulltime, parttime and call force Fire Department employees in conjunction with the transition from Board of Firewards to Board of Selectmen and authorize Town Administrator Bolton to sign the letters to the individual employees. Selectman Blume seconded the motion. All in favor 4-0-1 (Hippler abstained).

Election coverage for Town meeting: Chairman Hippler – open to noon and then back in the afternoon to close; Vice Chairman Knapp – 8-8:30 AM to noon; Selectman Burdick and Selectman Blume will be there at noon to relieve Chairman Hippler and Vice Chairman Knapp.

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Hippler made a motion, and Vice Chair Knapp seconded to adjourn at 11:00 p.m. Passed 5-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Kearsten O'Brien

Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker