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WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2024

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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: Jason Fiske- DPW Director, Jim Higgins, Eileen Meaney, Mathew Bieler, Richard Butt, Frank Campana, Nate Corbran-Whyte's Logging

These minutes were transcribed from the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ravx_WuPc3M

Chair Hippler opened the BOS meeting at 6:30 PM.

Chair Hippler motioned to enter into a nonpublic meeting at 6:31 p.m. to RSA 91: A-3 II (a &c). Selectman Burdick seconded. All in favor. 4-0-0

Vice Chair Knapp arrived at 6:38 PM.

Chair Hippler motioned to come out of a nonpublic meeting at 7:00 p.m. to RSA 91: A-3 II (a &c). Selectman Blume seconded. 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 welcomed the public at 7:06 PM.

Vice Chair Knapp presented Chair Hippler and Selectman Burdick with plaques for the terms of service on the BOS. Chair Hippler served for nine years and Selectman Burdick for six years.

Public Comment: Eileen Meaney, 282 Quaker Street, thanked Chair Hippler and Selectman Burdick for their service and it is a tremendous commitment. Ms. Meaney said at the March 5th meeting Selectman Burdick read a letter into the record that was of concern to Ms. Meaney and wanted to know if those minutes had been unsealed. Chair Hippler said that the minutes had been sealed. Ms. Meaney said that was the reason she attended the meeting in person to make sure the BOS made a remedy on the issue.

Richard Butt, 90 Old Town Road, stated that he wanted to give his opinion regarding the job description that was done in 2013 when he was a Selectman there is a relationship for employees reporting to employees and he believes everyone in the Town whether part-time or full-time employees reports to a

47 department head or the Town Administrator. Mr. Butt said that it was his impression that the person should
48 not report to the Town Administrator, and he thinks it should be. He would urge to keep the structure in
49 place and that the personnel issues and the nitty gritty things should be tied directly to the Town
50 Administrator. Mr. Butt said the other thing that he wants to touch base on is Article 26. There was some
51 literature mailed out to people in town that created confusion. Mr. Butt read the following statement into
52 the record that was mailed out: "Vote yes to Article 26 put forth by the taxpayers, would allow most usable
53 part of the East Road property to be made available for community use." Mr. Butt asked if that was correct.
54 Chair Hippler said it was not the board's statement. Mr. Butt said he knows but the board is responsible for
55 the warrant to a great extent even if it is a petitioned warrant article. Vice Chair Knapp said the way it was
56 portrayed to the BOS was that they wanted to get permission and then do a survey of what the most usable
57 piece would be. Mr. Butt said it seems like an action statement that if you approve the article this will
58 happen. Chair Hippler said if both articles 24 and 26 pass then a judge would have to decide.
59

60 **Departments/ Committee Items:** Chair Hippler asked Matthew Bieler to speak to as to why he would like
61 to join the PARC. Mr. Bieler said that he is currently a cub master with Pack 24 in town and has two young
62 daughters who have enjoyed the playground at Bolton Field, and the gazebo and have worked on the
63 Patriotic Day parade and made use of that field. Mr. Bieler said this past fall they did a large cleanup at the
64 playground at Bolton Field and some of the surrounding area. They have also used Chase Park for their
65 Family Campout. Mr. Bieler said that he would like to be a benefit to the town and help get things cleaned
66 up in the best way they can with the resources they have. Selectman Blume said the PARC agreed to do
67 one-year terms to stagger the terms.
68

69 **Selectman Blume made a motion to appoint Matt Bieler to the Parks and Recreation Committee with**
70 **a term expiring in March of 2025. Seconded by Selectman Burdick. Motion passed 5-0-0.**
71

72 Chair Hippler swore Mr. Bieler into the PARC. TA Bolton said the other interested party in joining the
73 PARC is not here tonight. Selectman Mathews asked if the BOS could still appoint her. TA Bolton said
74 she emailed her. Selectman Blume said that she was not at the PARC meeting, and they discussed if the
75 committee wanted to move forward and the committee did want to move forward with appointing her.
76 They would like to have her attend the March 18th meeting.
77

78 FELCH FOREST LOGGING – WHYTES LOGGING: DPW Director Fiske said that the Conservation
79 Commission, Town Forester, and Whyte's logging have reached out to the Public Works department with
80 concerns about the Timber Harvest on Merrill Road (Felch Farm). DPW Director Fiske said they asked to
81 use the pit road out back which would take away the \$5,000 cost to the taxpayer as far as building the
82 landing right at the top of the hill of Merrill Road. DPW Director Fiske said he does not see an issue with
83 them using it as far as traffic in and out, on page three in the package is kind of an agreement that Whyte's
84 Logging has come up with. DPW Director Fiske said that the Town Forester asked him to bring the
85 agreement to the BOS to look over and sign off on. Vice Chair Knapp asked about the dates and times that
86 he was not there. DPW Director Fiske said there is an agreement for a gate key and Whyte's logging has
87 agreed to lock the gate no more than an hour later than the normal transfer station hours and when the days
88 that they are not open if the trucks go in and out the gate will be locked behind everyone. The foreman will
89 have a copy of the key and the agreement stated that they will return it no more than two days after the last
90 piece of equipment is out of there. TA Bolton asked how it would be \$5,000. DPW Director Fiske said he
91 believes that part of the bid was \$5,000 for the landing. Nate Corbran Timber Buyer for Whyte's Logging
92 said that the original agreement with the Conservation Commission was that they would pay them \$5,000
93 to create the access road and the landing at the top of the hill on Merrill Road. It is a pretty big cost and
94 using the pit would be no cost and it would get rid of the \$5,000 fee. There would be no costs associated
95 with the Harvest and would be strictly revenue from the stumpage. TA Bolton said that if there is a deviation
96 from the original plan does that change the other numbers that were put into the bid? Vice Chair Knapp
97 said they were still the highest bidder even with the Commission paying the \$5,000. Mr. Corbran said the
98 lowest bidder had the access road and landing fee at \$4,500. Vice Chair Knapp said he feels comfortable

99 with this because Whyte's was still the highest bidder. Mr. Corbran said that he would assume that if any
100 of the other bidders received the bid, they would try to change the access because it makes more sense to
101 have everything pulled downhill instead of uphill. Selectman Blume asked if there was anything that they
102 needed to worry about since they would be crossing through an area of public traffic such as liability. Mr.
103 Corbran said that he would feel more comfortable with signs going up the trucking route and he would
104 have the trucks go five MPH. Vice Chair Knapp asked how long the timber harvest is expected to take. Mr.
105 Corbran said about three to four weeks. Mr. Corbran said there will be an excavator and a bulldozer on site
106 90% of the time because there are a couple of things with the water that they would like to take care of
107 better. TA Bolton asked if that makes any deviations from the wetlands permit that is already set in place.
108 Mr. Corbran said no.

109
110 **Motion made by Vice Chair Knapp to allow Whyte's Logging to use the gravel area at the Highway**
111 **Garage on Merrill Road for the logging operation of the Felch Forest through the year 2024 and the**
112 **one key that is given to the Foreman is returned no later than two days after the operation is**
113 **complete. Seconded by Selectman Burdick. Motion passed 4-1-0. Chair Hippler voted no to the**
114 **motion.**

115
116 RIVER ROAD BRIDGE UPDATE: DPW Director Fiske gave an update on the River Road Bridge. The
117 committee came to the table with the three same engineering companies and TA Bolton will get copies to
118 the three new selectmen and they will move forward with scheduling interviews. Discussion ensued
119 regarding the interview process for the engineering companies and the new board.

120
121 **Chair Hippler moved to hire James Higgins at the rate of \$21.85 per hour and to start March 12,**
122 **2024, for a position as a truck driver for the DPW. Seconded by Vice Chair Knapp. Motion passed**
123 **5-0-0.**

124
125 TA Bolton said that on the December 27th the BOS interviewed or talked about reclassifying Austin
126 Maguire, and they searched the minutes TA Bolton said she knows the whole board was privy of the non-
127 public and when they came out of the nonpublic, they said they interviewed a potential candidate for the
128 Police Department. TA Bolton said on January 8th Chief Moore came in and they did not make a motion
129 the board mentioned it as a reclassification. TA Bolton said Finance Administrator Rouse does not know
130 anything about annual accrual and there was nothing on his check. Finance Administrator Rouse and TA
131 Bolton think it would be best to read the details into the minutes.

132
133 **Chair Hippler approved at the time of the effective date Officer Austin Maguire would have**
134 **completed ten years of continuous law enforcement service with a hire date of December 30, 2023 he**
135 **would recommend that Officer Maguire accrue up to 200 hours of annual vacation in accordance**
136 **with the CBA. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

137
138 **MANIFEST:**

139
140 **Chair Hippler moved; Selectman Mathews seconded:**
141 **To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated March 14, 2024, as**
142 **included in the following manifests:**

143
144 Checks Dated March 14, 2024

145 Payroll Manifest	\$ 72,549.36 (<i>Weekly payroll checks</i>)
146 Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 50,524.32
147 Supplemental Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 841.86
148	
149 TOTAL:	\$123,915.54

150

151 **Minutes: Motion made by Chair Hippler to approve the February 26, 2024 minutes as amended.**
152 **Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

153 **Motion made by Chair Hippler to approve the March 1, 2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by**
154 **Selectman Blume. Motion passed 4-0-1. Abstention from Vice Chair Knapp.**

155
156 **Motion made by Chair Hippler to approve the March 4, 2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by**
157 **Selectman Mathews. Motion passed 5-0-0.**

158
159 **Administrators Report:** Selectman Blume asked if anyone had responded to the position. TA Bolton said
160 she did get questioned at a basketball game but had not heard any more from them. Selectman Blume asked
161 that since the board has condensed the amount of detail that goes into the minutes and the BOFW has
162 disbanded they ask the current minute taker if she would be willing to take them on for an additional \$60
163 a month. TA Bolton said that she could ask Kearsten again if she would be willing to take it on. Selectman
164 Blume said that during the PARC meeting, the question came up if they were paying for the dumpsters and
165 Selectman Blume said it turns out they are not paying for them. Selectman Blume asked who is paying for
166 the dumpster at the library and if PARC would be willing to help pay for them could users of the tennis
167 courts use the library dumpster? Selectman Blume said it was not an official PARC request, it was a thought
168 he had.

169
170 TA Bolton said that she is still working on the public guardianship and has not had the chance to catch up
171 with what they sent her. TA Bolton said that she did attend the March 6th meeting at Mildred Hall for the
172 request of \$2,500 and will let Betty Straw, Chairman come in next Monday to let the BOS give them their
173 decision. TA Bolton went over the Right to Know Requests. Selectman Mathews asked TA Bolton to
174 remind the PB that it is in the law that they need to meet once a month.

175
176
177 **Correspondence/ Other Business:**
178 Selectman Burdick said that she believes she is up on a three-year term with the Conservation Commission
179 and would like to be re-appointed. Selectman Burdick said when the perambulation for Henniker,
180 Francestown, and Goffstown takes place she would like to attend if possible.

181
182 Selectman Blume went over some transition notes for the newly appointed Select People.
183
184 Selectman Mathews said that the BOS did complete the performance reviews and they should be put into
185 the employees' files. Selectman Mathews said that Finance Administrator Rouse sent out the audit
186 questionnaire that needs to be completed.

187
188 Chair Hippler read a letter into the record as follows:
189 *"Board members,*
190 *I had time to reflect on the dialogue of last night's BOS agenda item regarding the building inspector*
191 *position. After careful thought, I am withdrawing my offer to fill in, on a strictly temporary basis, and offer*
192 *the following explanation. The board voted, conditionally, to offer the position to me on a part-time basis*
193 *and explained what that might entail. Attaining the ICC certification and proof thereof prior to employment*
194 *was to be provided. I would like to point out the following, while I would have no issue getting re-certified*
195 *and providing proof, the inspector before Goffstown's, was not ICC certified (working for several months*
196 *this way. TA Bolton also, curiously, had in hand at last night's meeting and a prior meeting, an application*
197 *for someone who could start immediately (not ICC certified). One could conclude, with the repeated*
198 *resistance of 2 people, that the "conditional" requirement is discriminatory (not by majority). The*
199 *appearance of "it seems to be working the way it is", has been misleading for a time now. I will not assume,*
200 *nor infer that this is the sentiment of ALL those in attendance and seated at the table last night. I will not*
201 *waste the town's money on getting Re-certified when it seems that this is not an immediate priority anyway*
202 *and maybe a recurrent cost with another candidate. I am requesting that this email be brought up under "*

203 communication" at the next scheduled public BOS meeting and be read to be entered into the recorded
204 minutes, not just summarized.

205
206 Regards,
207 Kyle Parker
208 A resident of Weare"

209
210 Selectman Mathews, there was an email from a resident regarding noise and blasting. Chair Hippler said
211 there was blasting on River Road and attached to the email was a complaint form. Chair Hippler read the
212 following complaint into the record *"The blasting in the area has long been an issue impacting my
213 residence, both from the perspective of the level of noise, but more importantly from the vibration and
214 reverberation impacting my house and property. At 2:00 pm today the impact of the blast was at a level
215 warranting reaching out to file a complaint. The blast could be felt moving through my home like an
216 earthquake. It shook my windows to the point that it blew things off windowsills. This is causing
217 unnecessary repairs and damage to my residence and personal property. I don't typically get involved or
218 complain, but the force of the blasting is out of hand."* Chair Hippler did respond to the complaint and
219 forwarded the response to the board.

220
221 Chair Hippler read the following letter into the minutes:

222 *"Dear Board of Selectmen,
223 The Board of Fire Wards (BOFW), is aware that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) will be the authority over
224 the Weare Fire Rescue Department on March 15, 2024. You should know as Selectmen that the BOS
225 already participates in the Fire Rescue Department finances. The Selectmen were in control of vendors,
226 paying bills, etc. until 2018. At that time the selectmen met with the BOFW and worked out a path to
227 manage expenses. It was the goal of the BOFW to streamline those duties and minimize costs by using the
228 Town Finance Director to process all payments and the BOS to continue authorizing payroll for the
229 employees as part of the town's weekly payroll. The selectmen already control the contracts, Capital
230 purchases, and equipment inventory. Any questions you have regarding those issues should be addressed
231 by the Finance Director. The BOFW has worked to bring the Department from failure to provide a minimal
232 response in 2010 to having a part-time chief and 2 fire/EMS responders in the station twenty-four hours a
233 day presently.*

234 *If you look at the voting records the voters have over and over supported this model for ensuring an
235 adequate response to those in need. There has been a lot of time and effort to give the voters correct
236 information by the BOFW on these issues. Sadly, there has been a lot of false information put out by a
237 few. Your duty is to manage the Weare Fire Rescue Department giving the voters an adequate service for
238 the money they have voted for. I want to thank the BOFW members for their service as well as the members
239 of the Weare Fire Rescue Department for their dedication to helping those in need.*

240
241 Sincerely,
242 Steve Roberts, Chairman"

243
244 Chair Hippler said that his parents had been cleaning out their house and they found a gavel that was his
245 grandfather's. He was a mason and the lodge master and would like a motion to close the meeting.

246
247 **Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Chair Hippler made a motion, and**
248 **Selectman Blume seconded to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Passed 5-0-0**

249
250 **ADJOURNMENT**

251 A True Record.

252 *Kearsten O'Brien*

253 Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker