



# Town of Weare NEW HAMPSHIRE

Town of Weare Finance Committee

November 1st, 2023, 6:30pm

| Members |                             |   |                                   |
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| X       | Tom Clow (Chair)            | X | John Merva                        |
| X       | Elizabeth Evans             | X | Maria Fossiano (Secretary)        |
| X       | Neal Kurk                   | X | Bill Anderson                     |
| X       | James Drury                 | X | Tom Flaherty                      |
| X       | Jon Morton (Town Moderator) | X | Naomi Bolton (Town Administrator) |
|         | Karie Tepper (Vice Chair)   |   | Lori Davis                        |
| X       | Jessica Kallipolites        |   |                                   |

|    | Agenda Topic                          | Discussion  |
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| 1. | <b>Swearing In Additional Members</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee started meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance</li> <li>Jon Morton swore in Elizabeth Evans, Neal Kurk, and Jessica Kallipolites as committee members</li> <li>Elizabeth Evans, Neal Kurk, and Jessica Kallipolites were provided Code of Ethics Forms to sign. Social Media Forms will be provided at next meeting.</li> <li>Jon Morton provided a statement on the town ordinance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jon was presented with a question regarding the Town ordinance and after speaking to legal counsel, there is nothing to be concerned about regarding the Finance Committee Members who were considered to fill a vacant spot on the Board of Selectmen. The member that was appointed immediately resigned from the Finance Committee and the other member will longer be considered for any other position, so there is no conflict of interest.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 2. | <b>Chief Moore Statement</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Moore requested to make a statement regarding an Ethics concern with a member of the Committee. Statement is below: <p><i>“Police Department is aware of a conflict of interest with one member. All members of this committee, of course, signed the Town of Weare, New Hampshire Code of Ethics acknowledgement. In that acknowledgement under the category of Honesty, it states “I will disclose any matters that might present a conflict of interest and I will recuse myself when appropriate”. For clarification, Merriam-Webster defines Conflict of Interest as: a conflict between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. The basis of this conflict is a statement that was made to a</i></p> </li> </ul>   |

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|           |                             | <p><i>WPD officer earlier this year by a member of this committee. The member stated if the PD did/did not take a specific course of action regarding a matter of public interest, the member “will do everything within their power to make sure your (WPD’s) funding is cut”. The matter of public interest involved a topic which would have required public input and a public vote to enact. At the time of that statement, the committee member was not a member of any committee and had not been placed in a position of trust. As the member is now a part of this committee, a conflict of interest is present. I have contacted the Office of the Attorney General (NH) – Public Integrity Unit and have briefed them on the circumstances explained here tonight. The Unit confirmed there is a conflict of interest, and the member must recuse themselves from any matter involving the Police Department’s or the Town’s budget (because the PD budget is part of the town budget). Then I will advise the members of this committee, officers of the Weare Police Department shall monitor this committee’s meetings. Any observance of the conflict of interest displayed due to the members’ refusal to abide by the Town of Weare, New Hampshire Code of Ethics’ recusal requirement, shall result in the appropriate action being taken.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria Fossiano asked if statement was written or oral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Statement was oral</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Neal Kurk asked if committee could have a copy of the Chiefs remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chief will email them to Maria Fossiano (Secretary)</li> <li>○ Chief’s email distributed with the minutes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Neal asked if member could be identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chief stated member needs to be given an opportunity to recuse themselves, ethics board requests complaints be anonymous, and if member does not recuse themselves only then will the Police Department take appropriate action</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Neal asked why town budget would be included in this individual’s recusal? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chief responded town budget includes police budget, it is a cumulative budget, and bias towards police budget would be impact the town</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tom Clow asked Chief if he reached out to outside counsel regarding this matter? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chief confirmed, stating he reached out to the office of the Attorney General (NH)-Public Integrity Unit</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Elect New Vice Chair</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Clow mentioned he had a volunteer for Vice Chair position, Karie Tepper, but he was willing to entertain nominations from the floor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tom received email from Karie expressing her interest</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maria Fossiano suggested James Drury as vice chair, due to his longevity on the committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ James respectively declined the nomination</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Neal Kurk nominated Tom Flaherty as Vice Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tom Flaherty declined position</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tom Flaherty made a motion to make Karie Tepper the Vice Chair of the Weare Finance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Neil Kurk seconded nomination</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

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|    |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Clow Confirmed everyone is on the email list now</li> <li>• Gary Evans and Janice Mathews will be removed from email list</li> </ul>   |
| 4. | <b>Adjustment/ Additions to Subcommittees</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Clow would like to complete assignments for subcommittees</li> <li>• Janice Mathews was on the town committee prior to her resignation</li> <li>• James, who was on town subcommittee in the past, agreed to continue on the town subcommittee</li> <li>• Bill Anderson and Lori Davis are on the Weare Schools Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Neal Kurk and Elizabeth Evans agreed to be on Weare Schools</li> </ul> </li> <li>• John Stark Subcommittee members are Tom Flaherty, Karie Tepper, and John Merva</li> <li>• Tom Clow, Maria Fossiano, and James Drury are on the Town Subcommittee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Neal requested to be on Town Subcommittee instead of the School subcommittee</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jessica Kallipolites will be added to Weare Schools</li> </ul>  |
| 5. | <b>Confirmation of Meeting Dates/ Discussion of school district presentations</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting dates Tom and Naomi worked through for budget presentations to the committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ November 29 7:00 PM CIP presentation</li> <li>○ December 6 7:00 PM Fire Department</li> <li>○ December 20 7:00 PM All other Town Departments</li> <li>○ There are also two Thursdays available in December - 7th and 21st</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Committee confirmed those dates worked</li> <li>• Naomi asked when DPW and Police would present?</li> <li>• Tom was contacted by Jackie to present Schools on December 12<sup>th</sup> or December 21<sup>st</sup>? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 21<sup>st</sup> would be a long few days for the committee since the 20<sup>th</sup> would be the Town budgets</li> <li>○ Parks and Recreation has a meeting on the 12th</li> <li>○ Committee would have the entire month of January to deliberate</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tentatively Committee will host the schools on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> of December</li> <li>• Bill asked if there was an option to split out the December 20<sup>th</sup> presentations? Could December 7<sup>th</sup> be utilized? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Departments will not be ready</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 6. | <b>Minutes Approval</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to accept minutes of October 11th</li> <li>• Bill Anderson sent a correction for the dates of the school board meeting date in lieu of the meeting on November 9th that meeting will take place on November 28th</li> <li>• Neal Kurk asked is Tom Clow had any dates where town or school will be discussing the budget items? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Weare School's Budget meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> 4pm-6pm, school board meeting is at 6 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and that is where they will present their first presentation of next year's budget</li> <li>○ Tom Clow doesn't have town dates, but selectmen have set fuel prices</li> <li>○ Naomi shared that some town budget items will be discussed on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2023</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |

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|  | <p><b>7. Citizen Letter</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Clow received a lengthy email from a citizen concerning the responsibility of finance committee member if they decide to run for office</li> <li>• Tom told her that as Chair of the Finance Committee, Tom has no authority beyond running the meetings in an orderly fashion and communicating with committee members on scheduling and procedures</li> <li>• Ordinance does state that the committee as a whole can recommend to the Moderator that a member of the committee be removed but it only states for lack for attendance</li> <li>• Ordinance toward the end any member of Finance Committee who seeks a local elects office shall be disqualified from serving of the finance committee during the duration of that year's budget discussions</li> <li>• Moderator can appoint a replacement for that member</li> <li>• Keep in mind if you have higher aspirations</li> <li>• Jon Morton clarified situation in email Tom mentions is regarding opening in Board of Selectmen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No election held, temporary appointment, Jon verified through legal channels</li> <li>○ Not someone seeking elected office</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If someone wants to run in January, they will need to set aside from the committee</li> <li>• Jon can then appoint someone in their place, but doesn't have to appoint another individual to Finance Committee</li> <li>• John Merva asked if Janice had to recuse herself? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ She cannot be on the Board of Selectmen and on Finance Committee at the same time per state law</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tom Clow stated that he was there the night Janice was chosen for the Board of Selectmen and before Janice even sat down after her appointment, she gave Tom a verbal resignation from the Finance Committee</li> <li>• Janice provided written resignation immediately after Selectmen's meeting</li> <li>• Tom Clow provided a motion to adjourn.</li> </ul> |
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