

Final



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2022

PRESENT: FREDERICK W. HIPPLER, CHAIRMAN; SHERRY M. BURDICK, SELECTMAN; JOHN VAN LOENDERSLOOT, SELECTMAN

ABSENT: VICE CHAIRMAN; JOHN (JACK) MEANEY; JONATHAN H. OSBORNE, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Finance Administrator Beth Rouse, Fire Chief Robert Vezina, Police Chief Chris Moore, Library Director Clay Kriese, Richard Butt, Tom Flaherty, John Lawton, Tom Clow, Frank Campana, Bob Boucher, Peggy Bailey, Peter Bailey

Chairman Hippler opened the meeting at 6:30 pm., welcomed those present to the January 3, 2022 meeting of the Weare Board of Selectmen and proceeded with the pledge of allegiance.

Discussion with Hand in Hand Ministries

Peggy Bailey took a few minutes to explain who they are and what they do for the community, offering free lunch to Seniors 60 years and older from 11 to 1 on Wednesdays for a small donation. She also stated they have a Senior Food Bank supported by their Thrift Shop where they receive monetary and other donations. She went on to describe her interaction with Police Chief Chris Moore and Police Officer Chad Averill. When approached she stated she was told their body camera is on, not mentioning their names. Their visit was to clarify the posters in town asking for donations to the Weare Food Pantry with a PO Box number and telephone number. She stated the posters could be old and the Chief explained to her if she received checks to the Weare Food Pantry she is not to cash them.

Giving some history, she explained she did run the Weare Food Pantry for 15 years, but in the last two and a half years she runs her current mission. Doing her due diligence, she would return any correspondence for the Weare Food Pantry to the sender informing them to contact the town office, explaining their new location. She went on to say, this is the second time the town office has questioned them on wrongdoings for her nonprofit. They were brought before the Attorney General's Office and the State of NH Charitable Trust department where no wrongdoings were found. She questioned the Board. Chairman Hippler replied he cannot explain and Selectman Van stated this was the first he has heard of it, other than the emails.

Police Chief Chris Moore began by stating he would be happy to provide the body worn camera of the interaction. He stated there was nothing accusatory about their exchange. It is a violation if they do not inform of the body worn camera being on. He went on to explain his visit to the Ministries was for a complaint from the Ag's Office under RSA for fraud. He walked in, introduced himself and stated this is a friendly conversation. The body worn camera can back that up, nothing accusatory. He asked about the flyer linked to Hand in Hand Ministries posted at the Weare Post Office. Doing his due diligence, conferring with the Weare Post Office Post Master General the po number on the poster and the phone number were no longer in service. He discussed his findings with the Ministries and the Town Office tactfully.

Chairman Hippler reiterated the Chief's findings, the poster was outdated.

Peggy Bailey returned to the podium stating the poster had Weare Food Pantry, PO Box 284, 529-0320. This is the information from when she used to run it years ago. She assumes it was never taken down.

Selectman Burdick asked about the Ag's Office inquiry. Peggy replied it was from 2019. Town Administrator Bolton explained that inquiry was for shelving and a laptop. When Peggy originally stopped the Weare Food Pantry and the Town had to take it over, the Town asked for the laptop that was purchased by the Trustees along with food storage shelving units. This was the first contact with the Ag's Office.

Bob Boucher stated he did find a poster at Country Three Corners that he had made from 2017. He stated they did get some monetary donations and food. He did put letters in envelopes returning to the sender.

Chairman Hippler stated the posters are older and had misinformation. The Chief got involved to resolve the information on the poster. Chief Moore reiterated the poster was the confusion. It was not linked to any legitimate business. The Town operates the Weare Community Food Pantry and the Ministry is a bunch of organizations. The flyer was not clear whom they would be donating to.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Lawton, Oak Hill Road, stated he is looking for the Board to change their mind in reference to taking 25% of the 75% of the Conservation's Current Use funds for a separate account for trails. As a 43-year resident, he has seen the Commission ask for money or approval to spend money to acquire land. According to the 2005 Master Plan, there is over 5770 acres in conservation land, over 10 square miles of the Town of Weare. Few trails on the roughly 6000 acres of land for people to use. The Commission's mission statement mentions land available for all Weare residents for respectful recreational use. Their website notes Wolf Creek and Tobey Hill having important functional uses such as hunting, fishing, hiking, botanical observation, and wildlife observation. Furthermore, it states the properties will be maintained to enhance these recreational opportunities. Neither Wolf Creek nor Tobey Hill have trails. Currently the Conservation Commission gets 75% of the Current Use Penalty Tax money and 100% of the timber harvest money. He suggests a trails committee separate from the Conservation funded by 25% of the Current Use Penalty Tax, leaving the Commission with 50%. The trails fund to max out at \$50,000.00 expending up to \$5000.00 per year for consulting to help develop trails. Finalization to come before the town voters. He is frustrated with the land being locked up, year after year, no one can use the land and nothing ever gets done. The Board, with the Commission's latest land purchase, set a two-year limit for the Commission to come back with a trail system in place. Mr. Lawton points out what if the Commission does not follow through within the two-year limit. They have never in the past and there is no penalty.

He often walks five miles of the New Boston Trail System that has signage and designated parking. They have mailboxes that provide site maps for their trails with numbered, color-coded markers. These aid in the event of an emergency. The trails also have tree markers giving information about the tree. He realizes Weare has a lot of land, but a good place to start would be Eastman, behind the high school, or Felch Farm forest on the road to the dump. He again reiterated his frustration as to have something done. He suggests an article to be put forth to come from the Selectman, vs. a petition from him, so the voters get a sense of its importance.

Tom Clow, Concord Stage Road, stated he supports John Lawton's comments. He, too, would like to see something done.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road, presented some figures based on the Current Use Tax, from the 2000 Town Report, \$51,090.00 was collected. Proposing 25% for the trails fund would equate to \$12,000.00. In 2019, \$54,777.00 at 25% would equate to \$13,000.00. He agrees with John Lawton, signage and parking is needed. It should start now as it has been talked about for years.

Another point, the Transfer Station facility upgrade money is not coming from the government building and maintenance fund. It should be as that is why the fund was created. It should have been discussed instead of taking money from surplus to cover the cost.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street, commented on a previous BOS meeting where Police Chief Moore stated because of staffing shortages he had a \$168,000.00 budget surplus this year. Along with previous year's budget surpluses, stating he takes care of the taxpayers, no unnecessary spending. What is considered unnecessary spending? Failed budgets lead to serious equipment needs without implementing a five year life cycle. These statements are politically charged, "Woe, is me."

A \$277,000.00 budget surplus spending was asked for, that is a lot of money. The taxpayers will never get that back. Out of a \$358,000.00 budget surplus the taxpayers ended up with \$81,000.00 they might receive at the next tax rate. With yearend spending, the Board should adjust the budgets down.

Tom Clow, explained, for the record, a substantial amount was used to offset the tax rate, \$600,000.00 for the 2021 tax rate.

Chairman Hippler stated at a prior meeting the Board implemented a 5 minute per person time limit during public comment. To be placed on the agenda if you need more time.

DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE ITEMS:

2022 Library Warrant Article - Library Director Clay Kriese proposal: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Forty Seven Dollars (\$6,047.00) to cover the cost of increasing the hourly wages for the Weare Public Library Staff by One Dollar (\$1.00) for each employee? This represents wages, payroll taxes, and New Hampshire System contributions for nine (9) months. If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget with an estimated annual cost of Eight Thousand Sixty Dollars (\$8,060.00).

2022 Draft Town Warrant Discussion - preliminary purposes

ARTICLE (Non-Union Raises-3%)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars (\$62,377) to be used for raises for non-union Town and Library personnel? If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (Library Wages)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Forty Seven Dollars (\$6,047) to cover the cost of increasing the hourly wages for the Weare Public Library Staff by One Dollar (\$1) for each employee? This represents wages, payroll taxes, and New Hampshire System contributions for nine (9) months. If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget with an estimated annual cost of Eight Thousand Sixty Dollars (\$8,060). **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

ARTICLE (Park & Rec Wages)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Two Dollars (\$2,692) to cover the cost of increasing the hourly wages for the returning Parks & Recreation Staff by One Dollar (\$1) for each employee? This represents wages and payroll taxes for one (1) year. If approved, this addition would become part of the annual budget.

(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (2 FT – FF/EMS Employees)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-One Thousand One Hundred Three Dollars (\$91,103) to hire two (2) full-time Firefighter/EMTs? This represents the wages, taxes, and benefits for twenty-five (25) weeks, and certain one-time expenses. If approved, the Fire Department Operating Budget will be reduced by Ninety-One Thousand One Hundred Three Dollars (\$91,103); and this addition would become part of the annual operating budget with an estimated annual cost of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$180,700). **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

ARTICLE (Ambulance)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) for the purchase of one (1) fully-equipped ambulance for the Fire Rescue Department with said funds to come from the Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle Special Revenue Fund? **(Recommended by Board of Selectmen)**

ARTICLE (Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Dispatch)

To see if the Town will vote to join the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact. The Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact is a District Fire Mutual Aid System established under NH RSA 154:30-f. Membership will convey to the Town of Weare and the Weare Fire Rescue Department all rights and responsibilities contained in that statute and by the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact by-laws;

and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-One Thousand Sixty Dollars (\$21,060) for the purpose of the membership for one (1) quarter in fiscal year 2022? If approved, the Fire Department Operating Budget will be reduced by Ten Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Two Dollars (\$10,152); and this addition would become part of the annual operating budget with an estimated annual cost of Eighty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$84,237). (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (Police Cruiser)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-One Thousand Thirteen Dollars (\$71,013) for the purchase of one (1) fully equipped police cruiser? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (Special Revenue Fund for Transfer Station)

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-c to restrict Fifty Percent (50%) of Recyclable Revenues to expenditures for the purpose of Transfer Station Equipment and Capital Projects? Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue fund to be known as the Transfer Station Recyclable Special Revenue Fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of revenue. (Majority ballot vote).

(**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (10-Wheel Dumptruck)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$260,000) to be added to the previously established Highway Truck and Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing a new 10-wheel plow truck for the Highway Department? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (Medium Duty 1 ton Replacement)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000) to be added to the previously established Highway Truck and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of replacing one (1) fully-equipped medium duty one ton replacement vehicle? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (Road Reconstruction)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Five Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$575,000) for road reconstruction and resurfacing of roads with up to Two Hundred Eighty Thousand, Nine Hundred Two Dollars (\$280,902) anticipated to be received from the State of New Hampshire Highway Block Grant (pursuant to RSA 235) and the remaining balance of approximately Two Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand, Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$294,098) to be added to the previously established Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund? (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (Master Plan CRF)

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Master Plan Update Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to begin funding the update of the master plan and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. (Majority vote required).

(**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (Forester)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to allow the Conservation Commission to secure contracted services with a Licensed Forester for forestry services including plan updates, harvest layout, harvest management, forest inventory, invasive species control and other related services, and to allow the Conservation Commission to contract or purchase materials or services for maintenance and upkeep of town forests and fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that sum from the Town Forest Account? (Recommended by Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE (Request from CC)

Shall the Town designate town owned parcels, map 408 and lot 129, containing 19.53 acres and map 401, lot 117 containing 31.94 acres as Conservation Land to be managed by the Weare Conservation Commission.

ARTICLE (All Veterans' Tax Credit)

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services is not eligible for receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), the same as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28.

ARTICLE (Radio Communications-Lease)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a _____ year lease agreement in the amount of _____ for the purpose of leasing all the equipment for a Town Radio Communication Network for Emergency Services, and to raise and appropriate the sum of _____ for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote required). (**Recommended** by Board of Selectmen)

Discussion: To use all the ARPA money for the down payment for the radio system, \$475,000.00 now and the other \$475,000.00 next year without a prepayment penalty. The term being a 10-year lease, pricing on 5, 7 and 10. Ultimately, ARPA to cover 2/3rds and the voters to cover 1/3rd. The discussion continues around funding options, purchasing policies and Fire staying with Capital Area One.

Selectman Van commented on re-establishing an Ethics Committee, appointed or elected, by putting a warrant article together.

Town Administrator Bolton to seek legal counsel for members of the Finance Committee being able to also serve on any other committee/board.

Trails Committee to be a joint discussion with the Conservation and the PARC. To revisit April 2022 and invite John Lawton to attend.

MANIFEST:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated January 6, 2022 as included in the following manifests:

<i>Payroll Manifest</i>	\$	88,035.56 (Weekly & Fire monthly payroll)
<i>Accounts Payable Manifest</i>	\$	56,437.18
<i>Supplemental Accounts Payable Manifest</i>	\$	4,171.10
<i>Total</i>	\$	148,643.84

Chairman Hippler, Selectman Van seconded to accept the manifest as follows, which passed. Passed 3-0-0.

MINUTES:

December 6, 2021 Minutes: tabled

December 20, 2021 Minutes: tabled

December 27, 2021 Minutes: tabled

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

General items:

1. Radio Communication - still open
2. Forestry Contract - still open
3. ARPA Expenditures - still open
4. Collins Cemetery - still open
5. Cemetery Trustees - waiting for something in writing
6. Building Inspector Vehicle - January 24th public hearing
7. Exofficio Updates - PARC: Christmas tree is down; Christmas baskets were delivered to some seniors in town.

Building & Maintenance Projects:

1. Town Administration Office and Upstairs ceiling/walls - Maskiell Painting working on offices.
2. East Weare Fire Station - new furnace installed, waiting on Irving for tanks, confirm lot-lines so tanks are not on neighbor's property.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Contract with Independent Contractor, Sanders Searches, LLC. finding lien holders. BOS to sign.
2. E911 liaison - Mary Ann Green, Assessing Administrative Assistant **Selectman Van moved, Selectman Burdick seconded to authorize the Chairman Hippler to sign. Passed 3-0-0**
3. Conservation Commission requests for a hybrid forum, to allow forester and apprentice to meet via zoom. Technology not in place for camera and recording. Someone would have to staff the meeting in person. Meeting minutes to note who attended via phone, four people in person needed for a forum.

NONPUBLIC SESSION: Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Van seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 8:43 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (c). A roll call vote was taken, Chairman Hippler - yes; Selectman Burdick - yes; Selectman Van - yes. Passed 3-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Van seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 8:56 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Chairman Hippler - yes; Selectman Burdick - yes; Selectman Van - yes. Passed 3-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved, Selectman Van seconded to seal and restrict these nonpublic session minutes. Passed 3-0-0

NONPUBLIC SESSION: Selectman Van moved, Selectman Burdick seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 8:56 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (c). A roll call vote was taken, Chairman Hippler - yes; Selectman Burdick - yes; Selectman Van - yes. Passed 3-0-0

Selectman Van moved, Selectman Burdick seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 9:08 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Chairman Hippler - yes; Selectman Burdick - yes; Selectman Van - yes. Passed 3-0-0

The Board talked about town renters.

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Van made a motion, Chairman Hippler seconded to adjourn at 9:09 pm. Passed 3-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Karen Nelson

Karen Nelson transcribed from

TA Bolton notes & You Tube recording