

DRAFT



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2023**

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Jason Fiske, Interim DPW Director; Frank Baker; Tom Clow; Frank Campana; Richard Butt; Beth Rouse, Finance Administrator; Kyle Parker; David Pratte; Jackie Pratte; Barbara Hibbard; Lisa Grolljahn-Purington; Denise Purington; Nick Fox; Ralph Fellbaum.

Chairman Hippler called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Burdick seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 6:33 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (a & c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Cahill – yes; Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 5-0-0

The Board met with Interim DPW Director Jason Fiske to discuss a couple of accidents involving residents that occurred over the weekend at the Transfer Station. Primex has been contacted. The hazard was taken care of. One resident has checked on to see how they were. The Board asked Town Administrator Bolton to reach out to the second individual. The Board also discussed an email from an employee regarding a situation with a resident at the Transfer Station. Interim DPW Director indicated that he has inquired and can't get a direct answer. The Board asked him to inform the employee to get a place number and turn it over to the police. The Interim DPW Director has an equipment operator position that he will be looking to fill and asked about the process. The Board informed him that he will just need to email the Board the specifics when he is ready. Lastly, Selectman Burdick asked Interim DPW Director Fiske what he was going to do with regard to compensating the assistant mechanic for the use of his tools. Interim DPW Director indicated that was a Board decision and if the Board wanted to compensate for the use of his tools it is up to them.

Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 6:50 PM. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Cahill – yes; Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 5-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved; Vice Chairman Knapp seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 6:50 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (b). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Cahill – yes; Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 5-0-0

Frank Baker, Senior Transfer Station Attendant met with the Board as a follow up meeting from the one in January regarding a promotion and more money. Mr. Baker met with the Board in January at which time he was given the title of Sr. Attendant with an increase of \$1/hour immediately and an additional \$0.50 cents after a successful 6 months' probation period. Mr. Baker stated that was not his understanding. He understood that it would be after Mr. Harder left. The Board then asked Interim DPW Director Fiske to join the meeting. Mr. Baker is doing almost everything up there except for anything mechanical. He then reaches Interim DPW Director Fiske to help out as he is the one responsible for the Transfer Station as the Director. Mr. Baker would like to be promoted from Senior Attendant to Foreman and asked for another increase in pay to go with it. He would like to be @ \$23/hour for the additional responsibilities that would come with being a Foreman. Mr. Baker provided the Board with an ultimatum if this was not to happen. The Board explained that it has nothing to do with his performance or what he does it comes down to funds to be able to do this. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that he would like to make sure from the Finance Administrator that we will be able to have the funds to do this. He felt that 2023 will probably be fine as there are vacancies, but going forward the Board needs to be assured that the funds are there. They will need to get that before a decision is made.

Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 7:06 PM. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Cahill – yes; Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 5-0-0

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING:

Chairman Hippler called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. Chairman Hippler stated that we began this evening with a couple of nonpublic sessions. He then asked all present to join in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Hippler apologized for getting this public hearing started late. Chairman Hippler called the public hearing to order at 7:09 PM to her public testimony and comment on changing the disposal fees at the Transfer Station. Chairman Hippler recognized Interim DPW Director Jason Fiske.

Interim Director Fiske provided the Board with a handout and made copies available to those in the public for this hearing. Interim Director Fiske and Frank Baker, Senior Transfer Station Attendant indicated that they are not making many changes. Those items coming down in price are air conditioning units, propane tanks (various sizes) and fire extinguishers. The mercury devices are now going to be free of charge. There is a company that takes them. They still have to be disposed of the correct way, but there will be no charge to the taxpayer. They are accepting acetylene, argon or oxygen tanks now, which we were not doing before. NRRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association) are now taking everything, where they were previously done by a private company. One big change is that we can take all tanks now. Selectman Cahill asked if there were any increases. Mr. Baker stated that it is all decreases. Truck tires were asked about. Mr. Baker stated that the truck tires, tractor tires and backhoe tires are now \$65/each. Paper is still being collected even though there is no revenue. We are paying \$22 per ton but it is still cheaper than \$80 per ton for the trash. Town Administrator Bolton stated that at the last meeting a fee schedule was proposed and advertised for tonight's hearing. The tires have changed in the last two weeks. The freon was advertised as being \$8 and tonight it is being said as \$10. The point being made was that the advertised fees are now different tonight.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street stated that he certainly understands that the disposal fees are what the Town pays to get rid of them. His question is what is the Board's process for keeping track of how much money comes in and how much money goes out for any of the items and when does the Board review that. Mr. Campana asked it was tracked monthly from the finance office and does the Board have a schedule to have a presentation and review how the transfer of money is going. Chairman Hippler stated that we get the report quarterly. All items that come in have the tape from the cash register and is provided to the finance administrator who tracks it. Mr. Campana then asked when does the Board periodically review that from

the finance person to review it. The Board replied quarterly. Mr. Campana asked if that report is available to the public, including himself. The Board stated yes. Mr. Campana again reiterated that if he calls the Finance Administrator that she would be able to give it to him. The Board again stated yes.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road stated that there were some major changes made last year in terms of bulk items that are now being put into the household trash. Chairman Hippler stated that the bulk items are going into the demo not the trash. Mr. Butt agreed and apologized. He asked the Board if they know or have a consensus to how well that's going. How much money we're saving from trash versus how much we are receiving from when it goes into the demo trailer. Mr. Butt stated that over the years have we been recovering the amount of demo being put into the demo trailer, largely because we have no scales to accurately track it. Is the Board looking at that and if so, how does it look? Chairman Hippler stated that the bulky items are not being tracked and they are paid for per item. They could be put on the scales we have, but the Board chose to have those items paid per item. The demo trailer is paid for by weight when taken away. Selectman Cahill stated that when the demo trailer goes off and we pay per ton to dispose of the demo. The way this works is the money goes into the revolving account, we are supposed to balance it out, as we are not supposed to be a for-profit company and that has been the case. What it has done and the upside to this and it is a very round number, but we have sent approximately 500 ton less to the incinerator at \$85/ton at the incinerator less the trucking, we had about a \$50,000 savings last year. Mr. Butt stated that was not for a full year, correct? Selectman Cahill stated correct, and since the fee was instituted the number of bulky items has significantly reduced. Mr. Butt stated that to follow up on those impressive figures, was the item in the budget reduced as a result of what happened last year. It's a number that we are continuing to try to reduce. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that he didn't know if it got changed because it was only for a few months tracking. But when he did the budget it did not reduce it, but the anticipation it to reduce it if it continues down that path. Mr. Butt stated that was the most significant change made by the prior director at the Transfer Station. Selectman Cahill stated that it was a collaborative effort between him and Vice Chairman Knapp at that time. Mr. Butt stated that hopefully it continues and the Town will see an excess in that line item next year.

Being there were no further comments or questions, Chairman Hippler closed the public hearing at 7:26 PM. Chairman Hippler asked if there any Board member who sees why we should not adopt this new fee schedule. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that he is a bit nervous that they may get everyone on their side and the fees will go up. But we don't know that right now. **Selectman Burdick moved to accept the new fee schedule as amended with the dry cell batteries, line #8 for \$1 per pound which are mainly the solar batteries; Selectman Blume seconded the motion. Passed 5-0-0**

The following is the newly approved Transfer Station Fee Schedule (to be posted onto website):

1. Construction Debris-Bulky Items

\$5.00 Minimum	
Wood/Siding	\$40.00/Yard - \$1.48/ Cubic Foot
Asphalt Shingles/Sheetrock	\$110.00/Yard - \$4.07/ Cubic Foot
Toilets	\$7.00 Each
Mattresses/Box Springs	\$16.00 Each
Stuffed Chairs/Recliners/Couches	\$10.00 Each

2. Tires

Passenger Tire/Motorcycle Tires	\$4.00 Each
Truck Tires (22.5" – 26.5")	\$65.00 Each
Large Tractor Tires	\$65.00 Each

3. Fluorescent Bulbs

Straight – 4 Foot Bulbs	\$1.00 Each
Straight – 8 Foot Bulbs	\$2.00 Each
U-tube or Circular Bulbs	\$1.00 Each
Fluorescent Lamps – Comp. CFL	\$1.00 Each

Fluorescent Lamps – HID, Metal Halide	\$1.00 Each
Ballasts	\$1.00 Each
4. Electronics	
CRT, TVs & Monitors	\$0.20 Per Pound
Mixed Electronics (Printers, VCRs, Etc.)	\$0.20 Per Pound
Computers (CPU/Towers)	\$0.20 Per Pound
5. Freon Containing Items	
Air Conditioners, Dehumidifiers, Refrigerators, Etc.	\$10.00 Per Unit
6. Propane and Assorted Tanks	
1 Pound (Coleman Size)	\$1.00 Each
5 – 60 Pound	\$2.00 Each
100 Pound	\$10.00 Each
Acetylene, Argon, Oxygen	\$3.00 Each
Fire Extinguishers	\$5.00 Each
Helium Tanks	No Charge
7. Mercury Containing Items	
Mercury Thermostats, Thermometers, Etc.	No Charge
8. Batteries	
Dry Cell	\$1.00 Per Pound

MANIFEST: Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated May 18, 2023, as included in the following manifests:

Payroll Manifest **\$ 71,968.95** (*Weekly payroll*)

Accounts Payable Manifest **\$ 142,204.51**

Weare School Accounts Payable Manifest **\$ 400,000.00**

John Stark Accounts Payable Manifest **\$ 250,000.00**

TOTAL: **\$ 864,173.46**

Passed: 5-0-0

PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Hippler stated that we have reached 7:30 PM and he opened up the public hearing to hear public testimony and comment regarding the proposed changes to the Chase Park Fee Schedule. He recognized Lisa Grolljahn-Purington, Director of Parks and Recreation. They are looking forward to having the revolving account for Chase Park and they have looked at the numbers and as a commission have come to some ideas for changing that they wanted to get approved. They made some changes in both directions, some increases and some decreases from last year. Seasons passes have been \$10 for many years. They are looking to increase that to \$20 per car per season for the first car and \$5 per season for the second car. It is up \$10 for the first car and \$3 for the second car. The increase is a way to help offset the cost of the stickers. The boat ramp is \$30 per jet ski/boat for the season; up from \$20. Seniors (60+) one free car pass and \$5 each additional car; an increase of \$3 each additional car. \$15/1st boat/jet ski and \$30/each additional boat/jet ski for the season. It used to be 1st free and each additional \$20. There are a few seniors that have multiple boats, which is a \$10 per boat increase. The parking for non-resident was \$40 per car and they are now charging \$5 per person all ages. Boat ramp was kept the same for non-residents. Non-resident walk-ins are not allowed. Seniors and veterans were combined. Town Administrator Bolton stated that on the current schedule there was a notice that “Visitors shall be denied entry when park is at capacity”. That was inadvertently forgotten and needs to be added. The Board agreed. Town Administrator Bolton asked about the comment made by Police Chief Moore about doubling

the fees on holiday weekends due to the added amount of time they have to spend at the park. Ms. Grolljahn-Purington stated that they decided not to change the holiday weekends.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road stated the fees for residents have increased and fees for non-residents have decreased. If you had one non-resident drive in it was \$40 and now it is \$5; 2 non-residents costs \$10 and it used to be \$40 which is a reduction of \$35 for the first example and \$30 for the second example and so on. So, if you squeeze 8 into a car that is the break even point. He's concerned and didn't hear a good explanation as to why it is being done and it looks like it is being done to generate more revenue at the expense of the residents. A couple of years ago there was a public hearing for the rate change fee changes as Chase Park and he read from that. Mr. Butt read: "the Chairman started by explaining that residents support Chase Park with their tax dollars and by paying a parking fee, however; they are often turned away from entering the park because it quickly fills the capacity with non-residents". He continued "this past Sunday when staff arrived 30 minutes prior to opening there were 15 cars in line already, 10 of which were non-residents. She feels that raising their fee to \$40 the park will no longer be the least expensive option in regard to all the other surrounding parks. Their hope is this would encourage the use of state parks rather than non-residents coming to Chase Park. They would go to other locations." Mr. Butt stated that the intent here through a fee would deter people from coming here as it was interfering with residents. His primary concern is that we are decreasing the fees for non-residents. Why are we doing that? The park should be primarily for residents as it is supported with their tax dollars and in his mind should be exclusive. Mr. Butt stated that there is a significant change this year with regards to the revolving fund and a significant amount of revenue (100%) is not coming back to offset taxes. It is going into a fund to be used at Chase Park and other parks to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. In his mind this is a slap in the face to increase the fees to residents, previously you could tie an increase to providing a service. To him, residents should be able to get in there for free. It is penalizing the taxpayers. Selectman Blume stated that a fair amount of discussion was how do we keep residents ahead of non-residents. It was his understanding that the last change was a significant jump, and this change is a bit of a return. They have data which shows that non-residents have gone to almost zero. The biggest cost coming up is that boat ramp that needs significant repair. Mr. Butt asked who is paying for that. Selectman Blume replied that potentially the park revolving fund that he described. Mr. Butt further asked that he is being told now that the fees are determined by a project that is needed a year or two years from now. Selectman Blume replied, potentially and asked Mr. Butt why he felt that was unreasonable. Mr. Butt replied he thinks it is unreasonable for that facility to be set up not for the residents of this town. We are increasing fees and what is the impact on the residents. Selectman Blume stated that we would like to be able to adjust this mid-season if they find that residents with an overflow of non-residents. Mr. Butt asked if it has been thought out over the years.

Denise Purington stated that with the help of the Finance department they have put together some numbers when they came to talk about the revolving fund at budget time. The decrease in volume at Chase Park over the last five years is significant. Ms. Purington provided some examples: total annual volume in 2017 was 2,111 individuals that visited the park or cars. Last year that number dropped to 705. More than half the volume has dropped. As far as non-resident cars, in 2017 there were 750 and last year they had 35. One of the things they have been looking at is, how did the price increases drive down volume. One of the things that the commission feels is important is that they staff the park as if it was full. They have lifeguards and people at the gates, so when you have two visitors to the park and four staff members it doesn't make any sense. One of the correlating pieces that they found when they increased the prices for out of town the volume dropped way off. Even the resident volumes have dropped way off and yes some of the revenue that came in was off-setting, but it is not off-setting what we are paying for salaries and there is no money to make improvements to the park because the fees went back to the general fund, they couldn't purchase a picnic table that was broken. They don't have money to fix the bathrooms, so part of the discussion was not to make revenue but to have money to do the improvements to the park. Now it is possible that by dropping the non-resident fee, the volumes will go way up, but that's why it will be monitored through out the year. Last year they were at capacity only 2 weekends, both were holiday weekends, the rest they

weren't even at 50% capacity. They also looked at surrounding towns with lakes to see what they do and their fee structure to align with what they are doing. Fees were increased as there is a lot to be done and they are certainly in line with surrounding parks.

Richard Butt, Old Town Road basically is there a five-year plan? All he heard was the reduction of visitors and the increase of fees. As far as he's concerned, again is for town residents. Two years ago, it was set up to try to persuade non-residents to come to town, now as a result of that revenue has dropped off. But now the Town is keeping the revenue this has become an issue. When that money was going into the general fund to help offset the operational cost, not 100%, but now there will be no money back. Mr. Butt added that he hasn't seen a Capital Improvement Plan and he doesn't see it all he hears is we want to increase revenue.

Tom Clow, Concord Stage Road stated that as you compare the drop off you really have to take the whole Covid thing into consideration even now there is a residual effect from Covid as far as people attending places that are crowded. It could be one of the reasons and maybe not from the costs but take it for what it's worth. The other thing is he believes parks and recreation is often shortchanged in the budgeting process, physical fitness, health, it all ties in with recreation and it hasn't been enough of a priority in his mind. It's the responsibility of the town to spend money, but some other towns have Parks and Recreation Departments that are a major part of their budgets and we kind of set it on the back burner and should be moved to the front to be able to support a healthy recreation department.

Nick Fox, East Shore Drive stated that he agrees with the other comments, and it blows his mind that the Town has jacked up the taxpayers. He agrees it should be free, this is ridiculous. The people that he sees abusing the lake are from out of town. People that are doing trash are people from out of town. People that are loud are people from out of town. He could see this fixed fairly quickly of the Town jacked up the out-of-town rate, so he did not see why the Town would increase this for residents. It makes no sense at all. As far as needing money for the park, he asked if the Board knew how many houses were on the lake. The Board didn't know. Mr. Fox stated that everybody's taxes on the houses on the lake doubled. There's your revenue. Mr. Fox asked where the heck did that money go, doubled, doubled he said. He stated that he pays ten more grand a year, that would give residents free the entire season just on his house. He continued laughingly "this shouldn't even be a question guys, the Town should not be looking to make money, not be looking for revenue, instead of saving, helping, encouraging, and not constantly putting your thumb down on us to see how we can make more money." Mr. Fox stated that he doesn't know why the budget is the way it is for getting double the revenue from all those homes, which he stated that he would be happy to give the board a number next time. He continued, "hundreds of thousands of dollars is now what you're getting from the lake, that would pay for the ramp, thirty times over and that just happened two years ago. So, where's that money going, there should be no increase, it should be free."

Frank Campana, Quaker Street stated that his comments are going to be somewhat based on what he has heard from what a couple of other people said here before. One person said and stole his thunder, that you were provided numbers of people coming to the park at pretty much the height of Covid, so those numbers are probably erroneous at best. He thinks it is unfair to use that comparison. Another person said well parks and rec has been shortchanged through the budgeting process, okay, so now the request is let's do an end run from the people requesting it around the taxpayers in the budgeting process and institute fees. Mr. Campana stated that for him personally, he doesn't use the lake anymore and he doesn't have a problem and didn't come prepared as another person did but if the Board is going to institute and be presented with fee increases based on the backs of the residents then zero out the budget for the parks and rec, now they get all the revenue, that's easy to do. Mr. Campana gave an example of Beaver Meadow Golf Course in Concord paid for by the city, and often they want to build a new clubhouse, well they are going to increase fees to pay for that. He feels that's an end run and he doesn't like it. If the budget is shortchanged for the parks and rec they certainly have the CIP (Capital Improvements Program) that they can present articles, although they haven't been too successful and they have the means of increasing their budgets and with

plans behind it. Mr. Campana stated that “to be quite honest, the fees are tied to a pickle ball court, make no mistake, so you’ve got to think twice about fees and basing it on the backs of the taxpayers.”

Denise Purington, Parks and Recreation wanted to clarify a couple of things again in regard to the statement about Covid numbers. In 2022 the number of non-resident cars was 35; the non-resident boats were 22. This is post Covid the numbers are not going back up they are going down. The resident season passes in 2022 were 263, so we are not even near capacity. She also wanted to mention revenue, last year the Chase Park receipts were just shy of \$10,000 total for the whole year. The boat fees were \$6,000. They just met last week. They have a broken pump at one of the fields, that irrigates the baseball and soccer fields. It’s going to be between \$7,000 and \$15,000 to replace that pump. The broken gates at the park due to plowing and all of that is going to be well over \$5,000. In one meeting and two items, they have pretty much maxed out the budget for the year. They can’t even yet address things at Chase Park like the boat ramp, like the five picnic tables that are unsafe to sit at, the trees floating in the water, stairs that are crumbling that are a safety risk. They are not talking \$100,000 here. They will be lucky if that revolving account even gets to \$15,000 in revenue this year. That money won’t even cover anywhere near what they are facing. It was mentioned about a Capital Improvements Plan, Ms. Purington did a whole picture inventory of every park they are responsible for, and every broken piece of equipment and the problem is that every year something else breaks like the gates that broke over plowing. They just lost a slide at Bolton Field, so they either shut it down or fixed it and the fix is not cheap. We are talking about \$1,500 for one section of the slide. We are not talking a lot of money when we talk about the revolving account and the volumes at Chase Park are not going down because of Covid, they are just going down period. If the Town doesn’t keep up with the picnic tables and safety, who wants to come there. If the residents are not filling the park, why not make it attractive for others to come and use it and to at least help to maximize what we can do to keep up with what they need to fix.

Selectman Blume stated that one of the reasons for going to per person for the non-resident is that we had a individual that would come in pay their \$40 with a car load of people, drop them off and go back and get another car load of people, repeatedly and that was all done per the schedule at that time. This is being done to address that situation as well.

Mr. Butt stated that seems like a procedural issue that needs to be addressed, it doesn’t make sense to allow that to happen. Selectman Blume stated that you are asking 15-year-olds to tell people (adults) to quit doing this. Mr. Butt stated that it’s either \$40 or \$5 per person, so if they have a carload of people it is going to be \$5 per person. Selectman Blume stated the point is that you used to be able to get one car in for that day for \$40 and you could re-enter multiple times. Mr. Butt stated that he is not being disrespectful to any of the volunteers who have put a lot of work into this. To him it’s more from the Board’s standpoint and the way things are structured. Capital Reserve Funds are not just for capital projects there are capital reserve funds for maintenance and this year on the warrant the Board offset a lot of very expensive articles. There are times when you should start a capital reserve fund for Parks and Recreation for maintenance. Mr. Butt stated that he understands there are issues in their operating budget and certainly there is not enough money in there to cover those issues. We have a capital reserve fund for Government Building Maintenance and maybe some of these items could fall under that umbrella, but there should be a fund set up for maintenance. He suggested starting a capital reserve fund with \$20,000 from the undesignated fund balance and not through fees. He felt it should be arbitrary based on what your need is next year or the year after. He would urge the Board to do other methods beside increasing the fees.

Chairman Hippler closed the public hearing at 8:08 PM.

Chairman Hippler asked the Board members if they would like to reply to the comments this evening. Selectman Blume stated that he will repeat this again, but a lot of this discussion preceded at the Parks meeting prior to the presentation to the Board about a month ago. They stated that they will keep a very close eye on this, which could be perceived as lip service, but it is not their intention at all. There are

people there all the time. The intent is to make sure that residents get priority but it's tough to pay for something that is sitting vacant. Selectman Burdick stated that she would like to see this completely reviewed at the end of July to see what we have taken in, to see how many cars have come in, how many trucks have come in or boats or whatever and see where we are because if we are not getting any more non-residents in and your maintaining your residents you need to know that right away. Selectman Blume then asked to sort out what data will be important to start tracking and then we will make sure we start doing that from day one. So, number of cars, number of boats, non-residents, residents. Chairman Hippler stated that he felt the data that Denise Purington presented is solid data to make those decisions. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that the biggest decision, short of should we charge residents or not charge residents would be if residents got turned away because we are at full capacity. So, we would need to know how many days we were at full capacity and possibly how many cars got turned away and if possible are they resident or non-resident. Selectman Cahill stated that it's all over the place, it's getting the kids out the door is getting harder and harder, so less people are out and about. Chairman Hippler agreed with Selectman Burdick and would like to see the numbers revisited in July, mid-season per say. It seems like a drastic swing, and it would be good to see what is happening. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that he wishes that the seniors didn't go up. Selectman Blume stated that at their July Park meeting they will evaluate the numbers and the Board meeting following their meeting he will share the numbers. The Board agreed that would be great. **Selectman Blume moved that the Board accept the modifications to the Chase Park Parking and Boating Fees for 2023, as amended to include "visitors shall be denied when park is at capacity", Selectman Burdick seconded the motion. Passed 4-0-1 (Hippler)**

The following is the newly approved Chase Park 2023 Parking & Boat Fees (to be posted onto website):

CHASE PARK at Lake Horace Weare NH 2023 Parking & Boat Fees	
<u>RESIDENTS*</u> Daily & Season Pass	
Parking	\$5.00 per car (daily) \$20.00 per car (season) \$5.00 each additional car (season) (CURRENT Vehicle registration required)
Boat Ramp	\$30.00 per jet ski/boat (season) (CURRENT Boat Registration required) Car included only when boat is in tow. If car has no boat in tow, car pass is required.
Seniors* (60+) & Veterans*	1 FREE Car pass (season) \$5.00 each additional car (season) \$15 1st Boat/ Jet Ski Pass (season) \$30 each additional boat/jet ski (season) (CURRENT Vehicle & Boat registration required) *(Owner must be present to receive stickers)
Walk ins	\$2 per person (fee waived with proof of pass purchase)
<u>NON - RESIDENTS</u> <i>DAILY</i>	
Parking Access	\$5 per person (daily) all ages - no reentry

Boat Ramp Access	\$50.00 per boat or jet ski (daily)
Walk ins not allowed	
Resident, Senior and Veteran	
*Identification Confirmation Required	
Stickers must be attached by STAFF at the time of purchase	
Visitors shall be denied entry when park is at capacity	
ALL watercraft and trailers are subject to inspection for invasive weeds before entering the lake	
<u>NO EXCEPTIONS</u>	

Residency proof can be: **CURRENT** Car registration, Drivers License, Rental Agreement, tax bill or current utility bill

DEPARTMENT HEAD/COMMITTEE ITEMS:

Award Auditing Services Bid: Beth Rouse, Finance Administrator stated that she went out to bid for auditing services as the current auditors are finishing the 2022 year and we don't have an auditor for 2023 going forward. We only received two bids unfortunately. She put together a draft (listed below) for the Board to make it easier to decipher the large bid packets. The bid was for a three (3) year contract.

	Vachon Clukay & Company, PC	Plodzick & Sanderson, P.A.
Total Contract:	\$64,500	\$53,945
Contract Cost Breakdown	2023 - \$20,500 2024 - \$21,500 2025 - \$22,500 \$3,500 Single Audit	2023 - \$16,695 2024 - \$17,950 2025 - \$19,300 \$3,500 Single Audit
Hours Designated for Audit	<u>150 Hours</u> Shareholders 15 Manager 40 Senior Accountant 50 Staff Accountant 42 Clerical 3	<u>156 Hours</u> Directors 12 Sr. Manager & Managers 12 Sr. Auditor & Staff Auditor 132
2023 Contract Cost per hour	\$20,500/150 = \$136.67 per hour	\$16,695/156 = \$107.02 per hour
Other Services	\$110-\$225 per hour for other consultation work No additional charge for email or telephone consultants	\$85-\$175 per hour for other consultation work No charge for out-of-pocket expenses (travel, lodging, etc.)
Current Clients	100+	225
Staff Size	<u>12</u> 2-Shareholders 4-Managers 9-Staff	<u>23</u> 2-Directors 1-Senior Manager 3-Managers 3-Senior Auditors 14-Staff Accountants
Clients to Staff Ratio	100:12 Or 8.33 Clients to 1 staff	225:23 Or 9.79 Clients to 1 staff

Finance Administrator Rouse stated that currently the Town is Plodzik & Sanderson and for three years it was \$45,000. It did go up 20% if we go with Plodzik & Sanderson and if we go with Vachon it goes up 44%. Finance Administrator Rouse further broke down how many hours each firm would give us. Plodzik & Sanderson would give us 156 and Vachon would give us 150; then if you further break that out per contract for 2023, Plodzik & Sanderson costs \$107.02 per hour where Vachon is \$136.67 per hour. If the Town needs other services, for instance if a tax collector leaves or we need another audit for whatever reason, they will charge us extra hours for that, but emails and phone calls are all included in the contract price. Vachon currently has 100+ governmental clients and Plodzik & Sanderson has 224. The staff size for Vachon is 12 and the staff size for Plodzik & Sanderson is 23. That breaks down to client staff ratio for Vachon is 100 to 12 or 8.33 clients to 1 staff and for Plodzik & Sanderson is 225 to 23 or 9.79 clients to 1 staff member. You can tell by the price that Vachon is a lot higher than Plodzik and Sanderson. We have had both and we have worked well with both. Chairman Hippler asked if there were any complaints by either. Finance Administrator Rouse replied no complaint with either in our history. Selectman Blume asked when they would start. Finance Administrator Rouse replied they would do the annual 2023 audit, so they would begin in February of 2024. Selectman Blume asked how long the RFP for auditing services was out. Finance Administrator Rouse for about 4 weeks. Chairman Hippler stated that he recalled the last time we put it out to bid we only got three bids back. Finance Administrator Rouse stated that she sent it to five firms and advertised it but only received two back. Vice Chairman Knapp asked who Finance Administrator Rouse would recommend. She replied she didn't have a preference as she had worked with both of them. Selectman Cahill asked for clarification and stated that the only place where we could potentially see an additional cost would be if we requested an extra audit. Finance Administrator Rouse replied, yes if we question something or find that we would like them to return to just focus on. Selectman Cahill replied, "if something doesn't pass the sniff test". Finance Administrator Rouse replied or if the finance administrator, tax collector or town clerk left. In 2020 we had to do a separate audit when an employee left. It was required before the new employee to take over that the incoming employee comes in with a fresh set of books, clean slate. Selectman Blum stated that it is tough for him to vote on something that he hasn't read through, although we have worked with both firms in the past. He is happy to abstain if everyone else is comfortable. This is the same RFP that was used three years ago. **Selectman Cahill moved to accept the proposal from Plodzik & Sanderson as submitted and reviewed by the Board for the fiscal year December 31, 2023, 2024 & 2025 as presented.** Selectman Blume asked if the Town has to commit to all three years. Finance Administrator Rouse replied no, it's just better if you have the same people for three years because each year they focus on one thing. They do an overall audit, but then they really dig into one section and then the next year they dig into something different. Chairman Hippler stated that there is a consistency factor there. **Vice Chairman Knapp seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0-1 (Blume)**

DPW Update: Interim DPW Director Jason Fiske was present to go over a few items.

1. **Driveway Bond Policy:** Interim DPW Director Fiske handed around a draft Driveway Bond Policy that was originally started back when Vice Chairman Knapp was the DPW Director. There is currently nothing in place. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that basically the contractors are required to have a paved apron on their driveway before getting an occupancy. This policy will allow the Town to collect a bond for occupancies issued between November 1st and April 1st, when the paving companies are closed. This is an assurance that the driveway apron will be paved once the pavement plants open. Once paved and inspected by the DPW Director the bond would be returned. Selectman Blume stated that we know the Board of Firewards are going away is it worth editing that so we don't have to revisit this later. Chairman Hippler stated that the Board could revisit it in February. The Board discussed detailing the sentence regarding the Board of Firewards. Chairman Hippler stated that he is not sure what is going to happen with the Board of Firewards stipulations after they dissolve, does it roll to planning, does it roll to zoning or does it roll to this board. Selectman Burdick asked if the Board of Firewards have ever gone out and inspected aprons. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that it is not the apron they have say over it the driveway as a whole. There are regulations set forth. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that most of the requirements are to ensure fire access, but this has to do with where the

driveway touches the town road and drainage. Selectman Blume asked if the policy could be worded to be more generic. The Board felt that something should be adopted tonight and in January or February put it back on the Board's agenda to have a better understanding of what is going to happen to other items when the Firewards dissolve. **Vice Chairman Knapp moved to accept the Driveway Bond Policy as presented to us by Interim DPW Director Fiske, Selectman Cahill seconded the motion. Passed 5-0-0.** Town Administrator Bolton will provide a clean copy for signatures at next week's work session.

2. *Update on Compactor Pricing:* Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that what he just handed out was the final invoice for the compactor re-line rebuild with all the parts and labor. It was noted that this project had an overrun of \$3,122.06. The Board originally approved up to \$35,000 so the Board needs to approve the overrun so that the bill can be paid. The extra costs consist of extra oil, hoses, steel, and unforeseen pump parts. Most of the costs were accounted for with the money that the Board of Selectmen approved. However, the total cost for repairs did go over the \$35,000 agreed to out of the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund per the meeting minutes on 2-17-2023. There were some cost savings with the original invoice with the cost of the forklift rental that was not needed, taking the \$32,267.21 to \$31,067.21. The extra costs for oil, steel, pump parts, hoses and a little extra man hours totals up to \$7,054.85. Bringing the total cost of the repairs to \$38,122.06, leaving a discrepancy or overrun of \$3,122.06. Selectman Cahill asked if we knew what the difference in prices was when the job was bid on. Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that only one company bid on this rebuild, the other backed out. He further added that we knew going into this that there might be some unforeseen issues but wouldn't know for sure until it was taken apart completely. Selectman Blume pointed out that in one of the quotes from Atlantic it indicates that if the Town chooses to keep the waste oil the amount would be reduced by 10%. Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that we did in fact keep the waste oil and he will check on the reduction of 10%, which represents about \$286. Chairman Hippler stated that he looked at it and felt that they did a good job putting it back together. Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that when they took it apart, they noticed that there were three broken cross members that they had to repair which required more significant labor as well as re-plating an extra 3/8 of an inch. It was worn out that bad that they had to add extra steel, it wasn't that they "did extra" for no reason. Selectman Blume asked if they should have known that when they made the bid. Should they've been able to get under there and see the problem. Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that there was no way they could have because the actual ram that cycles in and out and pushes the trash doesn't come out all the way to be able to look at the underside of it. Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that the trailer was on when Atlantic came to look at it and the trailer was off when the other company came to look at it. The other company noted possible broken cross members, which is why the Board went up a little on the bid when awarding it but didn't go up enough. Selectman Burdick asked if the trailer should have been moved out for them to bid. Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that they were working with the trailer when Atlantic came out. Selectman Blume stated that he would take this as a learning experience. Chairman Hippler replied that until you get the plug out and get everything cut out of there, there's some things that you're not going to see, just the way it is designed. Selectman Cahill asked Interim DPW Director Fiske if he was comfortable that this was a justifiable change order. Interim DPW Director Fiske replied that there's nothing that they did that he would deem unreasonable. Chairman Hippler asked how it is working now. Interim DPW Director Fiske replied, cycling is just like brand new, faster than before. **Chairman Hippler moved to approve up to \$3,122.06 for the discrepancy for the work performed at the transfer station compactor to come from the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund; Selectman Cahill seconded. Passed 5-0-0**
3. *Roadside Mowing:* Interim DPW Director Fiske received a bid for roadside mowing. This was put to bid, and we did not receive any bids by the due date. This company was the one that reached out to Interim DPW Director Fiske letting him know he was away on vacation and wouldn't be able to bid by the due date. This bid is just about down to the hour of what we have money for. Chairman Hippler asked how much is in the mower line. Interim DPW Director Fiske replied, \$12,000. Selectman Blume

stated that accounts for about 100 hours between June and September, which is basically 2 ½ weeks mowing, which is not enough, but all we have money for. Selectman Burdick commented that we had better find out which areas are the worst. She then asked if we are doing anything with the knotweed this year. Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that we have a company that sprays that. This is about the 3rd year for spraying, but Interim DPW Director Fiske will reach back out to them. It did a good job the first couple of years, and it would be good to continue it. The spraying is done once in the spring and once in the fall. The gentleman who bid on the mowing knows that he can't touch the knotweed. Fall is the best time to spray because it flowers in the summer and then you spray, and it sucks it all in for the fall. It is against the law to cut knotweed as it spreads rapidly. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that he has used this gentleman while he was in Deering, and he does a very good job. Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that he has talked with three other public works directors/road agents, and they have said the same thing about him. This quote is for a machine and operator. If he has a breakdown we are not paying for the down time, only paying for the time he is working/mowing. **Selectman Cahill moved to award Fieldworks of New Hampshire the bid at \$115/hour to do roadside mowing, with the understanding that it will not exceed the \$12,000 budgeted; Selectman Burdick seconded. Passed 5-0-0**

4. *Complaint Form from residents of Irving Drive:* Chairman Hippler stated that the Board received a complaint signed by multiple residents of Irving Drive. Interim DPW Director Fiske stated that he did see it. He did spend some time going around with the Town engineer. They did look at a few roads he had in mind like Bartlett, Abbie, Balch, Renshaw and Irving. There are two larger culverts on Irving that are going to eat up a lot of money. There are actually three. The one at the bottom before it "y's" and the two metal pipes that the larger stream runs through. There is a metal pipe about half a mile up and the top of it is crushed. That same stream runs through the middle of Irving and then crosses back up across Irving and there's another at the top. They are going to be expensive pipes to replace. Town Administrator Bolton stated that when it was dropped off the gentleman would like to have a conversation with all parties, and she wanted to pass it on to all so that when the conversation occurs on June 5th everyone will be familiar with it. Interim DPW Director Fiske's hope is to have a proposal together for the Board's next meeting.

SOLAR SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENTATION: Town Administrator Bolton stated that this item will be tabled for tonight. It will be added to a future agenda when the subcommittee is ready.

WEARE WINTER WANDERERS TRAIL DISCUSSION: Ralph Fellbaum was present. Mr. Fellbaum thanked the Board for having him. He stated that he is not a resident, but he is the Trail Master for the Weare Winter Wanderers Snowmobile Club. He is here to discuss the possibility of three items. The first is the placement of signs around town thanking the clubs' landowners for their generosity. Signs would be sized according to the town codes and placed at various prominent locations around town with the select boards and/or road agent's consent. An example would be near the transfer station. There would be no cost to the taxpayer for this project. He is thinking there would be about half dozen and he was thinking about the size of a speed limit sign. It is getting harder and harder to stay as a club because if the club loses a single landowner now with properties being divided up, it is almost catastrophic. The club would like to do something and thank them and making it known it is appreciated. These would be permanent signs and placed on the typical road channel signposts. The Board asked that placement be coordinated with the public works director to be safe. Selectman Blume didn't feel comfortable with putting them on town/school property as it feels like an endorsement. He would prefer not to add more posts, but possibly double up with other signage. Second, the club would like to inquire about upgrading of Class VI roads that the club currently has trails on. With the shortened season, lack of snowfall and climate change, this year there was not a very good freeze so there were some serious issues on Melvin Valley Road, between Goffstown Fish and Game and Chris Bolton's land. That one is what they would like to look at this year. Another one that is used is Peaslee Road. It could be called South Road or Old Sugar Hill Road on the Route 77 end. There are some pretty serious water holes in there and the club

would like to have permission from the Board of Selectmen at no cost to the town to put some fill/gravel in the bad spots. When the off-road vehicles go through the puddles it pushes out the fines and every year it is harder and harder for the club to make a trail through there. They would like permission or at least the Board's consideration for the club to make some upgrades to the Class VI roads. Currently the club uses Melvin Valley Road and Peaslee Road and right now the club is not using Tobey Hill Road, but the hope is to get back over there. There is a trail closure currently that prohibits the club from getting over there. Mr. Fellbaum stated that he thinks one of the benefits to the Town would be for firefighting. He used the recent fire on Tobey Hill Road as an example of where it could be beneficial. The third request and he realize that it may have to be a warrant article, but the club would like to request permission to place gates on Class VI roads that the club uses, not as a permanent thing but as a way to protect the road during mud season. The club would ask that the gates be closed basically at the end of March and remain closed until basically May 23rd which is when the Bureau of Trails open the parks. That's when the mud, technically in their eyes is dried up and gone and the off-road vehicles don't do damage to the road. It may be an inconvenience for some of the local people but the big thing that is seen is the out of state off road clubs that will come up in large numbers and once they do they start going in and they like getting into the mud and spinning, which exacerbates the problem. The gates would be closed for roughly 6 weeks just to protect the road and the upgrades that the club hopes to make and hopefully it will help the Town out too. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that he understands as others have fixed up the Class VI roads and the mudders have ruined it, but he's almost positive that the club can't do that. Chairman Hippler agreed and felt that to block it would be illegal, although he understands the reasoning. It is a public road, and it can't be locked if it is gated. Mr. Fellbaum stated that as a kid he recalls seeing signs on Class VI or county roads that it was closed, subject to gates and bars and maybe that was for private land. Mr. Fellbaum stated that in lieu of that request he would probably ask that the club be allowed to place signs on those roads indicating it was closed to four-wheel traffic or wheeled vehicles and have a specified time period. Chairman Hippler stated that might be still a town vote because the road would still be open, but the use is changing. The Board would have to check with town counsel. The board felt that the second request about upgrading would be at the Board level for approval with Interim DPW Director oversight. Selectman Cahill stated that there may be a little more specifics of where and maybe an overlay map showing the details. Mr. Fellbaum stated that he can grab a topo map and put some indications on it where the club would like to do the work. The Board felt that would be a little more specific and not just giving a blank check to proceed. Mr. Fellbaum stated that they would not be doing any culvert work as they don't want to deal with getting permits. The only thing they would be doing, and they would be happy to talk with eh Conservation Committee, is there are places where water has taken away the soils and left boulders which are very hard on the machines. Not enough snow has fallen to fill the low spots leaving the boulders, which is technically a safety issue as well. The Board felt a topo and some pictures presented back to the Board would be fine. Mr. Fellbaum asked if he should return to the Board or go straight to the Conservation Commission. Chairman Hippler stated that if he could put a presentation together, email it to Town Administrator Bolton who could email it to the Board first and then to the Conservation Commission and suggested to Mr. Fellbaum that it would be in the best interest to be there for questions. Selectman Cahill stated that once the Board reviews it, passes it onto the DPW and the Conservation Commission, once the Board hears back from them Mr. Fellbaum will be scheduled to come back to this Board for approval. Selectman Blume asked if there are other stakeholders that need to be included. Selectman Cahill stated that it is a valid point and possibly a public hearing will need to be had. Chairman Hippler stated that direction was given on items one and two and number three the signage would be better versus the gates. The Board would like to see the sample thank you signs, and the sample proposed Class VI Road signs. The Board felt that would be great all in one package. Town Administrator Bolton suggested that maybe a visit to the Fire Department, especially in light of the recent activities regarding the forest fire.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jackie Pratte, 51 Winter Road stated that she would like to address quickly the protocol. She stated that honestly she didn't like how the whole thing went down as far as how they were treated. So, when someone gets put on the agenda to bring up questions to the Board of Selectmen, it's her understanding that if they are bringing it up to the Board of Selectmen that the Board is going to answer

the questions if they are on the agenda. Somewhere along the line it went to the Town Administrator, which she is unsure if it was for the Town Administrator to get the answers to the questions or if she was going to answer the questions. Again, she went through all the minutes and all the YouTube videos and couldn't find any discussions on it from the Board. Then somewhere along the lines the Town Administrator turned around and brought it to Town Counsel. Again, they weren't aware and didn't know until a month into it after their lawyer was notified and again didn't know that was going to happen either. Then they heard at the last meeting that the Town Administrator said that the Board had discussed it and had chosen to turn it over to the Town Counsel. Again, went back through the minutes, went back through the YouTube videos and she couldn't find it anywhere, where the Board made that decision to turn it over to Town Counsel. She felt the whole process is broken; it's completely broken. It should have never happened the way it did and then when they tried to do an RSA 91-A to find out where we could find this information because we were told that we're not allowed to basically they don't have a right to know the questions they asked which was how it got to that point. They did an RSA 91-A to see if they could find some clues which is really sad, they have to try to find clues, again wrong. They got that back to no avail and they were told that some of the questions are attorney-client privilege which brings her to the next point, that if a town employee hires Town Counsel to address a property then it becomes attorney-client privilege, well wouldn't she technically by the client because she is a taxpayer and they are paying the money for the Board to incorporate Town Counsel. Then is it just like a blanket way of covering up things because then if you turn it to Town Counsel it becomes attorney-client privilege then nobody can find out what it is. She stated that it seems like there is a lot of secrecy so she would really love if the Board could set up some type of policy that if people come to the Board of Selectmen, get on the agenda, ask questions that maybe the Board could take a vote so that if she went to the minutes or the YouTube video at the end of the meeting or something, she could say hey that's what's going on because they were completely left in the dark with this whole entire thing. It took months when it shouldn't have. It's ridiculous and then they were told they don't have a right to know, and they still didn't get an answer to the 6 questions, and they are never going to because the Town Counsel stated that we don't have to answer your questions. Then there is going to be a discussion about bringing in a grant to get more housing. She stated that the Board needs to fix the broken system because you can't handle what is going on with the people in your town, never mind increasing the people in your town. She stated, "fix what is broken first, this is broken". The Board is supposed to make it welcoming and they should be able to come and then they specifically got on the agenda to get answers and it didn't happen that way. The Board invoked their lawyer and then they were told they didn't have a right to know and to this day they still don't know and their lawyer doesn't know. If that could just be some sort of policy the Board could work on because that is so broken.

Frank Campana, Quaker Street stated that you may recall his issue and his comment is the fact that over a month ago he tried to get in contact with the Town Administrator and it still hasn't happened except for one little blip on April 8. He got home late but there was a message on his answering machine from the Town Administrator at 6:10 PM indicating she was on her way to the Selectmen's meeting, which was a work session for the Board and wanted to know if he was going to attend. Mr. Campana stated that quite honestly he didn't remember if it trailed off to whatever it was but the person that sent the message can reaffirm but he didn't know what she was going to do on her way to the meeting to satisfy him. So he further added that he still really hasn't heard from the Town Administrator and somewhat from the lady behind him said. This is all foreign to Mr. Campana. He is still looking for the memorandums of understanding that the Board has been discussing with the police department. Mr. Campana stated that what he is going to hand the board and the timing is off a little bit is, and now this lady scares him, he has a right to know form as he doesn't know what else to do. It is dated May 15th at 9:10 PM and he hoped this was a valid form still because as he looks at the Board of Selectmen there are members that are not there anymore. Mr. Campana continued that he is not taking up the Town Administrator's time to make the heading correct, so he hopes it's valid. The clear description states the three or four adopted memorandum of understanding that the Weare Selectboard and the Weare Police Union are currently discussing. Mr. Campana handed the form to Chairman Hippler and stated that quite honestly the Board shouldn't have to do this but he felt that his back is against the wall. Mr. Campana stated that he noted the

word “adopted”. He doesn’t want anything that is in the works, the Town Administrator doesn’t have to supply him with that as it does him no good until it is what the Board and the Union decide. Mr. Campana asked that his request be noted in the minutes tonight because he wants to cover all the basis or acknowledged in the minutes that the Board has received it. The other thing that Mr. Campana wanted to bring up. It was a couple of meetings ago during public comment when he voiced his concerns and he re-listened to some of that meeting and the Board talked about public comment and Chairman Hippler has stated before that the Board doesn’t answer questions as sometimes the Board is blindsided and he can understand that but he did ask that night, who do I go to in the absence of no contact with the Finance Administrator. The Board has had a little over a week to discuss that question and he would like an answer, who does he go to other than the Town Administrator for something like this, can the Board give him an answer or does the Board need more time to come up with who he goes to. Chairman Hippler stated that the Board has not discussed it. Mr. Campana sarcastically replied, “just like the response from the Town Administrator”. He continued, now if you remember at the public hearing for the transfer station fees, he had asked the Board if they keep track of it, etc. Mr. Campana waived a piece of paper and said look what I have in my hand. Town Administrator Bolton asked Chairman Hippler if she could reply and agreed. Town Administrator Bolton explained that first of all it was not April 8th it was May 8th and she left Mr. Campana a message indicating that she was going down to the Board meeting. She was going to ask Mr. Campana which MOU’s he was referring to and was offering to bring them down to the meeting to give to Mr. Campana at the meeting if he was going to attend. To date there has been no reply back from Mr. Campana, but Town Administrator Bolton has two that the Board is going to discuss but not what he is looking for. It is not going to satisfy the request that was just handed in, but wanted it clarified it was 5/8 and not 4/8. Mr. Campana stated that was what he was hoping the message indicated and she’s right, but again he didn’t want to do extra work for the Town Administrator and it’s not necessary, that’s why he put the word “adopted”. Chairman Hippler asked how Mr. Campana was trying to reach the Town Administrator. Mr. Campana replied, by phone and he left a voicemail. Selectman Blume stated that the Board did discuss it on May 1st and asked Town Administrator Bolton to get back to him on the 3rd and not on the 8th. Town Administrator Bolton stated that to her defense if the phone rings and someone is in the office or sitting with her, she doesn’t interrupt the person, she takes a glance to the phone as she has caller ID, and a good share of the time Mr. Campana hangs up before it gets to voicemail. Sometimes a voice message is left and sometimes the Town Administrator has to try to remember to call him back without a voice message. The only one that has been approved is the detail rate. Mr. Campana stated that he only let it ring 3 times to not bother her, so he left a message the second time. Likewise, he doesn’t sit around the phone for two days waiting for someone to call back. He is okay with phone tag and wasn’t at the machine when she called Monday back. He didn’t listen to the complete message on May 8th out of frustration. Mr. Campana stated that if there is something available for him tonight, he will take it but he would rather the lines of communication be opened back up again. Town Administrator Bolton handed the blank MOUs to Mr. Campana and will get the detail MOU at a later date.

BOARD DISCUSSION – INVESTNH GRANT: Selectman Cahill asked what the discussion is about. Chairman Hippler replied that the Planning Board tabled it and gave it to the Board to read, consider, etc. There was concern raised by the Planning Board about the acceptance of the money and what it binds the Town to do. Selectman Burdick added, to put in affordable housing. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that he thought it was workforce housing. Selectman Blume read through all the documents, and he has two separate concerns. One is about the wording of the proposal itself, the submission which was accepted. What Selectman Blume would like to mention first is that in the acceptance they say great we accept your application, but something that jumped out to him was exhibit A page 7, the scope of work. It indicates that the grantee acknowledges and agrees that the funds awarded under this agreement will be used solely for the purposes identified in this agreement. Funds are awarded for these purposes under Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act and then it’s got some details. It continues and states that the grantee has not received payment or reimbursement from any other source and the state is determined is an allowable purpose as defined in Section 9901. The first amount of ARPA money everyone got and ours is going to the radios, but now we are also talking about a command vehicle using ARPA money, which is under

Section 9901. There were questions as to if it was saying you cannot receive other money from 9901 in which case those two things conflict, the command vehicle and this. Or is it saying that we cannot receive money for this scope of work from any other source and Selectman Blume read it that way; and if we can't under 9901 and if it's \$25,000 versus \$75,000, he is going with the \$75,000. Chairman Hippler agreed and wondered if it is an either-or reply. Selectman Blume stated that he is also curious about police grant and does that have similar verbiage and are we blocking ourselves from any other ARPA money. The second part of the concern is that a few parts in the submission itself. Phase I is about needs analysis and planning, so you have to do an analysis and make some plans, but in a few points, it says that this is the conclusion we're going to come to which Selectman Blume felt was kind of suspect. For instance, in the opening in the middle states this update will support an update to the 2005 Weare Master Plan to identify sections that are related to or impact on housing development and drafting revisions to those master plan sections for the purpose of supporting increased housing supply, but the needs analysis hasn't been done yet. That concept jumps out a few times. The summary is that Selectman Blume doesn't like it. Selectman Burdick stated that what happens with this is that if the Town takes the \$25,000 grant, we are being locked in. Town Administrator Bolton stated that she was asked to sign it after Southern NH Planning Commission put it together with the Planning Board approval. After the initial submission, there was a review, which was followed by a second submission, and she was asked to be the contact person. The Board agreed that it points to leading to more housing and does not offset the taxpayers by bringing in business. Selectman Cahill stated that it appears that this is part of the Governor's master plan to get more affordable housing build, just like Goffstown is doing now. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that the Planning Board needs a vote from the Selectman to be able to accept the funds. The Planning Board didn't really take a vote, but that Board seems split with strong opinions on both sides. Chairman Hippler stated that on May 4th the Board received an email from one of the Planning Board members, Mr. Bolton to the point that this was to promote low-cost housing. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that there was discussion about having Southern NH Planning come speak. Selectman Cahill stated that he would at least like to hear from the Planning Board. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that there was talk about getting all parties together, the Selectman, Planning Board and Southern NH Planning Commission to talk about it. **Selectman Blume moved to reject this grant agreement between the Town of Weare and the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority; Selectman Burdick seconded the motion. Passed 4-0-1 (Cahill)** Selectman Cahill stated that his vote to abstain is the lack of time to prepare and not to vote against the Board.

FINALIZE AND APPROVE TAX BILL INSERT: Selectman Blume put together a draft and the Board wanted to recognize the fact that this goes above and beyond the Board commitment as a Board member and it was greatly appreciated. The modifications between draft one and two is the very bottom line of the front pages added that the transfer station will require vehicle stickers as of October 1, 2023, just to be clear that this is a mandate coming. The same goes for the line above to indicate that you should get one from the Town Clerk when you register your vehicle and if you didn't go back there and get one. The numbers were input. On the back, mercury needs to get scratched and dry cell batteries go to the bottom for a fee. Also, the sentence of draft note is to be removed. Chairman Hippler stated that with those changes it looks fine. Town Administrator Bolton stated that RSA 76:11 has been circulated with regard to delivery of list, notice to the taxpayer and other bills. This is being circulated through the list serve for tax collectors and there has been discussion that other inserts/flyers. Our insert was distributed to see if there was a response to yes or no, but there was no reply. Selectman Blume stated that he loves reading RSA's but this is not another bill and it is not really a statement of position on matters of public policy. Town Administrator Bolton wanted the Board to be aware of the RSA. There is a letter going to all the campers with regard to how campers are taxed that will not be getting this letter. Chairman Hippler stated that in reviewing RSA 76:11 he would like to see the Board remove the bottom regarding the transfer station sticker as it was a policy set up here by the Board and there is a cost attached to it if you go and want more than two stickers. **Vice Chairman Knapp moved to add the amended insert into the tax bills; Selectman Cahill seconded. Passed 4-1-0 (Hippler voted no)**

MINUTES:

December 19, 2022: Selectman Cahill moved; Chairman Hippler seconded to approve the December 19, 2022, minutes as written. Passed 2-0-3 (Knapp, Blume, Burdick).

May 1, 2023: Selectman Blume moved; Selectman Burdick seconded to approve the May 1, 2023 minutes as written. Passed 4-0-1 (Cahill)

May 8, 2023: Selectman Burdick moved; Vice Chairman Knapp seconded to approve the May 8, 2023; minutes as written. Passed -0-0

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

1. *DPW Department Items:*

Interim DPW Director Fiske just went over the Driveway Bond Policy; the Roadside mowing; and the public hearing for the Transfer Station fees earlier tonight. all his items.

Update on T-3: Interim DPW Director Fiske has tried to reach them but to no avail. Chairman Hippler will reach out to see if he can assist in getting a reply.

2. *Police Department Items:*

CBA MOU's – meeting has been scheduled for the Board on 5/18/23 @ 6:30 PM.

3. *Parks & Recreation Items:*

Chase Park Fee Schedule: Public hearing was held earlier tonight @ 7:30 PM

4. *Conservation Commission Items:*

No new update.

5. *Town Office/Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen:*

Contracts for Forester: needs to be finalized. Custodial contract was finalized last week.

Solid Waste Ordinance: need to pick date for public hearing; other Towns ordinances are being provided tonight for an upcoming discussion.

DPW Director Job Advertisement: on 5/22/23 work session. Job description finalized on 5/8/23.

Ethics Committee: May meetings scheduled for 5/17 & 5/24 @ 6 PM.

RFP for Auditing Services: this was handled earlier this evening.

Perambulation with Dunbarton: Dunbarton representative was notified; Selectman Blume and Selectman Burdick copied to work out date. Preference to October time frame.

Donation – Senior Project: Isabelle Rouse constructed, donated and delivered a new picnic table for the town office lawn to be used by Town employees and other public. The Board needs to accept the donation. It will fit behind the jersey barriers during the winter months for plowing. Chairman Hippler stated that usually we hear and approve projects before they are done. **Vice Chairman Knapp moved to accept the donation of the picnic table from Isabelle Rouse; Chairman Hippler seconded the motion. Passed 5-0-0**

6. *Correspondence:*

Letter to Selectboard dated 4/29/23 regarding gunfire every single weekend and often weekdays: Board will discuss this later in the evening under Other Business.

7. *Building & Maintenance Projects:*

Solar Project: had to table tonight and will coordinate a future date

Stone Building: Walker Roofing has still not been here to fix the copper cap. Selectman Burdick reported that she got a call and they were supposed to be here last Friday, but they had something going on in the building over there. Town Administrator Bolton stated that she is going to leave them on until such time that it is done and reported so that it can be taken off.

East Road Barn: roof needs repair – this is same as above and will be removed when done

Town Hall Front Door Lock: someone has pulled on the right-hand side, front door lock hard enough that it has been pulled partially out and needs to be looked at. Interim DPW Director Fiske has looked at it. Selectman Cahill will take a look at it.

Town Office Vault Storage: HVAC for basement to have contractor look at it on 5/11/23 @ 11 AM has been moved to this Thursday 5/18 but may have to be moved again if the cage does not get installed before then.

Town Office Service on the Boiler: Selectman Cahill asked to have the service for the water boiler scheduled. We were waiting for the heating season to be done. Town Administrator Bolton will schedule.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER BUSINESS:

Oak Hill Erosion Concern: Chairman Hippler stated he received an email from a resident on Oak Hill concerning an erosion issue that needs to be checked out.

America the Beautiful Grant: Chairman Hippler stated that the Town received the \$5,000 dollar grant towards the baler at the Transfer Station from America the Beautiful.

East Shore Drive Tree Email: Chairman Hippler stated that there was some correspondence regarding some trees up on East Shore Drive in the right of way between 80 & 84. Selectman Cahill stated that this had previously been talked about, and the Board agreed that the Town was not paying for the removal. Selectman Cahill and Interim DPW Director Fiske went and looked at them and they appeared to be healthy trees and there was no need to remove them. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that it may be worth discussing it next week after a site visit by individual members. The abutters would like to schedule the tree company for May 31st.

Email from Resident regarding the Ice Cream stand on South Sugar Hill Road: Chairman Hippler stated that the Board received an email from a resident about the cars parking along the road by the ice cream stand. Chairman Hippler stated that he is unsure if there is anything this board can do about it. Vice Chairman Knapp stated that they are fans of the ice cream stand, and they patronize the business. It is busy and would like the Board to reach out to the owners to see if anything can be done. The board suggested the possibility of widening the side of the road on one side to be able to get cars another half car off the road. Selectman Burdick stated that the same issue happens at the Center Woods Elementary School when people are picking up the kids.

Beech Hill Road Resident: Vice Chairman Knapp had received an email from a resident thinking he was still the DPW Director, so he simply referred him to Interim DPW Director Fiske.

Parks & Recreation Meeting: Selectman Blume stated that at the last Parks and Recreation meeting he was asked to make a request to decide if Parks should spend any time working on this request to explore allowing outside usage of the fields and other areas for people coming from out of town. This would not be overlapping with the Town existing schedules, so pretty much the summers. Town groups would always get priority. Things like swim lessons, someone asked about a practice field for frisbee tournament that is being held at a town nearby, soccer camps. The idea is not to tear up the fields, but a security deposit would be needed. Chairman Hippler stated that a facility use form would need to be filled out. Selectman Blume the question is should Park explore information. The Board agreed there is no harm, but it may shoot them in the foot as the outcry is more field space. Any money generated would be the revenue would go into the general fund.

Lions Club out of Goffstown: Selectman Burdick stated that last year they put new barrels out by the Town Office here. Town Administrator Bolton stated that the Rotary Club did via a grant. Selectman Burdick asked if there was a way to connect with them because most of the barrels at the Stone Building are falling apart and rotted. The rest of them are in pretty rough shape. The information can be shared, and it was

through the Rotary Club in Goffstown. She stated that for a long time she used to take care of them, but the barrels are now starting to deteriorate. She would like to have it taken care of before Memorial Day.

SET WORK SESSION AGENDA: Town Administrator Bolton stated that for next weeks work session she has as follows:

- Two nonpublic sessions – one would be an exit interview; and Parks has lost a supervisor and has another supervisor, and the hope was to get an interview and be ready before the park opens.
- Interim DPW Director Fiske to discuss the \$0.42 versus \$.050 for 12 or 14 employees.
- Write the DPW Director advertisement and compensation.
- Finalize the job description for the Building Inspector and write the advertisement.
- Email regarding 80 & 84 East Shore Drive – trees.
- Policy/procedure for contacting legal counsel.
- Policy/procedure for unsealing nonpublic session minutes

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Burdick made a motion, Vice Chairman Knapp seconded to adjourn at 10:36 pm. Passed 5-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Naomi L. Bolton

Naomi L. Bolton, Town Administrator