



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 2023

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

ABSENT: BENJAMIN D. KNAPP, VICE CHAIRMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Jason Fiske- Interim DPW Director, Police Chief Chris Moore, Tom Clow, Kyle Parker, David Pratte, Jackie Pratte

Chairman Hippler called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jackie Pratte would like to address Town Counsel and make sure it does not fall through the cracks. Ms. Pratte asked who Town Counsel answers to as far as a superior. Chairman Hippler said it would be the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Pratte asked if the Board of Selectmen reviews how Town Counsel responds to residents. Chairman Hippler said if they are carbon copied on the matter. Ms. Pratte asked if there are residents not happy with the reply and how they can re-open the question. Ms. Pratte thinks it is wrong that residents ask a question about a policy and their questions are not answered. Ms. Pratte feels as though the questions not being answered are asking for the Town to be sued. Ms. Pratte asked the Board of Selectmen if they were okay with Town Counsel's responses and if they are the ones that review the performance of Town Counsel.

Sherry Burdick recused herself from the Board of Selectmen to speak as a resident. She said there was a medical emergency last week at her home and would like to thank the Weare Police, Fire and Rescue for a great job. They were able to get to the residence in six minutes, which made a difference.

Winter Maintenance Discussion: DPW Director Fiske presented the Board of Selectmen with winter maintenance handouts. DPW Director Fiske said the way they would pay for contracted help for winter maintenance would be out of the wage line. In the contract, it reads a five-hour minimum per week whether there is a storm or not. There are three operator positions open and two truck driver vacancies. The average last year for overtime was ten hours per week for some of the DPW employees. Selectman Cahill asked if most of it was related to plowing. DPW Director Fiske said yes. Selectman Cahill said when they look at the tipping point number of 15 hours per week and were contributing that strictly to plowing, would still satisfy the need? DPW Director Fiske said yes. Chairman Hippler asked about the hourly rate for equipment. DPW Director Fiske said it is what they could afford, the six-wheeler and the one-ton were close to what neighboring towns were giving. The ten-wheeler he does not expect to obtain one. Chairman Hippler asked where the State was at in comparison. DPW Director Fiske said there is not as much but there are a few more benefits they can give that the State does not. Selectman Blume asked if the contracted positions would do the same route every storm. DPW Director Fiske said they would stay on the same

route because it is much easier. Selectman Blume asked if some of the routes could be shorter so they would not hit the maximum number. DPW Director Fiske said the reason for the longer routes last year was due to the vacancies. Chairman Hippler asked what DPW Director Fiske's feelings were on a hired truck rather than a hired hand for part-time on-call. DPW Director said he thinks he needs to put both out because a part-time person may be harder to find. Chairman Hippler asked if the 15 hours per week was what they would be paid, kind of like the stand-by check or was it an average. DPW Director Fiske said he had not decided. He likes the idea because it may be more appealing. Chairman Hippler said it could be a seven and half hour minimum if they do not get called out and are a reliable person. Selectman Blume asked what if one of the part-time workers wanted to start full-time after November 1st. DPW Director Fiske says he has not thought of a plan for that. The part-timers are on call and the contractors are on call. Selectman Blume asked if they would bump them to the minimum. DPW Director Fiske said yes. Selectman Burdick suggested just taking the date out. Chairman Hippler would like to add current vehicle and employee insurance. The Board of Selectmen permitted DPW Director Fiske to start advertising for the positions.

Public Works Update: The DPW has a staff member who came back Saturday on light duty working at the transfer station. DPW Director Fiske will keep TA Bolton informed on how they are doing. Chair Hippler asked about the truck that was damaged in an accident this past winter. DPW Director Fiske said it is still being worked on. The cab is off and on the frame rack and the motor is out of it. Selectman Cahill asked for an update on the bridge work. DPW Director Fiske said they are all set with the shop drawings they have been stamped. They will be reaching out to fabricators/ welders this week to get the pieces made up for the repairs. Chairman Hippler asked if they would be going for the C2 rating. DPW Director Fiske said yes. Selectman Cahill clarified that originally the engineers were suggesting welding repairs, but when presented to DOT they came back with a concern that weak points would be created at the bridge. The DOT engineers suggested the bolt-on. Selectman Cahill said the goal is to have a C2 bridge by late fall.

Radio Upgrade Discussion: Police Chief Moore handed out the tower proposal. The quote is only good for fifteen days. This tower can withhold wind rates up to 120mph and would collapse down rather than side to side. This tower will be put together in segments that would be less labor cost along with doing the groundwork. Selectman Burdick asked if the base was 6x6x6.5. Chief Moore said the tower base would be. The concrete base would be 6.5 ft by 11ft. Chairman Hippler asked if the Motorola Equipment was in. Chief Moore said yes.

Selectman Cahill moved to accept 2way proposal #49382 in the amount of \$51,472.67 to come out of the ARPA funds. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passes 4-0-0.

Selectman Blume motioned for the Chair to sign the proposal #49382. Seconded by Selectman Burdick. Motion passes 3-0-1 (Hippler).

**MANIFEST: Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Burdick seconded:
To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated August 7, 2023, as included in the following manifests:**

Checks Dated August 7, 2023

Payroll Manifest \$ 84,487.20(Weekly payroll checks)

Accounts Payable Manifest \$ 29,618.59

TOTAL: \$ 114,105.79

Passed: 4-0-0

MINUTES:

99 July 17, 2023 Minutes: Minutes to be reviewed again by Town Administrator.

100
101 July 24, 2023 Minutes: Selectman Blume liked having the line numbers on the draft minutes and would
102 like to continue to have them. Selectman Blume had a grammatical correction in Line 159 "sentience should
103 be changed to sentence." Line numbers 174 & 175 says Town Administrator Blume and should be Town
104 Administrator Bolton. Line 175 clarifies Blume and Parker rather than using he. Selectman Blume would
105 suggest splitting the correspondence by the individuals. Selectman Blume suggested adding in the
106 negotiation of the DPW Director job offer with Interim DPW Director Jason Fiske.

107
108 **Chairman Hippler motioned to accept the July 24, 2023 minutes as amended. Seconded by Selectman**
109 **Blume. Motion passes 4-0-0.**

110
111 July 31, 2023 Minutes: Selectman Blume suggested reflecting on why they did not have a nonpublic that
112 week, even though the agenda said they would. Bottom of page one there is a quote that needs quotation
113 marks. Danny's on Henniker should be in Henniker. The section on Office 365 use to should be used to.
114 The motion of the Old Home should be from August 9th through August 12. Duval's should have one L,
115 not two.

116
117 **Chairman Hippler motioned to accept the July 31, 2023 minutes as amended. Seconded by Selectman**
118 **Blume. Motion passes 4-0-0.**

119
120
121 **Correspondence/Other Business:**

122
123 **Eagle Scout Letter:** Selectman Cahill said on August 12, 2023, an Eagle Scout will be recognized and
124 would like the Board of Selectman to write a letter acknowledging the Eagle Scouts' work. Selectman
125 Cahill will attend as a representative of the Board of Selectmen. TA Bolton will help draft a letter.

126
127 **CBA with PD:** Selectman Cahill said the collective bargaining agreement is coming up in three weeks.
128 Selectman Cahill said he is not positive if he could sit in on it this year. He asked who would be able to
129 attend. Selectman Blume said he can make it work. Selectman Cahill and Selectman Blume will work
130 together in case someone cannot make it. TA Bolton can ask Attorney Broth where they are on this subject.

131
132 **Deadline Date:** Selectman Cahill said the mandatory transfer station stickers are on October 1st. Selectman
133 Cahill did check with the Town Clerk how many they have issued and as of last week, it was 1,600.
134 Selectman Cahill asked how many residential homes there were in Town. Selectman Cahill would like a
135 reminder to put out to the public. TA Bolton will post on the Facebook page and see if the Police can do
136 the same. TA Bolton said there are about 5,000 tax bills that go out which gives you a target. TA Bolton
137 said she can put a sign on the Town Office door to remind residents.

138
139 **Joint meeting with Conservation Commission:** TA Bolton reminded the Board of Selectmen that they
140 will be having a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission on August 9th at 7 pm in regard to Felch
141 Field. Selectman Cahill would like clarification on the non-contracted forester.

142
143 **Cable Franchise Agreement:** TA Bolton presented the Comcast Cast Agreement with the updates for
144 signatures to get back to Comcast.

145
146 **Thank you to Finance Administrator Rouse:** Selectman Blume would like to thank Finance
147 Administrator Beth Rouse for her hard work and help while TA Bolton was out. The Board of Selectmen
148 would like to thank her for the second quarter report.

149
150 **Thorndike Road:** Chairman Hippler asked all to visit the pond before further conversation.

151
152
153 **Set Work Session Agenda:** The following items will be put on the August 14, 2023 work session:
154 Thorndike Road Discussion
155 Building Inspector
156 Sexton- TA Bolton to reach out to the gentleman who expressed interest
157 Counsel Policy
158 Unsealing Nonpublic Minutes Policy
159 Manifest
160
161 **Chairman Hippler motioned to close the public meeting and enter into non-public at 7:45 pm for**
162 **purpose of RSA 91:A-3 II (c). Selectman Blume seconded. Roll call vote: Selectman Cahill – yes;**
163 **Chairman Hippler-yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 4-0-0.**
164
165 **Chairman Hippler motioned to exit the nonpublic and enter the public meeting at 7:55 pm. Seconded**
166 **by Selectman Blume. Roll call vote: Selectman Cahill – yes; Chairman Hippler-yes; Selectman**
167 **Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 4-0-0.**
168
169 **Chairman Hippler motioned to seal and restrict. Seconded by Selectman Burdick. Motion passed 4-**
170 **0-0.**
171
172 **Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Hippler made a motion,**
173 **and Selectman Burdick seconded to adjourn at 7:56 pm. Passed 4-0-0**
174
175 **ADJOURNMENT**
176 A True Record.
177 *Kearsten O'Brien*
178 Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker