



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2024

PRESENT: JANICE MATHEWS- CHAIRMAN, SALIM BLUME- SELECTMAN, JAMES DRURY-
SELECTMAN, DAVID PRATTE-SELECTMAN.

ABSENT: BENJAMIN D. KNAPP- VICE CHAIRMAN,

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Police Chief Chris Moore, Jackie Pratte, Kyle Parker, Frank Campana, Paul Gannon, Rebecca Nelson, Tom Flaherty, Trent Ray.

These minutes were transcribed from the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY1wHS4R1Vw&t=3s>

Chairman Mathews called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Public Comment: Kyle Parker of 483 Old Francestown Road said he came in because his name was mentioned and apologized to TA Bolton it was not his intention to make anyone look incompetent. He said when contacts the board, he puts in each board member's name, and he does not use the contact group link. Mr. Parker said that TA Bolton did not point any blame at him. He just wanted to make it clear it was not malicious or his intent to make anyone look like they didn't know what they were doing.

Naomi Bolton of 42 Norris Road said last Wednesday her granddaughter got hurt at school. She fell off the slide and broke her arm. She wanted to thank Acting Chief Roarick, Killian Donnelly, Sergeant Montplaisir, Officer Maguire, and Officer Avril for the care she received. The Henniker responders that transported her took great care of her as well.

Flanders Memorial Traffic Discussion: Paul Gannon of 192 Flanders Memorial Road said he is coming to the BOS to ask that the board look at the speed limit on Flanders Memorial. He would like to see the speed limit reduced from 35 MPH to reflect the surrounding town roads that have a similar layout as Flanders Memorial and are at 30 MPH. Mr. Gannon said that he has been there for 20 years, and 35 MPH is fast for what he has observed. It is too fast for the grade of the road and the layout of the road. There are no shoulder lines or markings on the road. Mr. Gannon said that he believes the board can make the decision to reduce the speed limit and if they choose not to, he would like to know what the criteria used to determine the speed limit and who in town is the engineer or civil engineer that determines speed limits for roads. Trent Ray of 282 Flanders Memorial said he lives at the bottom part of the road, and he constantly hears speeders at nighttime. When people see the speed sign at 35 MPH most of them are going to go 40 or 45, sometimes even faster. Mr. Ray said that to Mr. Gannon's point, there is no middle line, no sides, and no mirrors, it is kind of a free-for-all, and it would make sense to have it fit the 30 MPH.

47 Police Chief Moore said that Mr. Gannon has brought his concerns to the PD. Chief Moore said they greatly
48 appreciate that the citizens are bringing their concerns and being the eyes and ears. Chief Moore said when
49 they get a complaint, they look at a couple of factors to determine if there are safety concerns. Chief Moore
50 said they look at accidents in the area and when he looked at accidents at Flanders Memorial there were
51 two accidents within a year. One accident was due to an individual driving drunk, and the other one was
52 someone who ran into the side of a car because they thought they could go through the stop sign but they
53 could not. Chief Moore said that they also put the mobile speed device on Flanders Memorial earlier this
54 year in January. They registered 4,628 vehicles out of those 27 vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit
55 sign of 35MPH. 3,091 vehicles were recorded going 25 to 35 MPH and another 1330 were recorded under
56 25 MPH. One vehicle was traveling at 50MPH and another vehicle traveling at 45 MPH. Chief Moore said
57 what they gathered for speeding was rare at 4.4% and incidents that would require police intervention were
58 four-tenths of a percentage point. Chief Moore stated they are going to put the display sign back to make
59 sure the data they received is good since it was winter and people may have been slowing down because
60 of ice, snow, or other road conditions and will report back to Mr. Gannon and the BOS. Selectman Pratte
61 asked when they think they will be putting the speed trailer out. Chief Moore said probably next month at
62 the latest to wait for the snow to be clear and the mud to get solid. Becky Nelson suggested putting the
63 speed trailer on the corner of Holly Hill Road. She said she would like to see it dropped to 30 because it
64 has too many corners and too many blind corners. Mr. Gannon said that in response to the accident remark,
65 someone came down and slammed into his neighbor's barn during good weather and it was not night. Chief
66 Moore said he could go back five years if the BOS would like. Mr. Ray asked if there was a possibility to
67 make a comparison on the roads that do have 30 mph as opposed to Flanders Memorial for a cross-
68 comparison of which ones have the accidents. Chief Moore said it is apples to oranges because of curves
69 and such but would be happy to do that if he was presented with a road similar. TA Bolton said that she
70 and Chief Moore talked about the speed limit earlier today and they think it is 35 because it was set before
71 the development on the hill was created and there was less traffic. TA Bolton said it is her understanding
72 that if there is enough data and the board wants to do something regarding the speed they can with a
73 recommendation from an engineer or the Police Chief's data. Chair Mathews asked if they would need to
74 hold a public hearing. TA Bolton said no. Selectman Blume said that he believes Vice Chair Knapp had
75 proposed a townwide speed limit. Chair Mathews said it was brought up in July of 2023 and it was a
76 suggestion. Selectman Drury asked if there would be a downside to dropping the limit. TA Bolton said that
77 she could not see one. Chair Mathews said it could be possible for someone to ask for it to be brought back
78 up. Selectman Blume said getting more data would be helpful. Chair Mathews asked if anyone had more
79 discussion on a townwide speed limit. Selectman Blume asked if there was a spreadsheet of all the town's
80 speed limits. Chief Moore said that is a project they are working on because Sergeant Montplaisir started
81 mapping all the signs last summer because they must be part of where they were approved of by the BOS
82 and put on record with the clerk and not all of them were done. Chief Moore said that if they are to enforce
83 signs throughout the town whether it be a stop sign, or a speed limit must be approved by the BOS and
84 filed on record with the clerk and they can prosecute that. Chief Moore said having a townwide speed limit
85 would greatly speed up that process because it takes one vote instead of the PD mapping out every sign
86 with its GPS location. Discussion ensued regarding the different speed limits within the town. Chair
87 Mathews said the BOS is going to collect more data and have a discussion in late May or early June.

88
89 **Highway Grant:** Chief Moore stated they have been awarded an additional \$3,600 from the New
90 Hampshire Office of Highway Safety to conduct speed and DUI enforcement. This is an amendment to the
91 previously approved 2024 Highway Safety Grant number 24193. The town's matching contribution of
92 \$900 is obtained through using the vehicle and completing the grant paperwork which is administrative
93 duties. No direct funding is necessary for the matching portion which the town is obligated to provide.
94 Chair Mathews asked what the duration was. Chief Moore said it goes through September 30th. They go
95 by a fiscal year and the new fiscal year is October 1st. Selectman Blume asked where the \$900 was going
96 to come from. Chief Moore said that they charge it by the Officer's hourly rate plus benefits to come up
97 with the total and once they get the matching contribution it usually takes care of it. Selectman Pratte asked
98 if this would go into a fund for anything specific. Chief Moore said it is reimbursed, they perform the

99 details and then they submit the paperwork to the State and the State will send the check. Selectman Blume
100 asked what they would be spending the \$3,600 on specifically. It will be used for speed and DUI
101 enforcement. It is the hourly wages of the officers who go and work the shifts. Selectman Blume asked
102 what the original amount was. Chief Moore said they are now up to \$12,800 in traffic and enforcement
103 patrol grants as part of the grant they had all the speed equipment which brings the grant over \$20,000.
104

105 **Chair Mathews motioned to accept the \$3,600 in funding from the New Hampshire Office of**
106 **Highway Safety as part of an amendment to grant number 24-1193 for speed and DUI enforcement**
107 **patrols by the Weare Police Department with the matching funds of \$900 coming from wages and**
108 **benefits of the Officers performing the administrative duties of the detail. Seconded by Selectman**
109 **Blume. Motion passed 4-0-0.**
110

111 **Chair Mathews motioned to allow Chief Moore to sign the grant. Seconded by Selectman Pratte.**
112 **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
113

114 **Cemetery Mapping:** Chair Mathews said on March 18, 2024, the Mildred Hall Committee gave the BOS
115 \$2,500 towards mapping the East Weare, Pine Grove, and Johnson Cemeteries. Two bidders were Global
116 Star and Robert Balquist. Global Star from Suani Georgia quoted \$4,000 and Mr. Balquist from Weare
117 quoted \$2,500. Chair Mathews asked if there was a time frame given for the duration of the project. TA
118 Bolton said per Mildred Hall they need to be completed within two years from the date that they awarded
119 it to the BOS which was March 6, 2024. Selectman Blume said it seemed like the right choice when they
120 talked about it last year. The BOS had been waiting for Mildred Hall to come through early last month very
121 generously.
122

123 **Chair Mathews motioned to award the cemetery mapping bid to Robert Balquist for \$2,500 to map**
124 **out East Weare, Pine Grove, and Johnson Cemeteries to come from the general fund and to be**
125 **reimbursed from the Mildred Hall donation. The project shall be executed within the two years or**
126 **less time frame from March 6, 2024. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 4-0-0.**
127

128 **Sugar and Spice Lease:** Chair Mathews said that TA Bolton sent a request from Sugar and Spice to renew
129 their lease agreement and then sent a formatted lease with the information filled in with the operating
130 license showing their validity through the 31st of March 2027. Chair Mathews said the lease states that the
131 town will be notified of any repairs or improvements made by the tenant and asked if the tenant had made
132 any improvements. TA Bolton said they have done some roofing and some trim work. Chair Mathews
133 asked if that was working well, TA. Bolton said it was. Chair Mathews said that it also says the town will
134 receive a monthly financial aid report. TA Bolton said they do bring a monthly check to finance but she is
135 not sure if they actually receive a financial report. Chair Mathews said if they don't get them or use them
136 for anything they can probably remove them from the lease. The insurance does show the Town of Weare
137 as an additional insured. Selectman Blume stated he would like to have someone from the company come
138 in and put a face to the name and understand the agreement. The BOS will have the company come in and
139 then sign the agreement.
140

141 **BOS Operation Policy:** Chair Mathews said they updated where the agendas get posted and she corrected
142 run-on sentences. There were updates to notification that there is a vacancy on the BOS. Selectman Blume
143 made a few corrections and suggested changing it to meeting notice with an agenda because the RSA 91:
144 A does not require an agenda. Selectman Pratte suggested the section regarding public comment should
145 have a statement that each speaker is allowed up to five minutes to express their comments. Chair Mathews
146 said that she could put it in there her thoughts were that if they decided to change it to three or ten minutes,
147 they would have to change the policy each time. Selectman Blume said he likes having the timeline written
148 out because if someone looks at the policy it clearly states these are the rules you must abide by. Selectman
149 Drury said that there may be instances when there are a lot of people, and the BOS might want to limit it
150 to three minutes at a particular point they should leave it up to the degression of the Chair. Selectman Pratte

suggested wording it to say you will be allotted a time frame defined by the Chair for public comment. Selectman Pratte suggested changing the subordinate board to appointed. Selectman Blume suggested wording it for other boards, committees, or commissions. Selectman Drury said under the Ex-Officio where they talk about subordinate boards and others by the Town Policy Ordinance and others by mutual agreement is there a way to know which is which. Chair Mathews said yes when they answer article 25 it will be clear, and they can amend it and put it as an attachment. Selectman Drury asked when you know when a committee or commission does not have an Ex-Officio. Selectman Pratte asked if it was by statute. Selectman Drury said if any statutes say they are not supposed to have one or an RSA may not say one way or the other the question becomes should or should not have one. Selectman Blume said if it is not in the RSA then the power is not granted to the Town or the political subdivision. Chair Mathews will make the changes and it will go on the Town letterhead and have it for signature.

MANIFEST: Chair Mathews moved; Selectman Pratte seconded:

To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated April 11, 2024, as included in the following manifests:

Checks Dated April 11, 2024

Payroll Manifest \$ 90,269.47 (*Weekly payroll checks*)

Accounts Payable Manifest \$ 257,935.16

TOTAL: **\$348,204.63**

Motion passed 4-0-0.

Minutes: Chair Mathews motioned to approve the March 18, 2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by Selectman Pratte. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Chair Mathews motioned to approve the March 26, 2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by Selectman Blume. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Chair Mathews motioned to approve the March 27, 2024 minutes as amended. Seconded by Selectman Pratte. Motion passed 3-0-1. Abstention from Selectman Blume.

Town Administrator Report: TA Bolton went through the Administrator's report and a discussion ensued regarding the list of priorities and making sure they do not lose sight of things that need to be worked on. Discussion ensued regarding the policy on boards, committees, and commissions. Chair Mathews said the policy was the reason they generated the list of all the volunteer positions. TA Bolton will upload the policy and send it to the volunteers. TA Bolton said there is a handbook for CIP that should be on the website and she knows there are bylaws for zoning but she needs to locate them and reach out to a couple of members.

Correspondence: Selectman Pratte said there was a correspondence that stated that the Heritage and Agricultural Commission was not needed anymore. Selectman Pratte said he did not find anything that stated that they were taken away. TA Bolton said it is to her knowledge there have not been members and she is not aware of them being canceled. Selectman Pratte said that if there is no one interested then next year they should put it on the warrant. Chair Mathews said if they do not have any volunteers then they should go down the path of having a public discussion on dissolving them. The correspondence came in from Tara Mann regarding volunteer requests. Chair Mathews stated that Ms. Mann felt the request for volunteers was misleading and that the positions did not exist. Chair Mathews stated there are open positions on existing boards that do not have any membership.

Chair Mathews said they did receive correspondence from Mark Florence from Washington NH and he wanted to discuss lessons learned on the change over to the .gov domain. TA Bolton said that she did not

because she was not sure if they were hit hard with the weather and she would get in touch with him. Selectman Pratte said that he did get an email from Greg Smith to let him know he did meet with Chief Roarick and they had a discussion regarding the emergency shelter.

Selectman Drury said he did receive a call from someone who was strongly encouraging the BOS to look at having a committee about how to work with the Fire Department going forward. They suggested it may be a good opportunity to think about how if any changes need to be made to the plan that is in place for keeping it as a full-time versus going back towards a volunteer or an on-call position. Selectman Pratte said it is probably not a bad idea to get things rolling and to get an understanding of the track record of the Fire Department where it comes from and the transitions it has made over the years.

Other Business: Selectman Pratte said the bills that are going through the House have not gone to the Senate and there has been some municipal opposition and he is not sure if the BOS should join that. Chair Mathews said she is open to doing that as a private citizen. TA Bolton asked if it was regarding the ADU. Selectman Pratte said yes. Selectman Blume asked if there were other towns BOS that had made statements. Selectman Pratte said he did not read that far into but there had been some opposition that it is a problem that some areas do not have. Selectman Pratte said he is going to investigate it more.

Selectman Pratte said there must be some way they can get an itemized running record for the transfer station revolving fund. Selectman Blume said the income money can be tracked immediately and the outcome money is roughly a month delay because of trucking costs. Chair Mathews said there are about ten different categories that they track. Selectman Pratte asked if they could track the estimates. Discussion ensued regarding tracking estimates. Selectman Pratte will go and talk with DPW Director Fiske and see what the environment is at the transfer station and see the process.

Selectman Pratte brought up the DES paperwork and who is to fill it out. Selectman Blume said they need to decide because there are two broad categories of permits there is a permit by notification and a standard permit. Selectman Pratte asked if the restriction from PBN affected them negatively. Chair Mathews said no. Discussion ensued. Selectman Blume suggested having DES come in and discuss the landfill cap with the new board and let them know this will be the board that makes the decision based on the town vote. TA Bolton will reach out to DES and see if they will come in and speak with the BOS.

Selectman Pratte said that Mrs. Pratte asked for some information on the administrator's report regarding the legality behind the opinion of the town attorney regarding 55 Winter Road and he does not see it. TA Bolton asked if it was regarding the letter that was sent out. Selectman Pratte said yes in regards to the backing of her opinion. Chair Mathews said she sent out the legal RFP and asked to discuss it at next week's meeting. The engineering RFP is still being worked on. Discussion ensued regarding RFPs that will need to be worked on. Chair Mathews will investigate the consent agenda more and bring it back to the BOS with information. Chair Mathews asked if there is a policy for the fire vehicle for personal use. TA Bolton said she will continue to work on that she is unsure of what the policy entails.

Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Blume made a motion, and Selectman Pratte seconded to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Passed 4-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Kearsten O'Brien

Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker