

FINAL



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2023

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi L. Bolton

GUESTS: Seth Guilmette; Police Chief Chris Moore; Tom Flaherty; Janice Mathews; Pam McCurdy; Maria Fossiano; Diana Dickinson; Brent Dickinson; Tom Clow; Police Officer Andrew Vollaro; Sgt. Brandon Montplaisir; Sgt. Ryan Frisbee.

These minutes were transcribed from the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8goulw7LQ7A>

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

Swearing in of Full Time Police Officer: Police Chief Moore introduced Police Officer Seth Guilmette. Officer Guilmette is a graduate of the State of New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council Academy 186. Officer Guilmette was employed by the Town of Weare Police Department from August 2021 to March 2023. Officer Guilmette left to go to the Manchester Police Department. Officer Guilmette is a good Police Officer and left on good terms. He was hired as a step four with 120 hours of annual vacation time. Chief Moore would recommend rehiring Officer Guilmette as a step four at \$28.93 per hour with an annual accrual rate of 150 hours. Training would only consist of one to two weeks to refamiliarize him with some of the new reporting systems. If the BOS agrees to rehire Officer Guilmette his first day will be October 20th, 2023.

Selectman Blume motioned to rehire Officer Guilmette as a full-time Police Officer, with 150 hours of annual accrual leave and a pay of \$28.93 per hour with his first day to be October 20th, 2023. Seconded by Selectman Burdick. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Hippler swore in Police Officer Seth Guilmette to the Town of Weare Police Department.

Adopt Policy for Unsealing Non-Public Minutes: Selectman Burdick motioned to accept and adopt the policy for Unsealing Non-Public Minutes. Seconded by Selectman Burdick. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Adopting Policy for Legal Opinion and Contacting Town Counsel: TA Bolton said she added a signature box to the Policy for the BOS to sign and made the amendments.

Chair Hippler motioned to adopt and accept the Policy for Legal Opinion and Contacting Town Counsel. Seconded by Selectman Burdick. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Adopt Forms and Policy for Right-to-Know Requests: TA Bolton said the corrections were made to the forms and stated that there is no adoption of the Policy because it is a state law. The BOS agreed to adopt the form to be used for Right to Know Requests.

Town Seal Policy: TA Bolton asked if the BOS would like to leave the policy alone without a signature and just attached the minutes showing the adoption of the policy or if the BOS would like to readopt the policy. Selectman Blume said he had two questions he would like clarified, the first being if they can put a restriction like this. In the RSA it reads like a notary seal or a seal for finalizing documents. The RSA says you cannot make the Town Clerk purchase their own the Town has to purchase it. He does not believe the RSA refers to a picture. If the Town has a picture, is it in the public domain or does it belong to the Town? TA Bolton said she would get the questions answered. The BOS agreed to allow Town Counsel one hour of work to answer the questions.

Elderly Exemption Worksheet: TA Bolton asked for clarification on the Elderly Exemption worksheet. Selectman Blume said the page numbers were off and they suggested having a larger font. TA Bolton presented the application worksheet to the BOS and they were okay with the updates.

MANIFEST: Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded:
To order the Treasurer to sign the payroll and accounts payables checks dated October 19, 2023, as included in the following manifests:

<u>Checks Dated October 19, 2023</u>	
Payroll Manifest	\$ 70,907.26 <i>(Weekly payroll checks)</i>
Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 168,253.60
John Stark Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 250,000.00
Weare School Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 250,000.00
TOTAL:	\$ 739,160.86

Passed: 4-0-0

Discuss Vacant Selectman’s Seat: Chair Hippler said they have two email responses to fill the vacant Selectman seat. He also reached out to two individuals who said they would be interested in filling the seat. Chair Hippler said he reached out to the Town Council and sent the response back from Counsel to the BOS. The BOS has the option to let the person filling the seat fill out the previous Selectman's term or have them fill in until the Town Meeting in March of 2024 and let the voters choose and then the term would only be for one year. He would recommend having the individual fill the seat until March 2024 and allow the voters to decide. Vice Chair Knapp agreed and asked if they had to fill the seat. Selectman Blume said they could get sued if they do not fill the seat within 45 days or have the Supreme Court fill the seat. Chair Hippler said they would go into nonpublic to discuss the potential candidates.

Other Business/ Correspondence: Chair Hippler said that an employee and a resident came to him and said Selectman Burdick was spreading false rumors. Selectman Burdick said she does not believe she has spoken to anyone. Chair Hippler wants to make sure the BOS is unified in its responses to people.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:
Chairman Hippler moved; Vice Chairman Knapp seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 6:57 PM pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (c). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 4-0-0

The Board interviewed two potential candidates to fill the vacant Board of Selectman spot left when Kevin Cahill resigned. The Board first met with Janice Mathews who stated that she has contemplated running

for a Board position but decided to step up in this time of need. She is currently on the Finance Committee for a second year. She stated that she would represent all and is conservative fiscally. When asked what is most important regarding the Town budget, she stated that it would be to have adequate services for all, but there is a limited ability of many to be able to pay their taxes. The primary need for the Town is to make department heads accountable and to have a pay evaluation to be done. Her personality is a cooperative manner, not needing to be a rock star and nothing really shakes her. There were some pretty targeted Facebook posts and Ms. Mathews was asked about how to handle those. She indicated not to reply to anything. The Board asked about the meeting schedule for every Monday and asked if she would have an issue with that. Ms. Matthews stated that she is retired and has the time to spend. The Board thanked Ms. Mathews for her time.

Next to speak with the Board was Tom Flaherty. Selectman Blume stated that he reached out to Tom Flaherty regarding this vacant position. Mr. Flaherty stated that he volunteered to fill the seat as he didn't want to see it go unfilled/vacant. He is starting his second year with the Finance Committee. He agreed bringing someone up from scratch would be tough. Mr. Flaherty was asked about his values with regard to government. He replied that in a government seat it should be as big as possible. The tax rate here is better/more affordable. He would like to see the planning effort step up versus knee jerk reactions. Mr. Flaherty agreed that there is a nationwide hiring crisis, Weare is no different. Mr. Flaherty was asked what he would see as a solution. Mr. Flaherty replied pay people more, enticement is needed. The reason no one is being hired is either a pay issue or morale issue. The Town has a new DPW director, and it needs time. He thought the pay scale may be off as well. When asked about what is important in constructing the Town budget, Mr. Flaherty replied, buy aheads work, like the replacement generator that was purchase ordered at the end of last year. Help department heads work through options to do things smarter. He agreed to being proactive is much better than reactive. The Board asked Mr. Flaherty his take on social media and the recent disrespectful posts to the departed Board member. Mr. Flaherty stated that as a Board member you don't get involved. The Board asked about possible conflicts with the President and Vice President of the Historical Society being on the Board. Mr. Flaherty stated that there is no Town funding or appointments made to that group as they are a chartered organization, but he would recuse himself from any building discussions. He stated that it doesn't come up that often, but he really hadn't thought about that. The Board asked about the Weare Taxpayer Coalition group. Mr. Flaherty replied that it is not active now and has not been active since he joined the Finance Committee. Mr. Flaherty stated that he is the Chairman of the Republican Committee, so he is familiar with how meetings are run. He has been doing it for two years. He indicated that if he was asked to fill the Selectman seat, he would resign from being Chairman of the Republican Committee. The Board asked about potential conflicts with the Board schedule. Mr. Flaherty stated that it won't conflict with other meetings and if provided enough advance notice there would be no issue. The Board thanked Mr. Flaherty for his time.

Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 8:04 PM. A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 4-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded to enter into nonpublic session @ 8:06 PM pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A: 3II (a & c). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 4-0-0

Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded to exit this nonpublic session @ 8:23 PM. A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Knapp – yes; Chairman Hippler – yes; Selectman Blume – yes; Selectman Burdick – yes. Passed 4-0-0

**Chairman Hippler moved; Selectman Blume seconded to seal this set of nonpublic session minutes.
Passed 4-0-0**

**Being there was no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Hippler made a motion,
Vice Chairman Knapp seconded to adjourn at 8:26 PM. Passed 4-0-0**

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Kearsten O'Brien

Kearsten O'Brien, Minute Taker