

**Board of Selectmen
March 24, 2021**

Present: Mark P. Duffy, Chair; Richard C. Edwards; Kenneth G. Fifield; and Toni Bodah, Secretary. Also present at this time was Police Chief John Ventura.

Mr. Duffy called the posted meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. **Mr. Edwards moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:12p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase to \$21.88/hour for Officer Bart Bentz. **Mr. Edwards moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:19 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase to \$31.97/hour for Sgt. Michael Fenton. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:26 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase to \$28.55/hour for Sgt. Trevor Cherry. Chief Ventura left the session at this time. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:57 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase to \$75,000/year for Town Administrator Dino Scala.

Those now present also included Larry Moody; Marc Taliaferro; Jack Henebury; and a number of people via Zoom. Relf Fogg joined the session in progress. Mr. Duffy led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Appointments

a) Larry Moody re: Bonnyman Road – Mr. Duffy noted that much time has been spent on this topic. The Board is aware that the Town owns Bonnyman Road, which needs to be fixed. Although there has been discussion with the DPW Director, the Board is not ready to discuss any plan. Mr. Duffy referred to various photos provided via email by Mr. Moody, which are actually police issues—not Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Moody wants to see where the Board is headed. Mr. Duffy stated that the Board will pursue fixing Bonnyman Road. Mr. Edwards has been working with the DPW Director in this regard. He added that the Town voted overwhelmingly not to pursue use of Towle Farm Road. Mr. Edwards assumes that the biggest concern is safety; therefore, it will be a priority for the DPW Director. He has communicated with the paving company and may contact DES. Finances will be a factor. Mr. Duffy noted that the Board will need to determine whether/when the funds will be available.

Mr. Moody referred to the 152 votes in favor of Article #22. Mr. Fifield stated that the Board said from the beginning that if all parties agreed, the Board would go in that direction. That didn't happen. The voters overwhelmingly said "no" to taking Towle Farm Road. The Board has remained open-minded to points made on both sides. However, the Board must listen to the overwhelming vote. Legally, the vote was not binding; however, the Board would be remiss if it did not listen to the voters. Mr. Duffy stressed that Bonnyman Road will need to be addressed regardless of whether another petition comes forward.

Mr. Moody advised he has sent photos to the Police Department in the past, including some of those sent to the Board this week. However, not much has changed. Mr. Duffy stated that the Police might be willing to put a cruiser there for a while. Mr. Fifield will speak with Chief Ventura. He added that decisions regarding deployment of resources is based on calls received. Mr. Duffy stated that once a plan has been decided upon, it will be shared.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1

--Jack Henebury referred to a portion of Bonnyman Road having been blocked off.

3. Unfinished Business

a) Eversource Easement Deed – This easement has been discussed since late last summer. Town Counsel has vetted the final document. The Board executed the easement deed as presented.

4. New Business

a) WWTF Septic Tank Pumping Bids – One bid was received in response to our recent solicitation: Lakes Region Septic @ \$0.20/gallon (the same as last year), including the cost of lab analysis. **Mr. Edwards moved to accept the bid of Lakes Region Septic at \$0.20/gallon for annual pumping of the WWTF. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

b) PD Purchase Orders – Both purchase orders relate to the new cruiser. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the purchase order for \$33,809.95 to Colonial Municipal Group for the 2021 Ford Police utility vehicle. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Mr. Edwards moved to approve the purchase order for \$13,242 to 2 Way Communications for provision and installation of public safety equipment. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

c) Fire/Rescue Purchase Order/Purchase & Sales Agreement – The Purchase & Sales Agreement is with Sugarloaf Ambulance for purchase of a 2022 Ford E-450XL Type III Ambulance, in the amount of \$211,602. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the Purchase & Sales Agreement as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.** The purchase order is for this purchase (in accordance with the Purchasing Policy). The Board executed the purchase order for \$211,602 as presented.

5. Proposed Capital Reserve Fund Expenditures

a) Ambulance CRF \$40,314 – This represents pre-payment of the chassis for the new ambulance (previously approved). By making this pre-payment, we save an additional \$1000 on the overall cost. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve this expenditure as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

b) Technology CRF \$1207.50 – This represents the cost to migrate our accounting software to the new server. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve this expenditure as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

6. Correspondence

a) Brock Mitchell re: Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – Ms. Bodah read an email from Mr. Mitchell written to Mr. Scala in which Mr. Mitchell expresses his support for Mr. Gore's suggestion that Wakefield *not* collect hazardous waste this year. Rather, given the COVID situation and the necessity for close contact during the collection, they suggest that Wakefield residents transport their material directly to Turnkey in Rochester. Mr. Edwards does not believe it would be in the Town's best interest to cancel this collection. We have always hosted this event and should continue to do so. Mr. Edwards noted that COVID is on the decline. Mr. Duffy stated that the staff deals with COVID every day at the Transfer Station—this event would be no different. In addition, it would be very inconvenient for the townspeople to go to Rochester. Mr. Fifield agrees, adding that we need to transition to life after COVID. Additionally, we don't want hazardous waste to wind up where it should not be. **Mr. Edwards moved to conduct Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in Wakefield, which event will be posted on the Town's website. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

7. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2

--Mr. Fogg wondered whether Household Hazardous Waste Collection day could coincide with Earth Day, April 22. Our collection day must be scheduled to occur just prior to the collection at Turnkey, to which we transport the material collected. Mr. Fogg is pleased to hear that we will begin to relax COVID restrictions. He would like to have a blue grass band play in the opera house and questioned the maximum capacity during COVID (although restrictions could be more relaxed by then). The Board was supportive of Mr. Fogg's idea and suggested he speak with Chief Ventura, Emergency Management Director, regarding the capacity allowed during COVID. Mr. Fogg stated he is considering the 3rd Friday in June, adding that he is trying to coordinate this with other local events. He stressed it is important to re-establish regular on-going events in the opera house.

8. Administrative Matters

a) Town Administrator's Update

--Wayne Robinson, Parks & Rec Director, advises that the Commission has not yet decided whether to move forward with the annual fireworks display in July. The Board members expressed their desire to move forward with this event. People know what to do around other people, and we must trust in their intelligence. We know how to wear masks, wash our hands and social distance. Mr. Duffy noted that if the situation changes, we can always cancel the event.

--Management Letter for Audit: **Mr. Edwards moved to authorize the Chair to execute the Management Letter to Vachon Clukay as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

--Landfill Groundwater Monitoring: **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the contract with Hydro-Geochemical Solutions in the amount of \$6220, for 2021 Groundwater Management Permit Compliance Services, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

b) Various Committee Membership Appointments

Mr. Edwards moved to appoint Greg Hall as a member to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a 3-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to re-appoint Doug Stewart as an alternate to ZBA for a 3-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to re-appoint Robert Baxter as an alternate to ZBA for a 3-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to re-appoint Judith DesRoches as a member to ZBA for a 3-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to re-appoint Annie Robbins as a member to ZBA for a 3-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to re-appoint Rick Poore as a member to the Heritage Commission for a 3-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to re-appoint Pam Wiggin as a member to the Heritage Commission for a 3-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to appoint Nancy Bancroft as an alternate to the Heritage Commission for a 3-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to re-appoint Relf Fogg as a member to the Conservation Commission for a 3-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. Mr. Fogg received confirmation that a Conservation Commission member may set up a FaceBook page, which will feature trail walks, etc., and no politics.

Mr. Edwards moved to re-appoint Todd Nason as Fire Chief for a 1-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to re-appoint Rhodes Haskell as Deputy Fire Chief for a 1-year term. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

c) Treasurer's Reports for February – Provided for the Board's information.

d) Building Permit Releases – None received.

e) Payment Manifests – Mr. Edwards moved to approve PR #7 in the amount of \$89,832.26, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve AP #8 in the amount of \$98,669.39, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

f) Minutes – Mr. Fifield moved to approve the minutes of March 10, 2021, as presented. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 2-0-1 (Mr. Edwards abstaining).

Mr. Edwards moved (as amended) to approve the March 10, 2021, minutes of Non Public Sessions #'s 1-6. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

g) Selectmen's Work Session

--Mr. Edwards attended the meeting of the Acton Board of Selectmen on March 17, which was also attended by bridge engineer/installer Mr. Bean. Mr. Bean addressed all concerns. The Acton Board was initially under the impression that the Town of Wakefield would cover the entire project, extending to both sides; however, Mr. Edwards corrected that impression, stressing that the Town of Acton would need to address their own approach to the bridge. The new bridge would go over the existing bridge and would not disturb the existing bridge at all. After listening to much discussion, it was decided to extend the bridge by several feet (from 34' to 40'). This would result in a slightly higher cost for materials; however, we would still stay within budget. The total estimated cost is now \$217,000, including both approaches. Mr. Edwards believes everyone is on board. He hopes to purchase the bridge material soon to avoid any additional increase in the cost of materials. He stressed that the new bridge will not touch the existing bridge—zero deflection. However, no one can promise that the existing bridge will not eventually deteriorate further. Perhaps the Heritage Commission will consider repairs to the existing bridge. Mr. Duffy stated that the Heritage Commission document referred to at previous meetings does not include borings. Rather, it is more of a history of this resource, as well as others. Stones are already caving in, and we need to take the stress off the existing bridge. Mr. Fogg advised that stone arches start at the bottom; however, they must be repaired from above the keystone.


Mr. Edwards moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

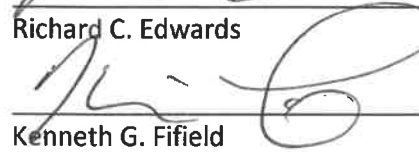
Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

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Approval of Minutes:



Mark P. Duffy, Chair

Richard C. Edwards

Kenneth G. Fifield