

Board of Selectmen

July 27, 2022

Present: Richard C. Edwards, Chair; Mark P. Duffy; Kenneth G. Fifield; Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Mr. Edwards called the posted meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. **Mr. Duffy 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. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:29 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board authorized an increase to \$30.35/hour for Toni Bodah. **Mr. Duffy 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. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:33 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board authorized an increase to \$27.70/hour for Michael Soucy. **Mr. Duffy 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. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:50 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board approved an amended wage line for Planning/Zoning Admin Assistant and authorized an increase to \$23.27/hour for Larissa Mulkern. **Mr. Duffy 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. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 7:03 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board authorized an increase to \$23.87/hour for Gary Sammarco. Those now present included Victor Vinagro. Mr. Edwards led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Appointments – None scheduled.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1 – None forthcoming.

3. Unfinished Business – None scheduled.

4. New Business

a) IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate – The Town currently reimburses for use of personal vehicles at \$0.585 per mile. The IRS is now allowing reimbursement up to \$0.625 per mile. **Mr. Duffy moved to increase the mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.625 per mile, effective immediately.**

b) 2022-1 Sewer Warrant – Mr. Duffy moved to approve the 2022-1 Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$40,789.04, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

5. Proposed Capital Reserve Fund Expenditures

a) Invasive Species ETF \$4375 – This represents funding to Province Lake for their lake host program, as previously approved. **Mr. Duffy moved to approve this expenditure as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

6. Correspondence

a) Transfer Station Staff – Mr. Scala read aloud a note of thanks from a resident expressing gratitude to the Transfer Station staff for assistance provided to her.

7. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2 – None forthcoming.

8. Administrative Matters

a) Town Administrator's Update

--Jim Miller has advised that the Clearview Board of Directors is looking for new members. Those interested in learning more should reach out to either Mr. Scala or Mr. Miller.

--Parks & Rec currently has 3 RFP's out to the public, 2 of which relate to construction of a dog park while the 3rd relates to replacement of backstop fencing. He noted one RFP may be revised for correction of a measurement. Information can be found on the Town's website (www.wakefieldnh.com). Also on the Town's website is an RFP for replacement of the Public Safety Building roof.

--Brock Mitchell has proposed purchase of a replacement for our 2012 truck (with 130,000 miles and which was scheduled to be retired last year). He is looking at a Ford 350 at Portsmouth Ford, which is currently in stock. We could finance this through Municipal Capital Finance, making only 1 payment each year. The retiring truck could be passed on to Code Enforcement.

Mr. Vinagro noted that he had discussed adding a truck for Code to the CIP; however, he was directed to see if a truck from another department would be available. He had anticipated getting the out-going truck from the Police Department; however, the Chief decided to hold that truck for use by the Animal Control Officer. Therefore, Mr. Vinagro has often had to utilize his own vehicle much of the time.

Mr. Fifield noted that utilization of the truck from Highway could eliminate Mr. Vinagro's use of his personal vehicle for Town business. The proposal from Municipal Capital would allow the Town to pay off the vehicle early should the opportunity arise. We could continue to add to the CRF for future purchase of large trucks. The interest rate quoted is 4.28% for 5 years. As a general rule, Mr. Fifield prefers to put money away each year, thereby accumulating interest and avoiding paying interest on a loan. However, once in a while this type of opportunity/need presents itself. He has no issue with this proposal but would not want it to become a habit, and he would want to pay the loan off early.

Mr. Duffy has an issue with Code using a truck which gets 12 miles to the gallon. Additionally, it runs on diesel, the cost of which is very high right now. He noted that the current Toyota could likely go for 300,000 miles, adding we should think about something smaller for use by Code. Mr. Fifield stressed it is difficult to expect an employee to utilize their personal vehicle for Town business. When asked, Mr. Vinagro indicated he needs a 4-wheel drive vehicle with clearance. Various scenarios/costs were discussed. It was decided to ask Mr. Mitchell to see whether there are any 150's available.

Mr. Fifield referred back to construction of a dog park. Mr. Edwards noted the Commission has been discussing this for 3-4 years. When the tennis court was demolished, it was originally anticipated that a dog park would locate at that site. However, it was ultimately decided to create a pickleball court. The idea died out for a while but recently resurfaced. The plan is to create the dog park at the ballfields, at an estimated cost of \$17,000 to \$20,000. Mr. Edwards would prefer to see dogs run on grass; but he is generally in favor of this project. It was agreed that the Board needs more information from Mr. Robinson regarding this project.

--The NH House and Senate have passed 2 bills directing the State's surplus back to towns for road and bridge repairs. In August we will receive \$115,840 from the additional highway block grant, in addition to the \$140,500 we receive throughout the year. In December we will receive \$100,047 for a one-time bridge fund. A public hearing will be required in accordance with RSA 31:95-b (unanticipated revenue), which will be scheduled for August 10. Mr. Scala referred to SB401 regarding appropriate use of these funds. Perhaps some of these funds can be used to reconstruct the sidewalks in Union.

b) Building Permit Releases – None forthcoming.

c) Payment Manifests – Mr. Duffy moved to approve PR #16 in the amount of \$131,831.82, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Duffy moved to approve AP #25 in the amount of \$95,327.79, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

d) Minutes – Mr. Duffy moved to approve the minutes of July 13, 2022, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Duffy moved to approve the minutes of July 13, 2022, Non Public Session #'s 1 and 2, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

e) Review of Sealed NP Minutes – Not tonight.

f) Selectmen's Work Session

Mr. Edwards noted that over 200 people are enjoying the concert at Turntable Park this evening!

Mr. Duffy advised that Heritage Day will occur on August 20 at the Union train station. The plow has been renovated. The East Wakefield School is open for touring.

Mr. Duffy also referred to interesting information received from Chuck Robbins regarding cyanobacteria.

Mr. Edwards stated that Wayne Robinson is looking into addressing several boat ramps. He believes the Town could order pre-made concrete ramps that a company could install. We may begin the permitting process soon so that work can commence next spring. He also believes that Coleman is finished with use of the 'new' boat trailer parking area. It is time for the signs to go up.

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Mr. Duffy questioned whether Parks & Rec had given any thought to having their meetings televised. Mr. Edwards agreed it is time for that to occur as much is happening of which people were not aware.

Mr. Fifield moved to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 3-0!!

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

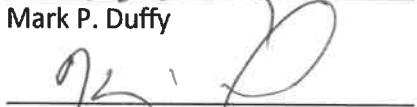
Approval of Minutes:



Richard C. Edwards, Chair



Mark P. Duffy



Kenneth G. Fifield