

Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen
Public Meeting Minutes-Unapproved
October 13, 2020

Members present: Chairman Brad Harriman, Linda Murray, Dave Bowers, Paul O'Brien and Dave Senecal

Staff present: Town Manager James S. Pineo, Parks and Recreation Director Christine Collins, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Justin Chaffee, Barry Muccio, Director of the Wolfeboro Municipal Electric Department, Police Chief Dean Rondeau, Captain Mark Livie, Police Department Executive Assistant Sherri Moore, Police Commissioner Steve Wood, Police Commissioner Bob O'Brien and Recording Secretary Amy Capone Muccio.

Chairman Harriman opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. He read the following pre-amble since the meeting this evening is both a combination of in person at the Great Hall and GotoMeeting:

Good Evening, as Chairman of the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, state, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID- 19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of town government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner under unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum apply. Any person found to be disrupting this meeting will be asked to cease the disruption. Should the disruptive behavior continue thereafter, that person will be removed from this meeting.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let 's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3, II

Mr. Pineo stated a non-public session is not needed.

Old Business:

1. Broadband Grant Funds

Paul O'Brien stated that he is pleased to announce that the Town of Wolfeboro will be entering into a contract with Charter Communications to serve the portion of Town not currently served by Atlantic Broadband. This will be to serve 70 homes in Wolfeboro and 20 in Ossipee in the area of Brown's Ridge Road. This will include 8 miles of new fiber and coax. He thanked staff, Barry Muccio, Matt Sullivan and Jim Pineo for their help in making this happen as well as the support from John MacDonald, Jeb Bradley, Edie Desmarais and Lynn Hynchee.

2. Pop Whalen

Mr. Pineo stated they are here to tonight to provide an update on the COVID-19 guidelines for the safe opening of the Pop Whalen Ice Arena. He stated that Christine Collins, Justin Chaffee and Linda Murray all attended a conference call with the State of NH regarding the recommended guidelines and operations of the rink. He stated that staff is here to discuss those guidelines as well as stakeholders from some of the programs who rent the ice at the arena.

Mrs. Murray stated she attended the State's task force meeting on youth sports and it was discussed whether or not masks are mandated on the bench during hockey. She stated they advised that if you can space the players six feet apart, then they do not have to wear the masks. She stated she also visited the rink to discuss some ideas for making space to allow the players to space out and they do plan to have some of those ideas follow up by the Fire Department. She stated she has talked to Craig Gemmell of Brewster Academy who has advised Brewster students will arrive to the arena dressed and ready to pay and will follow all suggested guidelines, she also suggested input from Kingswood's Athletic Director Aaron House.

Mr. O'Brien stated he has read the protocols and everyone needs to understand the purpose of this is to keep the kids safe. He questioned if the Fire Department has had a chance to review what has been suggested?

Christine Collins replied they have and have moved the benches to be sure not to block any fire exits.

Victor Drouin, President of Back Bay Youth Hockey, stated he asked for this to be addressed 7-8 weeks ago, which is why they are drawing a crowd at this meeting. He stated as far as the mask requirement and six foot requirement they find those guidelines suitable.

Justin Chaffee replied that the protocols were set previously by the Board of Selectmen, but they were revised this past Monday due to revisions and requests for changes.

Mr. Drouin replied the guidelines are so egregious and in violation of the guidelines that it was frightful and lacked common sense, it was really ugly. These new guidelines are less ugly but still not doable.

Chairman Harriman replied that the guidelines are a moving document that change and in light of the new cases in Exeter he suspects will keep changing. He stated the purpose of the guidelines is to keep the kids safe.

Mrs. Murray agreed and at the original protocols were approved by the Board of Selectmen at their first meeting in September, using guidelines set by the state at that time, but this is a moving document. She feels the staff put in a good effort to set guidelines for the safety of the kids at the rink. She stated the next issue they need to discuss, is whether or not players should come dressed to the rink.

Mr. O'Brien stated that state guidelines stated players should come dressed to the rink unless the rink is able to provide a conditioned changing space. Meaning the rink can draw out the air, unlike Dover, Pop Whalen cannot provide this. He stated Dover is able to accommodate these rules with their locker rooms as well as the space and they have removed the locker room doors. Pop Whalen is a smaller facility and does not have the ability to draw air out of the facility.

Chairman Harriman stated that Brewster has reported they will be coming fully dressed.

Mrs. Murray replied, correct, Brewster is a private school and has strict rules to keep the kids safe. She stated that Kingswood has expressed some concerns with coming dressed and suggested he advise the Board of those at this point.

Aaron House addressed the Board and stated that he has concerns with the ability to come to the rink dressed. He feels it will be challenging for the kids and especially the teenagers to get dressed in the parking lot. He stated that Brewster is unique and if Kingswood cannot change at the facility he will probably have to have them get dressed at the school and bus them over.

Victor Drouin stated that the youth under 12 could come mostly dressed, but teenagers that are a mix of boys and girls, there is no way they can get dressed in the parking lot, same with the men's league.

Mrs. Murray stated they do not have the capacity to accommodate the rules, including storing the bags. The bags also must be six feet apart, all of this is outlined in the state guidelines under #9.

Mr. Drouin stated he has talked to everyone in the state who has a rink and asked him what he was talking about, Pop Whalen is the only rink in the state you cannot bring in a bag. He stated based on what the town is recommending is that players will store their bags and equipment on the wet floor.

Mrs. Murray replied the guidelines state the bags must be stored 6ft apart, she does not see how that is feasible in the rink.

Mr. Drouin replied that they have the smaller locker room they could use as well as doing a rotation like all other rinks are doing for changing.

Ms. Collins stated that the original document is based off the CDC guidelines, Governors orders and what other surrounding rinks are doing. She stated that this is a working document that will have changes. She stated that since the guidelines came out other places are starting to see what works and what doesn't, plus Pop Whalen has limited space and is harder to manage how to space out the bags to comply with the 6 feet. She stated the point of this exercise is to keep people safe.

Mr. House stated that the benches spaced out is great update and he suggests they work on a way to allow them to bring the bags in.

Mr. O'Brien questioned the Live Barn issue.

Victor Drouin stated they have asked multiple times over the years and even had to get attorneys involved to stop the Live Barn from recording practices.

Ms. Collins replied that the Town just installed Live Barn last year and they will have the practices turned off. She stated the purpose of the purchase was the ability to allow parents to watch the games if they had to limit the number of spectators, the same with practices, but they respect that wish and will not run it during practices, just games. She noted that it will be important for the teams to keep the rink staff updated should a game turn to a practice and vice versa since the schedule is put in in advance and takes staff to make the change.

Mrs. Murray stated that they have implemented a digital check in to trace the players that enter the rink and report to the state.

Ms. Collins replied they are using a QR code, players log in answer the questions show the code when they get the temp taken and this is all to keep tract should contact tracing need to be done.

Mr. O'Brien stated it looks like they need to do more work on the bags issue.

Mrs. Murray stated they could discuss some options on the bags, but they really should have players come dressed as much as possible to the rink.

Valerie Murray questioned if they would be having someone at the facility checking, she said the guidelines are completely impossible.

Ms. Collins replied yes as staff member will be at the door checking the players in, they will be allowed 15 minutes to get dressed and ready, but the space is not there for the bags.

Valerie Murray disagreed, that they groups are small and not being able to have a bag is ridiculous there is plenty of space to put them 20 feet apart.

Kurt DeVlyder, Vice President of Back Bay Hockey, addressed the Board as Mr. Drouin had to leave, he reported Back Bay Hockey has voted to cease operations at Pop Whalen until these issues are resolved and that includes the men's league.

Mr. O'Brien stated it looks like they just need to get the solution set for Brewster, which is all set and Kingswood.

Mrs. Murray questioned if Back Bay agreed to the no masks if players are six feet apart?

Mr. DeVlyder replied yes, but they do not agreed to anyone over 12 dressing outdoors. They only have small teams and prefer to have the bags inside they feel there is enough space to have them 6 feet apart.

Mr. House replied he is willing to help work with that, the roster size is small and feels they could come to a solution to have the bags inside spaced apart.

Mr. DeVlyder stated that Victor Drouin sent out a proposal and would like to be included in the process to be sure their concerns are being heard.

Valerie Murray questioned how they plan to address mask storage?

Justin Chaffee replied most of the teams will be using neck gators.

Valerie Murray stated those are not effective.

Justin Chaffee agreed, but it is the player's choice but the state guidelines allow them.

Mr. O'Brien suggested they hold a meeting at the arena to work on these issue.

Mr. DeVlyder stated that they have tabled their season due to these issues.

The group agreed to have representatives from Back Bay, Men's League and Kingswood meet at the arena tomorrow at 1:00 PM to discuss the issues.

Budget Hearings

Mr. Pineo showed the Board where they could find copies of the budgets on the town's website and noted that all health care will be put into one budget called Personal Administration to allow an easier way to update it when the rates come in. He stated on that note the Board has been provided with the Electric Department's budget from Mr. Muccio who has done an outstanding job with his budget.

A. Electric

i. Administration

Chairman Harriman questioned the 300 series, consultants.

Mr. Muccio replied that is used for the purchase power contract, which is not every year.

Chairman Harriman questioned the 400 series, has the electric rate gone down.

Mr. Muccio replied he replied yes and will likely go down more after their solar installation.

Mrs. Murray clarified that they will get updated information on administrative allocation costs at a later meeting.

Mr. Pineo replies yes.

Mr. Muccio noted in the 800 series, professional development hasn't been used due to COVID.

Mrs. Murray questioned programs.

Mr. Muccio replied that is the payment in lieu of taxes, which has't been posted yet.

ii. Distribution

Mrs. Murray questioned 300 series, outside services, what that for the cost of the barge.

Mr. Muccio replied yes, they have had to use barge services more lately with some major repairs out on the islands. He noted that if the funds are not used for this it will be used for tree trimming as 66% of their outages are tree related.

Mr. Pineo noted that they will see increases in vehicle maintenance in many budgets with aging fleet.

Mr. Muccio replied their new truck they purchased last year is 10 months out for delivery, so they do have some costs for the old truck to keep it going.

Mrs. Murray questioned machinery and equipment not being spent.

Mr. Muccio replied that he feels not all the bills have cycled through yet.

Mrs. Murray questioned in the 900 series if the bond had kicked in yet.

Mr. Muccio replied it has.

Mr. O'Brien questioned the fund balance.

Mr. Muccio replied that the unexpended fund balance is kept at a flat rate, but at some point they will need to discuss those funds in the future. 2021 is the last year of the purchase power contract, they entered into an extension and will do a rate analysis next year.

iii. Generation

Mr. Harriman questioned the 300 series, consultants.

Mr. Muccio replied that is used for the oil abatement of the old plant, that budget is in good shape and he will be having a hazardous material assessment done for the Girl Scouts project.

Mrs. Murray questioned the 400 series and how the electricity budget is doing.

Mr. Muccio replied that they did not see a big difference in the large users due to COVID, and this budget is in line with where it usually is. He stated that he does have a Capital Outlay that he did not get in, but would like to come back and submit one. The Board agreed to revisit the Capital Outlay request.

Mr. O'Brien thanked Barry and noted that his department is well managed and knows his stuff, this is the model for an enterprise fund.

B. Electric

i. Police Department

Mr. Pineo stated this department has a capital outlay request for a vehicle and the significant increase within the budget is due to the increase in the retirement line and a request for a juvenile prosecutor.

Mrs. Murray questioned clarity on the part time wages in the 100 series if it is \$8,000 or \$16,000. She noted there is a reinstatement form in the back up, but it is already in the budget.

Chief Rondeau replied \$8,323.23.

Mr. Pineo replied that it was first listed as a budget reinstatement, but after reviewing it the decision was made to hire this person in 2021, which is why there is a reduction.

Chairman Harriman stated it appears the gas and oil lines are off in these budgets as well.

Mr. Pineo replied there is and the staff has been working on addressing the issues and if it can't be resolved will move to a different vendor.

Mr. O'Brien stated if all the budgets are low, then the Public Works budget should be massively over budget.

ii. Communication

Mrs. Murray questioned if this includes hazardous duty pay.

Chief replied it does not.

iii. Animal Control

None.

iv. Capital Outlay

Chief Rondeau replied they have a Capital Outlay request to purchase a vehicle and plan to offset the cost with funds from the Special Detail fund as they have done in the past.

Mrs. Murray stated that the 2019 audit is not available yet, they do not know the balance of that fund and questioned how that will affect the request as they forward it to the Budget Committee.

Mr. O'Brien questioned if they should purchase or lease and feels they should provide both options for the budget committee. He stated once they know what is in the fund, those funds will offset the cost.

Mr. Pineo stated the audit will not be delivered until November and he wanted to thank our former Finance Director, Peter Chamberlin, for stepping in and helping us get everything we needed to the auditors to get the audit complete.

Other Business

None.

Being no other business before the Board, Chairman Harriman entertained a motion to adjourn.

It was moved by Dave Senecal and seconded by Paul O'Brien to adjourn at 7:41 PM. Roll call vote; Linda Murray-yes, Paul O'Brien-yes, Brad Harriman-yes, Dave Senecal-yes, and Dave Bowers-yes. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Capone Muccio