

MINUTES
Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen Meeting
November 15, 2023
In-Person Session at the Great Hall 2nd Floor, 9 Union St. Wolfeboro

6:30 PM-Regular Session

BoS members Present: Brad Harriman, David Senecal, Linda Murray, Luke Freudenberg, Brian Deshaies

Staff: Kathryn Carpentier, Finance Director sitting in for James S. Pineo, Town Manager; DPW Director Steve Randall.

6:30 p.m. Chairman Brad Harriman calls meeting to order.

Mr. Harriman asks whether Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 is needed.

Mrs. Carpentier: No need for non-public meeting

1. Consideration of minutes N/A

2. Public Hearing(s)

i. **Read by Mr. Harriman:** PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, the Town of Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen shall hold a public hearing on November 15, 2023, at their meeting that starts at 6:30 P.M., in the Great Hall of the Town Hall located at 9 Union Street Wolfeboro, pursuant to NH RSA 31:95-b, in order to receive public testimony prior to the Board voting “to accept federal Clean Water Act funds and enter into a contract with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and further to authorize the Town Manager to sign to execute documents which may be necessary to effectuate this contract.” Written comments may be submitted to the Town Board of Selectmen by email to tmsecretary@wolfeboronh.us or by mail to the Town of Wolfeboro: Attention Amy Capone Muccio, PO Box 629, Wolfeboro NH 03894 at any time prior to the hearing.

Mr. Harriman opens the public hearing; And board can discuss. Some information missing.

Mrs. Murray: Public notice lacking. This is a 319 grant; \$52,000 is the amount. \$23,000 has already been approved by BoS. Public notice is not detailed.

Mr. Harriman: Is there a timeframe when this needs to be acted on? from

Mrs. Murray: When does the grant application need to be signed by?

Libby Peard, Rust Pond Homeowners Association: 319 grant is time-limited; runs out 2024. Want to move forward with engineering ASAP and adjust the dam plan on Rust Pond.

Mr. Harriman: Are there deadlines for the grant application?

Ms. Peard Thought it was signed, sealed, delivered. Did not know there might be any further steps; need to get this on the governor’s desk to move ahead on project engineering and work.

Mr. Senecal: Can we table this?

Mrs. Murray: Nov. 27 is warrant articles; next regular meeting Dec. 6.

Mr. Freudenberg: questions BoS funds already spent.

Mrs. Murray: \$23,000 was approved out of the water quality capital reserve account- a match to the \$52,000 to what I believe is a 319 grant. Public announcement does not indicate how much funds Town was accepting. No one here who applied for or wrote the grant.

Mr. Harriman: Perhaps put this hearing at the start of the November 27 warrant article meeting. It will be advertised correctly.

Mrs. Murray: agrees.

MOTION by Mr. Senecal to table the issue until November 27 BoS meeting to properly notice the public hearing on this issue. Second Mrs. Murray. APPROVED 5-0.

3. Bulk Vote

A. Weekly Manifests

i. November 9, 2023 \$ 221,119.44

Mr. Harriman: Intent to cut did not make it into the packet; it's time sensitive.

MOTION by Mrs. Murray to add intent to cut to the bulk vote; Second Mr. Freudenberg. Approved 5-0.

MOTION by Mr. Freudenberg to approve the amended Bulk Vote. Second Mrs. Murray. Approved 5-0.

4. Board/Committee Appointments: n/a

5. New Business

A. Appointment: Wolfeboro Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Action

Mary Devries: Executive Director, Wolfeboro Area Chamber of Commerce; several board members at meeting.

Introduces **Kate LeMay** new chamber board president.

Kate LaMay: Submitting a letter of concerns brought to chamber; passing to BoS. Intent is to share feedback and have a constructive relationship with BoS and town staff.

Reads/summarizes/comments on letter to BoS.

Some leaders are not constructive. Obligation to bring opinions to your attention.

- Want business and organizations to thrive with collaboration; belief that business are not guided through procedural; encounter punitive responses and costs. Clearer procedures desired.
- Business and organizations should be treated with respect. Some businesses encounter negative communication described as dismissive and unresponsive. Common courtesy needed.
- Business/organizations should feel seen and valued as part of community: details are included in letter about food trucks and pop up businesses; belief that these are not held to same standards.

Says sentence in letter about tax value is not accurate; changes to – members provide great deal of cultural value to the community. Commitment to positive government relations.

Explains how chamber works with government.

Mr. Harriman: Are there instances that come to mind that are of concern; are you looking for general improved communication as things arise?

Ms. LaMay: Goal is general improvement in businesses being seen and heard by town officials. Could be individuals that are challenging and need to work with people better. Do not want to name names here.

Mr. Harriman: Do you think quarterly meetings – getting on BoS agenda between chamber and BoS to come in so everything's fresh in their minds.

Ms. LaMay: Yes- and come to chamber meetings – two BoS representatives already; and yes would improve.

Mr. Deshaies: Had an event with EDC Nov. 13 well-publicized. Advertised on town web site; handed invitations to every business; Every business invited; food and drink supplied and talk to BoS and EDC and tell us how to make business better. Wanted businesses to report to us how to improve the business climate. 12 people attended.

Mrs. Murray 12-18 total; people there.

Mr. Deshaies: Tried hard to get people there. 40 came last year.

Ms. LaMay: If dialogue isn't working; maybe private meeting needs to happen to make things better.

Mr. Deshaies: Not enough people watch these meetings and get involved.

Mr. Harriman: You keep promoting meetings; encourage people to come. Keep trying. Keep this on our agenda every three months for example. Roundtable could be good.

Mrs. Murray: Thanks chamber for the letter. Concern about performance of elected officials; we have no authority over elected officials. Do have authority of running the government and this board. Under RSA 91-8, have authority to oversee prudential affairs of the town; and hire and fire town manager -RSA 37:3. Town manager can hire/fire staff. BoS has no say over boards including planning, zoning, conservation boards/commissions.

No specifics included in the letter; who is being negative or non-responsive? How can I help or communicate or have the town manager communicate? This is like talking through a third party. I try to go chamber socials; run Last Night Wolfeboro to bring the business community; Brian does Winnepesaukee Day. We're out there; don't understand; if it's a culture the chamber is concerned about, it's not come to my attention.

Mr. Deshaies: Has had personal contact information on the town web site for two years; will do what I can; will find answers if I don't have them.

Ms. LeMay suggests that BoS communicate with town manager about communication.

Mr. Deshaies: NH is Dylan state; we're granted authorities by state RSA; regulations we can follow and constraints.

Daniel Mills, board member PSI Molded Plastics; former president and CEO; expansion project underway to add additional high voltage power to plant. Had communication issues with town management to get responses; that's improved – was frustrating at the start. Different sense of urgency between businesses and towns.

Need to grow the business; state grant needs town support.

Wolfeboro is one of four PSI plants. Wolfeboro most profitable. Desired supplier – mold large, plastic parts; paint, decorate and assemble the parts. Turning away businesses because we can't grow. Urgent we take a stand here to get town support.

PSI committed to do the leg work; hiring grant writer; borders grant funding has to go to the town not a private company. We need to work with town to make that happen.

Mr. Deshaies: Explain what happened with initial road block.

Mr. Mills: Has met with Mr. Pineo and MED Director Barry Muccio. Frustrating beginning; did not get response from town. Problems resolved and got better from beginning.

Mr. Deshaies: EDC and BoS OK?

Mr. Mills: EDC + BoS OK; town management was the issue at first.

Wants to keep 140 jobs here in Wolfeboro; Wolfeboro is the most profitable of the four company plants. Have a name on the grant writer.

Have a wetlands issue; want to put power polls in the wetlands; hired a consultant to deal with getting the DES permit. Explains global nature of the company and expansion.

Mr. Harriman: You've worked through these issues.

Mr. Mills: We wanted to highlight concerns.

Mrs. DeVries: Tone of the letter not directed at BoS; BoS is the voice. Chamber advocates for businesses at town hall.

Mr. Harriman: There are committees in town; we need volunteers. There are good things going on and would like to build on them. A quarterly meeting might be good. Specific issues should be brought to us by email to BoS or Town Manager so it's not played out in a public forum.

Mr. Freudenberg: Important for chamber to highlight interactions and way we can hope to get town government to work; be approachable and helpful to businesses and to people. A reminder that people who work in town government or elected officials be sure citizens have a voice and are heard. Letter is an overall tone to help us remember that we represent the citizens.

Mrs. Murray: The letter states, "...the practice of putting voices of individual groups or citizens over the support of business owners," is a big statement to make about what we're doing as a town. I need clarity on that. That is significant. I hear the feedback; but cannot do anything since I don't know where this is coming from so I can address something.

Mr. Deshaies: Spring event possible with EDC. I reach out to the chamber to come to EDC meeting. Perhaps we can get a spring event underway. If we do that in spring and fall – it can be a session to complain and talk about the strengths, weaknesses and threats to have a business in Wolfeboro.

Mrs. Murray says EDC received feedback in 2022 on good and bad of that summer. EDC responded. We may need to look at a spring EDC event; it helped drive the EDC goals last year.

Mr. Deshaies: 2022 feedback from the 40 people there; found common ground among businesses and connected with business owners. Created rapport among businessowners.

Mrs. Carpentier: Ms. Lamay wants to meet with town manager; who would be in the room with town manager – depending on the issue. I can give feedback to Mr. Pineo.

Ms. LaMay: Have to figure out who to talk to with relation to what issues might be.

Jim McDevitt, Wolfetrap owner: Adding more meetings is difficult for business owners. Perhaps have town manager come to our meetings. I know they're busy. Stay within our organization and have representation from town manager to come to meetings. Problem is with town staff not the selectmen.

Mr. Harriman: Come to one of us; we'll guide you to find the right person to talk to.

Corin Fergusen- Wolfeboro Food Coop: Did not have enough information to go to the Nov. 13 EDC meeting.

Mr. Harriman: Will be a public meeting Monday, 11/20, 6 p.m. Stakeholders who will be affected by the new water line Pickering Corner to Smith River. Public forum to ask questions; express concerns. This will be a public meeting geared to business owners. Take input. Later in the process a broader townwide public forum will take place concerning traffic flow and more.

Ms. Lamay: Then we'll take that information and disseminate that to the chamber/businesses.

B. Discussion: Actual vs. Budget Report- October Finance Department Action

Kathryn Carpentier, Finance Director: Monthly report through October 2023.

- General operating budget at 89%; slightly above 10-month average of 84%
 - General fund revenues- 81%; waiting for DRA to set tax rate.
 - Motor vehicle revenues- 92%
 - Interest- \$377,000
- Water fund- operating budget 87%
- Electric 83%
- Sewer 94%
- Pop Whalen 106%
- Estimated revenues-
 - Water fund 100%; water charges 90%
 - Electric fund 84%
 - Sewer fund 93%
 - Residential sales 77%
 - Pop Whalen 50% -town piece has only been booked 25% to Pop Whalen; we have a lot of backend revenue because October-December hockey revenue starts coming in.
- Oil at 63%; gas 64%; diesel 90%: some of that could be in tanks waiting to be used.
- Legal 82%
- Overtime is worrisome: department heads covering expenditures. Some could be offset by open positions.
 - General fund 100%
 - Water fund 100%
 - Electric 90%
 - Sewer 64%
- Welfare worrisome – at 99%; we’re finding funds. Due to COVID subsidies that are no longer in place. Town paying high rents.

Mrs. Murray: Overtime – dispatch at 137% - parttime wages down; some is covered. Can see that parttime wages are down.

Mrs. Carpentier: Happens all year; you have savings if someone is out on leave, disability or workers comp. You have favorability elsewhere; then manager cuts back or brings to town manager’s attention. No one is waving a flag at this point. Thank you.

6. Other Business

Mrs. Murray: Came from Jim Pineo – got the 5-year groundwater discharge permit for the RIB site.

Daily flow average is at 340,000 gallons; maximum volume is 425,000 gallons. Been a long-time coming.

Mr. Harriman: South Main Street water line stakeholders meeting Monday, 11/20.

Mill Street water pump station project – four bids came in; and two were under the engineer’s estimate for the project. Could come under budget; engineers analyzing the bids for recommendations. Hope for an award by mid-December.

7. Committee Reports

Mr. Deshaies: Budget committee; EDC event Nov. 13. Sidewalk committee- good chair; lots of good ideas; staying focused.

Mr. Freudenberg: none. Police Commission coming up.

Mrs. Murray: EDC business recap; Library Trustees; Sidewalk Committee and budget committee to review Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Harriman: WCTV meeting.

Mr. Senecal: Conservation Commission; bench dedication honoring Ed Roundy Nov. 15 at the Town Gardens. Granite bench honors Mr. Roundy and committees/commissions he served on.

8. Town Manager's Report

Mrs. Carpentier: Mr. Pineo did not give me a report; I have some notes. Budget committee meetings completed: Electric, Parks and Recreation, Abenaki and Pop Whalen. No budget meetings next week because of Thanksgiving. Next budget committee meeting 11/16, 6 p.m. at the library – police budget. BoS added a meeting for Mon., Nov. 27, 6:30 p.m. at Great Hall
CIP process review meeting 11/16; go back and see what went well, what did not.

9. Questions from the Press- Elyssa Paquette: (no audio – tech issue)

Mrs. Murray may get a text from Elyssa.

10. Public Input (Limited to 3 minutes per person and not to exceed 15 minutes in total)

Steve Randall, DPW Director: Thought the Whitegate study was going to be on the agenda.

Mrs. Murray: Asked Jim to put it on the agenda and to speak to you.

Mr. Randall: Met with KC/Jim Pineo to get clarification on the wording.

Asking for approval to fund the Whitegate study at \$80,000; Lake Winnepesaukee Association grant to reimburse \$40,000 once the project is complete.

Would like to use \$40,000 from the Water Resources Non-Capital Reserve Fund; \$40,000 from the General Fund account to start the first phase of the Whitegate study. This work is with the Lake Winnepesaukee Association's grant for water quality.

Mrs. Murray: Fine with that. Our problem was if we took all the funds out of the water resources capital reserve account and the association paid us back, we could not get it back into the water fund. If that's a motion – I'll make that motion.

MOTION Mrs. Murray to approve \$40,000 from the water resources non-capital reserve fund for the Whitegate study; Second Mr. Deshaies. Approved 5-0.

Suzanne Ryan: Put off by letter from chamber; communication issue may be on the chamber's end. Praises BoS for improvements in town which helps support chamber and businesses.

One component left out – on the chamber web page – promote to businesspeople – businesses work with Wolfeboro Planning and Development department – they are missing the boat if they don't go planning department to find out how things work.

Josepine Amatucci, resident: Will start raffle at public library next month. Town has no legal right to stop me. Will put raffle property there and start the raffle. Raffle is outreach is for the poor. 50-50 raffle.

Citizens should come together to serve the common good. BoS has no reason to stop the raffle.

Explains the machine to deposit \$5 and a ticket machine; will be an honor system + a camera in place. Wants to know if BoS will interfere with the raffle at the library.

Shows picture of box she says she's buying for raffle deposits and ticket dispenser. Says she'll go in the library in November.

Mr. Harriman: Reads into the minutes letter written to Mrs. Amatucci dated Oct. 23, 2023 – he's interrupted by Mrs. Amatucci.

Ms. Amatucci interrupts and wants answers.

Mr. Harriman: states letter explains the issues concerning Mrs. Amatucci's proposed raffle.

Mrs. Murray: Asks that she listen so the people can hear and let Mr. Harriman read the letter.

Mr. Harriman starts to read letter pertaining to October 18th BoS meeting concerning Mrs. Amatucci's proposal for a raffle.

Mrs. Amatucci interrupts

Mr. Harriman continues reading the letter – There was no approval granted to hold a raffle at the library. The consensus of the board is that approval for you to hold a raffle at the library will not be granted. It was explained to you that to be considered for a permit you needed to have a non-profit agency partner with you and apply under their name to conduct a raffle on town-owned property. [Signed by Brad Harriman, chairman, Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen.]

Mrs. Amatucci: There was another letter by you.

Mr. Harriman: No.

Mrs. Amatucci: reiterates her beliefs about what state told her and running raffles and that the town controls raffles. States the BoS told her she can run a raffle.

Mr. Harriman: No we did not.

Mrs. Amatucci: states January 18, 2023; is where the board said she could run a raffle. Says she'll set up the raffle at the library next month.

Mr. Harriman: asks whether a motion should be offered.

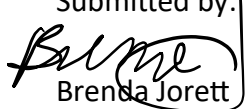
MOTION by Mrs. Murray to deny Mrs. Amatucci's request to run a raffle at the public library. Second Mr. Senecal. Approved 5-0.

Mrs. Amatucci: *continues asking for an explanation – through adjournment.*

Mrs. Murray: [relays information from Ms. Paquette] Granite State News Thanksgiving week deadline Monday, Nov. 20, at noon.

MOTION by Mrs. Murray to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Second Mr. Deshaies. Approved 5-0

Next Meeting dates:
December 6, 2023 Regular Meeting

Submitted by:

Brenda Jorett