

**TOWN OF RYE - SELECT BOARD
MEETING
Monday, September 11, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.
Rye Town Hall**

Selectmen Present: *Chair Tom King, Vice-Chair Bill Epperson, and Selectman Bob McGrath*

Others Present on behalf of the Town: *Town Administrator Matt Scruton, and Asst. Town Administrator/Finance Director Becky Bergeron*

5:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair King called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel
(2) per RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Hiring**

At 5:02 p.m., Tom King made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Epperson – Yes, McGrath - Yes, King - Yes.

At 5:20 p.m., Tom King made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Roll Call: Epperson – Yes, McGrath – Yes, King - Yes.

At 5:21 a.m., Tom King made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Epperson – Yes, McGrath - Yes, King - Yes.

At 5:31 p.m., Tom King made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Roll Call: Epperson – Yes, McGrath – Yes, King - Yes.

6:30 p.m. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

III. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair King reconvened the public meeting at 6:37 p.m. and asked for a moment of silence:

“To pay respect to those who were lost on 9/11, acknowledge the strength of survivors, and commend the bravery of the first responders. Together as a United Nation we pledge to never forget.”

Chair King led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Select Board will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Mel and Jean Low Conference Room at the Town Hall Annex on Wednesday, September 13th at 2:00 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – (at the beginning of the meeting, for any comment by any Rye resident on any topic. Requested time limit, up to 5 minutes each person.)

None

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT

The purpose of the Hearing is to hear public comment on acceptance and expenditure of a Highway Safety Grant in the amount of \$12,600 for the Rye Police Department to do speed enforcement, impaired driving enforcement, distracted driving enforcement and high visibility mobilization patrols.

At 6:40 p.m., Chair Tom King made a motion to hear public comment on acceptance and expenditure of a Highway Safety Grant in the amount of twelve thousand six hundred dollars (\$12,600) for the Rye Police Department to do speed enforcement, impaired driving enforcement, distracted driving enforcement and high visibility mobilization patrols, and any other work that meets the criteria of the grant. Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Vote: 3-0

Police Chief Kevin Walsh explained the Police Department applied to the NH Highway Safety Committee for funds to help with a driver compliance plan which involves education, engineering, and enforcement. The Highway Safety Grant specifically addresses enforcement. The Rye Police Department will be collaborating with other community departments to implement techniques to make the roads safer under the programs: Join the Click for Seat Belting; Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over; You Drive, You Text, You Pay; as well as, a speed grant. The number one complaint that the Police Department and the Select Board receives is about poor driving behavior. This year, the Police Department is being awarded additional funds under the speed grant category. The Department is going to continue to use the funds under enforcement and engineering, with the traffic counter, to document specific days, times, and roads of when enforcement patrols should be assigned. The operations supervisor uses this information in scheduling the patrol shifts.

Selectman Epperson asked if funds could be used to purchase another electronic speed sign.

Chief Walsh noted that the Department can apply separately for an equipment grant to cover that cost. He pointed out that he likes having the one sign because he likes to move it around, due to the fact it becomes part of the backdrop when staying in one spot. He explained that other towns have so many signs up that the maintenance is not being kept up and the sign becomes part of the

backdrop and are no longer noticed by motorists. He noted that the Select Board will be hearing comments from the citizens at a future meeting about their concerns around poor driving behavior. At that time, he will see if the Department should apply to the Highway Safety Grant for another sign. The grant would cover seventy-five percent of the cost of the sign through the 75/25 percent grant. The cost of a sign is approximately \$6,000.

The Select Board agreed the signs are very effective.

Police Chief Walsh spoke about the Police Department's enforcement and public education goals. He also spoke about check points that the Department has done in past years in collaboration with surrounding communities.

Selectman McGrath pointed out the grant includes that each time an officer stops a driver, if there is a child's car seat, they have to check to be sure it's probably installed. He likes that this is part of the grant.

Chair King opened to the public for comments or questions.

Joe Cummins, 990 Washington Road, noted that the annual report said there were fourteen hundred twelve stops last year. He asked how many traffic tickets were issued for speeding.

Chief Walsh noted that he can send that information to the Select Board and Town Administrator.

Mr. Cummins suggested having that information available in future annual reports. He expressed concerns about vehicle speeding throughout the town and the lack of area along the road shoulders for pedestrians to walk. He encouraged the town to consider putting in rumble strips on Rye roads. Mr. Cummins spoke in support of accepting and expending the Highway Safety Grant funds.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Chair King closed the public hearing at 6:55 p.m.

Motion by Tom King to accept and expend the Highway Safety Grant in the amount of twelve thousand six hundred dollars (\$12,600) for the Rye Police Department to do speed enforcement, impaired driving enforcement, distracted driving enforcement and high visibility mobilization patrols, and any other work that meets the criteria of the grant and to authorize the Town Administrator and/or Police Chief to sign any documents or agreements necessary to accept such funds. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Vote: 3-0

B. Rye 400 Community Picnic

Eileen McCue, 17 Clark Road, spoke to the Select Board about approval for the Rye 400 Community Picnic and the use of Parsons Field. The date of the event is Sunday, October 29th with set up at 11:30 a.m. and the picnic starting at noon and going until 2:00 p.m. She has

spoken with Chief Walsh about the event and an officer will be available for that date. Tables and chairs will be provided. Everyone will bring their own picnic baskets and sit with everyone to enjoy their meals. Alex Herlihy will give a brief history about Parsons Field. A pie baking contest has also been added to the event. People are encouraged to bring tablecloths and decorations. The hope is that this will be a great community event.

There was some discussion about insurance requirements for the event. It was agreed that the Select Board would cosponsor the event, under the Recreation Department, for the purposes of insurance coverage. There is also a request to post a sign about the event in the Historic District for twenty-one days. It was noted by the Select Board that the Historic District Commission will need to give approval for the sign in the Historic District and generally it's fourteen days maximum. Ms. McCue agreed to meet with HDC in regards to the sign request. She will also follow up with Town Administrator Scruton and the Recreation Director about insurance and volunteers for the event. Ms. McCue will return to the Board for a formal approval, once details are put into place.

- C. **Jason Rucker, Public Works Director** – Requests the Select Board to accept and expend the New Hampshire the Beautiful Grant in the amount of \$2330.00 that was awarded to the Town of Rye to be used towards the purchase of a vertical bailer used to bale aluminum cans.

Public Works Director Jason Rucker spoke about his request for the Select Board to vote to approve the acceptance and expenditure of the New Hampshire the Beautiful Grant in the amount of two thousand three hundred thirty dollars (\$2,330). The grant was awarded to the Town of Rye to be used towards the purchase of a reconditioned bailer for baling aluminum cans, which will allow for better pricing for hauling recycled aluminum per pound. It's anticipated that the bailer will pay for itself within a few short years. The cost of the bailer was just under \$9,000, so the grant covers a good portion of the cost.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept and expend the New Hampshire the Beautiful Grant in the amount of two thousand three hundred thirty dollars (\$2,330) that was awarded to the Town of Rye to be used towards the purchase of a vertical bailer used to bale aluminum cans, and authorize the Town Administrator, and/or the DPW Director, to sign any agreements to accept this grant. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0

Chair King reported that earlier this year, the Recycling Committee also received a grant for their recycling efforts at the Transfer Station. This is the Town's second grant for recycling this year.

- D. **Becky Bergeron, Finance Director/Asst. Town Administrator** – COLA for non-union employees

Finance Director Becky Bergeron presented her proposal of 3.75% for the 2024 COLA for non-union employees. She noted that it's been past practice for the Select Board to award COLA consistent with union contracts. This year there are some disparities in the COLA

between the contracts. In looking at the current rate of inflation and the Consumer Price Index (CPI), her recommendation of 3.75% is consistent with those numbers.

The Select Board reviewed the information submitted by Finance Director Bergeron. After discussion and consideration, the Select Board agreed that 3.75% is an appropriate COLA for the 2024 budget.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the proposed COLA rate of 3.75% for non-union staff for the 2024 budget. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0

E. Telecommunications Infrastructure Committee

Howard Kalet, Telecommunications Infrastructure Committee Chair, pointed out to the Select Board that the committee's term has expired. He feels there is enough work for the Board to consider extending the committee's term for two years. Mr. Kalet summarized that Breakfast Hill is a strong location for another cell tower site with a number of options available in that area. When considering warrant articles at the end of the year, there should be some thought as to making a new location available in that area, making it broad enough to cover all areas being considered. Mr. Kalet continued that in the Breakfast Hill area there has been a lot of development and more demand for service. It's an easier place to locate a tower and there are four locations that may be possibilities. He pointed out that the biggest challenge is central Rye. There is a huge gap in coverage between the Town Hall and Rye Harbor. There is no site that has come up as of right now. The recreation area is an ideal location; however, there's not enough land in that area. The Town needs another location, as there is more and more demand for telecommunication service every year. Residents depend on coverage, but the Town simply does not have it. He urges the Board to make that happen.

Chair King clarified that the warrant article would be for zoning and the Telecommunications Overlay District, not for siting a tower. Chair King asked for an updated map showing the current cell coverage between Rye's towers and the proposed North Hampton tower. Mr. Kalet agreed to follow up on the map.

Referring to the Isotrope report from 2019, Chair King noted that one of the recommendations was the elementary school location, which is under a telecommunication overlay. He asked if the School Board was ever approached to get acceptance.

Mr. Kalet replied no. He agreed that the committee could follow up on that recommendation and approach the School Board. He pointed out that this will not help the coverage near Rye Harbor, but will cover a big portion of Rye.

Selectman McGrath noted that the Rand conservation land was highlighted in the report, as well. He commented that his concern is that everyone is now doing away with landlines. At his house, there are many times that he does not have service. He's sure there are many people who are not able to report an emergency in a 9-1-1 situation.

Fire Chief Mark Cotreau agreed this is a safety issue. He noted that folks need to be aware that they can also text 9-1-1. Sometimes a text will go through when a cell call won't.

Mr. Kalet pointed out that voice usually has highest priority, data, and text are last. Somehow the towers prioritize that and one service may be different than another. He commented that he keeps a wire connection at his home through Comcast, which goes over the internet. He's been told this is more reliable than using a range extender in the home for a cell phone. Comcast is more reliable; however, it does cost more money and everyone would like to get away from that. He pointed out that if there was good internet, wired cable would not be needed for the homes. If there are better connections, this would potentially bring more options for the residents.

Motion by Tom King to approve a new Rye Telecommunications Infrastructure Committee Charge as presented with a March 31, 2025 end date and taking out the word "second" and adding the word "term". Seconded by Bill Epperson. Vote: 3-0

Member positions for the Rye Telecommunications Committee will be posted on the Town's website for thirty days. Current members and anyone who is interested in serving on the committee should send in a letter of intent to the Select Board for appointment.

F. Beach Parking Permits

The Select Board reviewed the beach parking permit sticker mockup and discussed the concerns about the sticker design expressed by Town Clerk Donna DeCotis. Chair King explained the resolution that has been agreed to by Town Clerk DeCotis and Police Chief Walsh. The goal is to order the stickers by October 1st, after the design is reviewed by the Beach Committee. The Select Board agreed on the design for the beach stickers, with the changes proposed, and with consensus from the Beach Committee.

The decision of the Board was explained to Town Deputy Clerk Amy Thibodeau, who joined the meeting via Zoom.

G. Chief Cotreau – Engine 5 Pump Repair

Fire Chief Mark Cotreau spoke to the Select Board about the repair needed for the Engine 5 pump. He explained that parts for the pump are hard to find, as they do not make this kind of pump anymore. At this time, the gear box that goes into the pump needs to be replaced, which will be difficult to find. If the part can be found, it will be a major repair and will cost thousands of dollars to fix. The Town could also consider buying a new pump, which would cost approximately \$25,000 plus the labor to install at about \$7,000 to \$12,000. Chief Cotreau suggested a used Darley pump, which can be used for Engine 5. The pump has been tested and parts would be available for the future. The cost estimate to put in the pump is \$10,000 to \$15,000. The funds to cover the repair cost will come out of the Department's capital reserve fund.

Motion by Tom King to authorize Chief Cotreau to spend up to fifteen thousand (\$15,000) from the Fire Capital Reserve Account for purposes of funding an emergency replacement of the fire pump on Engine 5. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Email rec'd from Tim Durkin re: his resignation as an alternate on the Heritage Commission.**

The Select Board asked Administrator Scruton to send a letter to Mr. Durkin thanking him for his work on the Heritage Commission.

Motion by Tom King to accept the resignation from Tim Durkin as an alternate on the Heritage Commission. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Vote: 3-0

- B. Request from Amy Kindstedt for a proclamation recognizing September 2023 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Rye**

Selectman Epperson noted that Amy Kindstedt is a survivor of childhood cancer, which happened about ten or twelve years ago. She has taken childhood cancer awareness upon herself and made it a big agenda. He noted that Amy is very sweet and the family is from Rye. He thinks it's highly appropriate that the Select Board approves the proclamation.

Chair King and Selectman McGrath agreed they should do everything possible to help increase awareness and support the efforts to solve cancer issues.

Office of the Selectmen Town of Rye, N.H. Proclamation

Whereas: September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and advocates, nonprofits, healthcare professionals, researchers, and families impacted want the people of Rye to understand the stark reality that children facing cancer experience every day; and

Whereas: Childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease for American Children and adolescence in the United States. Approximately 46 children per day, or 16,790 children per year, are diagnosed with cancer. Over 40,000 children are currently in treatment; and

Whereas: Childhood Cancer Awareness Month was created in 1999 as a time to raise awareness for the cause remembering the children who were lost and engage new advocates to join the mission of achieving a day where every child diagnosed with cancer can live a long and healthy life; and

Whereas: In the last 30 years, there have been only 6 new drugs approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer. Two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have long-lasting chronic health conditions as a result of the treatment toxicity from the outdated drugs that were originally developed for the use on adults; and

Whereas: Numerous Rye families and children have been affected personally by childhood cancer and have experienced the harsh reality that it is. As a community, it is our duty to support these families and children as they walk through diagnosis, treatment, and beyond;

Now therefore, I, Tom King, Chairman of the Select Board of the Town of Rye, on behalf of the members of the Select Board and the residents of Rye, do hereby proclaim September 2023 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the Town of Rye and urge the community to pause and remember the children we have lost to this terrible disease and work to support the effort to find new therapies to treat and defeat pediatric cancer, so children not only survive cancer but thrive.

Given with my hand and the seal of the Town of Rye on 11th day of September 2023:
Tom King, Chairman of the Rye Select Board

Motion by Tom King to proclaim September 2023 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the Town of Rye. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0

C. Hearing Schedule District Three: Major Transportation/Infrastructure Projects

Executive Councilor Janet Stevens sent an announcement to the Select Board regarding the hearing schedule for District 3 pertaining to the proposals and suggestions for the upcoming Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TYP) for New Hampshire, spanning from 2025 to 2034. The next hearing is scheduled for September 13th at the Kingston Town Hall. There are several dates throughout October, including a hearing in Greenland on October 19th at 7:00 p.m., which the Selectmen agreed to make every effort to attend.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Recreation Director Dyana Martin sent an email to the Select Board about her idea of hosting an end of summer picnic for Town of Rye employees. The date proposed is September 19th with a rain date of September 21st. The picnic will be held outdoors at the recreation area for two hours at lunchtime, so employees are able to come and go during their break.
The Select Board agreed to support the idea, as it would be a nice event for the staff.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Parsons Creek

Chair King reported that data on the last of the scheduled tests on the Parsons Creek Watershed were received from FB Environmental. The test is dated August 31st. He continued that the data

is disappointing, as the results are quite high. The concentrations of bacteria were 805 parts, where the limit is 104. It's noted that the tests were taken after a storm where there was an inch of rain. FB Environmental was waiting for this type of storm before testing because they had already done dry testing and a wet test was needed. As a result of the testing, FB Environmental's recommendation is to leave the warning signs posted on the lower part of Wallis Road, where the culvert is located, and also near the bridge.

Selectman McGrath noted that he had an opportunity to meet with Peter and Joanne Drinkwater, who live on Concord Point Road. At a previous meeting, Mr. Drinkwater brought up a story from the 70's about the Army Corps of Engineers dredging out Parsons Creek. Selectman McGrath pointed out that Mr. Drinkwater has an old newspaper article explaining what happened. He was able to transcribe it into a letter format.

Selectman McGrath continued that he and the Drinkwaters were able to spend time walking the area. One thing that was noticed is that the sign to warn about the creek is not on the beach.

DPW Director Rucker noted that oftentimes, the sign at the beach is removed or displaced by tides and the ocean. He further noted that a work order was generated specifically to reinstate that sign, as soon as the results were received from the recent tests.

Selectman McGrath asked if something more permanent could be done. He pointed out that the Drinkwaters showed him a video of children swimming in that area.

Chair King commented that the Town is making signage for Parsons Creek. The beach is DES testing and part of the State's responsibility. Obviously, when the water comes out of Parsons Creek it mixes with the ocean. His question to Director Rucker and FB Environmental is whether there is an area where the water mixes together that should be posted to make people aware. However, it's not really the Town's purview to put a sign in the sand because that's part of the beach in front of the house. Not everyone wants a sign in front of their house saying the water is polluted. There is also the aspect that Director Rucker was talking about that nothing can really be put in the sand that isn't going to get washed away, depending upon the storms and tides. Chair King commented that the Town does not have the right answer to this; however, they are looking for the answer and that's why the Board is open and receptive to input. The position right now is to mark the creek saying please don't swim in the creek, but the Board doesn't want to mark the ocean saying it's not safe to use because there is no proof.

Peter Drinkwater, Concord Point, asked about the public health position on the intake of water for use where there is public consumption of food.

Chair King noted that the Public Health Officer for Rye does not oversee restaurants, as that's done by the State.

Mr. Drinkwater commented that if there is an intake of water for a restaurant coming out of the creek and there is testing through DES that says it's not suitable for people to swim in, how can it be suitable for food consumption items to be in it, unless there is some sort of treatment being done between the intake and the process of food being stored? What's the common-sense

answer? At a minimum, it would seem that there has to be a way to get cleaner water for everybody at that creek. What is the method by which that can be accomplished? Mr. Drinkwater referred to the article regarding the Army Corps of Engineers and the dredging of the creek. He noted that fifty years later, the Town is still talking about “Stinky Creek” and people are worried even more than they were back then because there’s more information now about harmful bacteria.

Mr. Drinkwater continued that he contacted the Army Corps of Engineers and asked them about Rye and other projects. They did a reclamation program in a marsh behind Rye Harbor. The mosquito larvae dropped. They did the same dredging and cleanup in much the same way that the Parsons Creek project envisioned in the 70’s, which was to get rid of obstructions in the creek and go in with a small dredging barge to clear the channel, and some of the arteries that go into the back marsh areas. In doing so, the water flow (tide) from the ocean is improved, which would take the mosquito larvae out. At the same time, it gets rid of all the old, black muck that is in the bottom of the creek. He commented that it would help if it was cleaned and opened up so the water can get in and out. He thinks the result would be lower bacteria and improvement in the health of the watershed. He pointed out that this would not change or remove anything that is currently being done. The stormwater runoff still needs to be taken care of, and the septic pumping issues still need to be addressed. He requests that the current plan be amended to get back to where it was in the 70’s and reopen the concept of very strategic dredging and cleanup.

Mr. Drinkwater stated that in looking at the whole grant process, the first stage is the feasibility study, the second is seeking federal funding, and the third is the project itself. With this being federal waterways, these steps seem to be the only pathway forward to cleanup and dredge, as another option. He pointed out there’s already a plan going forward with the environmental engineering group about the Parsons Creek Watershed. If this is added as a third leg on the stool, they can add it as an item to look at for feasibility.

Selectman McGrath noted that the septic regulation is a huge project that has been successful and continues to be. One of the things Planning Administrator Kim Reed said is that they haven’t found the “smoking gun.” He thinks it may be a puzzle with many pieces instead. This may be a piece, along with looking at the storm drains, outflow areas, and possibly capping those. The ACO could also come in to talk about vacating the wildlife from the drainage systems with care, so the wildlife is not injured.

Selectman Epperson asked what happened with the Army Corps of Engineer plan from the 70’s.

Mr. Drinkwater replied that it seems that in the 70’s, there became a paranoia about oil, Onasis, issues related to the Army Corps, and building a pipe line with Parsons Creek becoming a likely candidate. Dredging and any cleanup became connected to that rumor, so people backed away from the whole project.

Chair King pointed out that the Awcomin’ Marsh was restored in the late 90’s early 2000’s. Those are federal waterways, so it was done with the Army Corps of Engineers and DES. The Town was involved through the Conservation Commission because that’s their purview also. Once that was cleaned up, it made a big difference in that area. The same process is going to be

done for Fairhill Marsh next year. This has been many years in the making of going through the whole process. The Town is not providing funding. These are multi-year and multi-million-dollar projects beyond the Town's ability to actually do, but not beyond the Town's ability to encourage and support where possible.

Mr. Drinkwater stated that Dr. Greg Moore, with the UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, explained that the phases have to be followed and it matters what the Town's official position is in moving ahead. If the Town wants to get this going, it has to start with feasibility and then UNH can be contacted, along with DES. A collaborative approach will be taken to build a plan according to the intended outcome, scoping it to something manageable. Once the feasibility is in place with the right motivation, the state and feds will then take an interest, especially if it has merit. As a federal waterway, this would qualify as something of interest, especially if it's in an area where it's used as a swimming hole, and restaurants are drawing water. This might rise to the level of actually getting some qualifying money, as long as it doesn't get out of control in scoping and gets kept manageable to the budgets. He asked if the Board would consider passing a motion to become engaged or to initiate the feasibility phase.

Chair King commented that he thinks the Select Board can explore how to move forward, as they don't really know exactly where to start. The Select Board confirmed that they are willing to work with the Drinkwaters towards their goal.

B. TAP Grant Committee Update

Chair King reported that the TAP Grant Committee conducted the pre-interviews with the three engineering firms who are interested in bidding on the TAP project. The whole TAP Grant process is kind of new. Also, Rye is the only town who has done this through a committee, instead of having the DPW Director or someone else on staff do the work. So, there have been some issues and Town Administrator Scruton has been working with the State to keep everything coordinated. He continued that the final interviews will be taking place in about a month and a final engineering firm will then be selected.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting, Monday, August 14, 2023, 5:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall

The following correction was noted:

- Page 7, 4th paragraph from bottom should read: **RWD Superintendent's Jones noted that the Water District's third quarter samples mimicked CMA's sampling timeframe.**
- Page 8, 7th paragraph should read: **Chair King pointed out that a new well would not solve the PFAS problem. It might temporarily help.**
- Page 12, last paragraph, 6th sentence should read: **The other thing that Mr. White had mentioned is that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is going to lease these sites and they don't have to be limited to the number of turbines in each area.**

Motion by Tom King to approve the August 14, 2023 as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

2. Non-Public Session, Monday, August 14, 2023 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring
 - A correction was made to the wording regarding the finalists being brought in for interviews.

Motion by Tom King to approve the non-public minutes of August 14, 2023 per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring, 5:33 p.m., as amended. Seconded by Bob McGrath. All in favor.

3. Non-Public Session, Monday, August 14, 2023 (2) per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation

Motion by Tom King to approve the non-public minutes of August 14, 2023 per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation, 5:54 p.m., as written. Seconded by Bob McGrath. All in favor.

4. Non-Public Session, Monday, August 14, 2023 (3) per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring

Motion by Tom King to approve the non-public minutes of August 14, 2023 per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring, 6:04 p.m., as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Tom King to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

Request the Rye Board of Selectmen initiate a Consultant Study to look at the feasibility of removing old barge/ship hull materials obstructing water flow in Parsons Creek and completing a limited dredging project to increase the volume of ocean water flowing in and out of Parsons Creek and the upper saltmarsh channels to improve water quality by removing sediment and mud contaminated with old decayed, organic materials, allowing improved flushing of the marsh and creek with each tide, helping rid the back water areas of mosquito larva, smell, bacteria problems there by improving water quality of the entire Parsons Creek watershed area.

This appears to be a 3 Phase Issue:

Phase 1 - Feasibility & collaboration with people like Dr. David Burdock and Dr. Gregg More both UNH Professors who both work actively and are involved in New England Costal Habitat Clean-up and Restoration; NH DES Kevin Lucey and Eben Lewis who handle Costal Permitting, the Army Corps of Engineers for costal creek dredging best practices and techniques, etc...along with others the Rye environmental consultant might suggest.

Phase 2 - seeking federal & state funding assistance based on feasibility determination from phase 1 for full technical studies, design and permitting to clean up Parsons Creek a federal waterway

Phase 3 - seeking federal & state funding to do the actual project as designed and permitted in phase 2

None of this would replace the current plans to address storm water runoff and waste infiltration issues but would compliment those initiatives and may help effectively resolve them.

Parson's Creek dredging okayed

parts of the existing channel which officials say meandered during the past few decades.

The rest will go to the town landfill. Lisa Jones, environmental engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers, said examination of the creek showed there weren't any separate wastes there.

Jones said it takes an exceptionally high tide to wash out the pools upstream.

Dredging the little puddles into a single channel, she said, "should alleviate the smell."

The Corps attached a condition to the permit requiring that saltmarsh vegetation not be disturbed and no dredged material be put where it will impact on the marsh area.

The permit is good for three years. Jones said the town also has approval from the State Wetlands Board but still needs approval from the state Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission.

One for \$499 will purchase

removal of a sunken barge that blocks tidal flow there.

One result is that algae die and decay causing the odor that gives the stream its local name of "Stinky Creek."

In addition, the state plans to rebuild the Parson's Creek Bridge.

The State Department of Public Works and Highways will hold a public hearing on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall to explain the project and the reconstruction of White's Bridge.

The town plans to dredge 780 cubic yards of sand and remove the wreck to create a single channel that will deepen the channel to five feet wide, it to 20 feet and straighten the channel for about 750 feet along the existing course of the creek.

Some of the sand will be used to fill

by LANE ANDREWS Staff Writer

The Army Corps of Engineers has granted permission for the dredging of Parson's Creek. The dredging project will not be

only

IMPORTANT

This is NOT a circular.

Portsmouth Herald 1970's

By JANE ANDREWS Staff Writer

RYE: The Army Corps of Engineers has granted a permit for all the dredging of Parson's Creek, selectmen announced last night. The dredging project will include removal of a sunken barge that blocks tidal flow there.

One result is that algae die and decay, causing the odor that gives the stream its local name of "Stinky Creek."

In addition, the state plans to rebuild the Parson's Creek Bridge. The State Department of Public Works and Highways will hold a public hearing on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall to explain that project and the reconstruction of White's Bridge.

The town plans to dredge 780 cubic yards of sand and remove the wreck to create a single channel that will deepen the channel to five feet, widen it to 20 feet and straighten the channel for about 750 feet along the existing course of the creek.

Some of the sand will be used to fill parts of the existing channel which officials say meandered during the past few decades. The rest will go to the town landfill. Lisa Jones, environmental engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers, said examination of the creek showed there weren't any septic wastes there. Jones said it takes an exceptionally high tide to wash out the pools upstream. Dredging the little puddles into a single channel, she said, "should alleviate the smell."

The Corps attached a condition to the permit requiring that salt marsh vegetation not be disturbed and no dredged material be put where it will impact on the marsh area.

The permit is good for three years. Jones said the town also has approval from the state Wetlands Board but still needs approval from the state Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission.