

**TOWN OF RYE SELECT BOARD
MEETING**

**Monday, January 08, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall & Via Zoom**

Select Board Present: Chair Tom King, Vice-Chair Bill Epperson, and Selectman Bob McGrath

Others Present: Asst. Town Administrator/Finance Director Becky Bergeron.

5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair King called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

6:30 p.m. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

Chair King reconvened the Public Meeting at 6:51 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. The Town Offices will be closed Monday, January 15, 2024 for MLK – Civil Rights Day

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

- **Michael Bean, 112 Grove Road,** noted that he had submitted a 91-A Right to Know form regarding the source of the funds and the authorization of the expenditure of the \$120,000 the Malpass issue with DES and the wetlands. He was advised that he would not get a response to the 91-A request until February 29th. He updated his request by asking that no town counsel review is utilized in fulfilling the request of the 91-A. He pointed out that the request was just administrative and no legal review should be required. He does not want to have to pay for any legal fees.
- **Joann Hodgdon, 63 Cable Road,** read a statement regarding the growing criticism on social media regarding the efforts of the volunteer members of the boards, commissions, and

committees of the Town of Rye. She ended by quoting another resident of the town;
*“Thinking it’s best to always work together, rather than criticizing the efforts being made, we all do our best. I look forward to seeing your names running for one of our town boards. Ask yourselves, What would become of the town if those that serve, step down?
There is always someone to tell you that you have a problem. But how often does anyone say they have a solution? Instead of complaining, step up and make a difference.
Social Media complaining is ineffective and impacts nothing.”*

- **Steven Borne, Rye Civic League**, announced that the Civic League is planning to have the Civic Fest, and the date/time will soon be determined. Also, they plan to have the Civic League warrant article and budget presentation on February 1st. Candidates’ night will be March 7th. He spoke about errors in the annual report regarding the employee list. He pointed out that there should be an asterisk * by the name of an employee that has benefits. He said that has been overlooked in prior years. He wants to make sure that this year is accurate, in order to show how the head count has increased over the years. He asked that the petitioned warrant articles be given to him as soon as they are received.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Mileage Reimbursement Rate Change:** The IRS announced effective January 1, 2024 the standard mileage rate for transportation was set @ 67 cents per mile.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the 2024 standard mileage rate of amount of 67 cents per mile, which is an increase of 1.5 cents. Seconded by Bob McGrath. All in favor.

- B. Accounting Policy – Return Check Procedure Section 5. § 5.2**

The Select Board reviewed Section 5 of the Accounting Policy.

Motion by Tom King to amend the General Accounting Policies and Procedures, dated March 16, 2017, Section 5, in its entirety as read by the Select Board. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Email rec’d from Bettina Caminati re: Her concerns about Route 1-A**

Ms. Caminati expressed her concerns that there is no crosswalk or anything to protect pedestrians in the area on Route 1A between Wallis Road and Petey’s Restaurant. She had talked to Chief Walsh. He suggested that there may be plans in place for a blinking light.

Chief Walsh commented that there is a proposed development at the Planning Board, at this time. They are trying to loop in some measures into that development to enhance that intersection. He added that he

has been trying to get the State to repaint the current crosswalk. The Town has been placing a crosswalk sign in the middle of the road; However, Route 1A is a state road and it's their responsibility to do the maintenance.

Selectman McGrath pointed out that Representative Jaci Grote promised to bring the matter to State level.

After a lengthy discussion, the Select Board agreed to commit to renewing their efforts and increase the pressure on the State, as this issue has been ongoing for over a year.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Selectman McGrath thanked DPW Director Jason Rucker for the outstanding job his department had done on the roads in Rye during the recent storm.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting, Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 8:15a.m., Rye Town Hall

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 2; Softball Field ~~Renovation~~: It should be noted that the softball field is not a renovation because there is currently no softball field. The word "renovation" should be removed from two places in the minutes.
- Page 3; This request covers the full design of the recreation area, which would be needed to submit for construction bids. It should be noted that this design only covers the recreation office space and the bathrooms.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the meeting minutes of Tuesday, November 7, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Bob McGrath. All in favor.

2. Meeting, Thursday, November 9, 2023, 8:30 a.m., Rye Town Hall

Motion by Tom King to accept the meeting minutes of Thursday, November 9, 2023, as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

3. Meeting, Monday, November 27, 2023, 5:30 a.m., Rye Town Hall

The following correction was noted:

- Page 8; It should read: Chair King noted that there have been some issues with the TAP Grant Committee interviewing the engineering firms because it all has to be done in public, as it's a committee.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the meeting minutes of Monday, November 27, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Tom King. All in favor.

4. Non-Public Session, Monday, November 27, 2023 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (I) Legal Advice

Motion by Tom King to accept the Non-Public Session minutes of Monday, November 27, 2023, as written. Seconded by Bob McGrath. All in favor.

5. Non-Public Session, Monday, November 27, 2023 - Dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or discipline of such employee.

Motion by Tom King to accept the Non-Public Session minutes of Monday, November 27, 2023, as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

6. Meeting, Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 5:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall

The following correction was noted:

- There are two Article D. The first Article D in the amount of \$25,000 should be struck out.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the meeting minutes of Tuesday, December 5, 2023, as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

7. Meeting, Friday, December 15, 2023, 9:00 a.m., Rye Town Hall

Motion by Tom King to accept the meeting minutes of Friday, December 15, 2023, as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Epperson to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Seconded by Bob McGrath. All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted, Dyana F. Ledger