

**TOWN OF RYE – SELECT BOARD
MEETING, January 10, 2022
6:30 PM
Rye Town Hall & Zoom**

Present: *Chair Bill Epperson, Vice-Chair Phil Winslow, Tom King by Zoom*

Others Present: *Town Administrator Rebecca Bergeron*

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Epperson called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. The Town Offices will be closed Monday, January 17, 2021 for MLK – Civil Rights Day

B. Chair Epperson gave an update of the Covid status.

C. Next Vaccination Clinic will be held on:

Sunday, January 23, 2022

11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Rye Public Safety Building

- Free of charge
- Walk in - no appointment is necessary
- Vaccines for 5-11 years of age will be available.
- All three vaccines will be available.
- Covid-19 vaccine booster shots will be available.
- For those who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.
- For more information call the Rye Fire Dept. 603-964-6411

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.)

- **Steve Borne, 431 Wallis Road**, spoke about two letters that he has written to the Planning Board and the Select Board. He is hoping to discuss these further during the ‘Correspondence’ section of the meeting.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – (to be discussed at the meeting only if pulled off the consent agenda by one of the three Selectmen.)

- Mileage Reimbursement Rate Change: The IRS announced effective January 1, 2022 the standard mileage rate for transportation expenses was set @ .58.5 cents per mile.
- Letter rec'd from Tim Garrity re: his retirement from the Rye Police Department

Chair Epperson asked to pull Consent Agenda Item B.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept Consent Agenda Item A as written. Second by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

Chair Epperson stated that the retirement of Tim Garrity will be a great loss to the town. Officer Garrity has been with the town for many years. He wished Officer Garrity the best.

Chief Walsh thanked Officer Garrity and his wife for their many years of service to the Town.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept Tim Garrity's retirement with regret. Second by Phil Winslow. All in favor

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. PUBLIC HEARING: DISCRETIONARY PRESERVATION EASEMENT FEES**
The purpose of the hearing is to hear public input regarding proposed new Discretionary Preservation Easement fees. The rates proposed are: \$150.00 application fee, \$20.00 Rockingham County Registry recording fee and \$8.00 per abutter fee for certified letter notification.

These fees are based on similar fees from the Planning Board and the ZBA. These fees are a one-time event upon application and are not recurring. The \$150.00 application fee covers the cost of placing legal notices in the paper, as well as the cost of staff administration.

Chair Epperson opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. There being not public comments he closed the hearing.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the proposed Discretionary Preservation Easement Fees as presented. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

- B. State Representative Jaci Grote – Seacoast Safe Drinking Water Commission and ARPA Funds.**

Representative Grote reported:

- House Bill 607 – School Voucher Bill
 - Was tabled by the chair of the committee;

- The vote was a majority vote;
- The Bill is now on the table;
- In order for it to be removed from the table there has to be a majority vote; from those members present until 1/24/22;
- After January 24th there has to be a 2/3 vote in order to take it off the table.

Representative Grote gave a general update to the Board regarding the Seacoast Safe Drinking Water Commission and ARPA Funds.

- Last year the Commission focused on reviewing the existing water systems in each of the Seacoast Towns.
- Representatives from each town presented the Commission with information regarding.
 - Public Water Systems
 - The areas they covered; and
 - The percentage of the town they covered.
 - Private wells
 - The percentage of the town with private wells.

All this information is on the State website of the Drinking Water Commission.

Aquarion Water will be doing their presentation for the Commission on Friday, January 14th, which will be the final presentation.

Representative Grote plans on compiling all this information into one cohesive presentation and taking it to each of the Select Boards.

Items of interest will be:

- How the systems work
- What systems are inter-related
- What are the areas of constraints, concern, and challenges
- How each town fits into the big picture

The Commission wrote to the Drinking Water Trust Fund and recommended to them that they offer test kits and pitch filters to those individuals that have high manganese. This would be strictly a voluntary program. The Trust Fund has approved this request. A link for this will be placed on the Town website. It was suggested to ask Rye Water District to do the same.

At the last meeting of the Commission, Brendan Kerns from the DES did a presentation on the aqua funds. It is not an easy process to apply for these funds. The State of New Hampshire has \$150 million for drinking water, waste water and storm water resiliency.

- 75 million for drinking water
- 6 million for flood risks
- 7.5 million for planning
- 26.5 million for disadvantage communities
- 10 million for sustainability
- 25 million for PFAS

Representative Grote reported that she, the Rye Water District and Wright-Pierce are planning to have a meeting to see how and if these funds could help with the proposed water treatment plant.

Representative Grote also mentioned other money the State has available for grants for the purpose of water system sustainability, drinking water, and cyber security.

D. Jenness Beach Drainage Study Results

Public Works Director Jason Rucker and the Select Board discussed the Jenness Beach Drainage Study Results from CMA Engineering. The report included some recommendations of things that could possibly be done, but there was no defined answer for a solution to the problem. The best solution would be for the State to fix the drainage along Route 1, by replacing the driveway culverts and removing the obstructions in the salt marsh. However, removing the obstruction from the salt marsh will influence how the king tides affect the area. The salt marsh clearing will give better drainage during rain, but during king tides there will be more flooding. In any event, the report recommends that the Town should not carry out any of the recommendations until the State completes their work, which is slated for this year. Mr. Rucker recommended that the Board try to get the information from the report out to the residents in the area. He also recommended waiting for the State to finish their project and then reevaluate the situation.

It was decided to post the report on the Town's website.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE - None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Winslow asked the Fire Chief and Police Chief for recommendations regarding safety at the deliberative session with Covid protocol.

Chief Walsh reported that the Chiefs will be meeting with Moderator Bob Eaton tomorrow at 1:30 regarding this matter.

This matter will be taken up at the next Select Board meeting on the 24th.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Selectman King requested that the Finance Office put together the information needed for the committee that will be reviewing the regional associations.

Town Administrator Bergeron suggested that scanning the information would be more efficient.

Vice-Chair Winslow pointed out that the interested individuals need to submit letters of interest to the Select Board in order to be on the Committee.

Selectman King will get the word out to the individuals.

Selectman King asked DPW Director Rucker if he have a chance to look into the cost to having year-round trash barrels at the trailhead and the beach access areas.

Director Rucker stated that he had and it will be about \$1,000 for the three places they discussed. The cost is due to the self-closing water-proof lids. The other alternative is to repurpose old 55-gallon drums at no cost.

After further discussion, the Select Board asked Director Rucker to look into receptacles specific for dog waste.

X. SELECTMEN'S 2022 BUDGET WORK SESSION

A. Warrant Articles

Administrator Bergeron explained that the Board should vote on two warrant articles for the operating and the default budget, because they do not know how the Budget Committee will be voting on Thursday. This way they can apply whichever applies. One of the articles includes the \$4,800 heritage matching grant funds, the other does not.

- 1. Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling eleven million one hundred twenty-two thousand seven hundred ninety-three dollars (\$11,122,793)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be ten million six hundred eighty-five thousand eight hundred fifty-one dollars (\$10,685,851) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required.)**

Motion by Phil Winslow to recommend the article as presented and to move it to the warrant. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

- 2. Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling eleven million one hundred seventeen thousand nine hundred ninety-three dollars (\$11,117,993)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be ten million six hundred eighty-five thousand eight hundred fifty-one dollars (\$10,685,851) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required.)**

**Motion by Bill Epperson to recommend the article as presented and to move it to the warrant.
Seconded by Tom King. All in Favor.**

- 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the expendable general trust fund known as the Town Employees' Accumulated Leave Fund, established pursuant to RSA 31:19-a by Article 14 of the 1990 Rye Town Meeting for the purpose of funding Town Employees' accumulated leave accounts. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)**

Administrator Bergeron explained that there is currently a balance in the fund of \$245,290. The total liability to the Town is \$667,092. The recommended 50% will be \$338,546.

**Motion by Phil Winslow to recommend the article as presented and to move it to the warrant.
Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.**

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Fire Chief Cotreau confirmed that a second booster shot is not part of the vaccine clinic protocol.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion By Phil Winslow to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Seconded by Bill Epperson.
All in Favor.**

*Respectfully Submitted
Dyana F. Ledger*

January 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall

The purpose of the hearing is to hear public input regarding proposed new Discretionary Preservation Easement fees. The rates proposed are: \$150.00 application fee, \$20.00 Rockingham County Registry recording fee and \$8.00 per abutter fee for certified letter notification.

Signature

Jim Gratz 124 Washington Rd Jim Gratz
Kevin Walsh 555 Washington Rd Kevin Walsh
Jason Rucker Grove Rd
Mark Cotreau 555 Washington Rd
John Pearson }
John Tuttle } via noon
Steven Borre }