

**TOWN OF RYE – SELECT BOARD
MEETING
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
5:30 PM
Rye Town Hall & Zoom**

Select Board Present: *Chair Bill Epperson, Vice-Chair Phil Winslow, Selectman Tom King*

Others: *Town Administrator Rebecca Bergeron, Water District Superintendent Arik Jones, Water District Commissioners Ralph Hickson and Art Ditto, Planning Board Administrator Kim Reed*

5:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Epperson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

II. SELECTMEN WORK SESSION

A. Water & Wastewater along the Route 1 corridor

Chair Epperson asked Superintendent Jones to talk about the availability of water in June, July and August, along with the affect that irrigation systems have on the water supply.

Superintendent Jones pointed out that during this time of year, there is usage of 250,000 to 300,000 gallons a day (7 to 8 months out of the year). During June, July and August, the usage can be upwards to over 1,000,000 gallons a day. Rye Water can support that volume of water, but it puts a severe demand on the system. He estimated that 500,000 to 600,000 gallons a day is going out to irrigation. The only golf course that Rye Water supplies is Wentworth, which comes from Portsmouth water. He does not know how many private irrigation systems there are in the Town.

There was discussion regarding mandatory and voluntary restrictions on water usage. Superintendent Jones stated that a municipality cannot implement mandatory restrictions on water usage without the State issuing a drought condition. However, the Water District can set restrictions based on whatever they deem fit for emergency conditions.

There was a question-and-answer session that followed: (Superintendent Jones answered the Select Board's questions, unless noted.)

Q: Could the Select Board and the Water District come up with a formula that says residents can water 3 days a week, odd/even, etc.?

A: That could be easily done.

Q. If the Town wanted restrictions in place, would the Water District back that decision?

A. Yes, if the Commissioners agreed.

Q. Is the concern of shortage for fire suppression in July and August because of the lack of available well supply? If there was a fourth well, would there be sufficient water supply, or is it a function of the distribution process at the district?

A. The district is designed to supply adequate fire suppression. The ISO ratings are based on the volume and pressure. Whether the system can provide enough water depends on a number of other conditions on any particular day. It depends on what time it is, number of users, weather, etc.

Q. Is it a function of the distribution availability at the source or the distribution pipes size that it just can't be provided?

A. It is a combination of source, pumping capabilities, safe yields, and not anything to do with the distribution piping and storage capacity.

Q. If there was a fourth well, would that be the solution?

A. It would depend on where it would be entering into the system. Superintendent Jones didn't feel that another source was the answer. It would create two different pressure zones. Then there would be a need to increase the pump capacity.

Q. What about having a well behind the Rand property or at West Road? Would that substantially increase the amount of flow?

A. It would depend on the ability to do a direct pump into the system.

Q. What would prevent a direct pump?

A. "Water quality". If the numbers exceed the State standards, it would require public notification.

Q. Ten years down the road; if the Town had a water treatment plant and one additional well (same capacity as the Garland well) would that be the solution going forward?

A. That would be a large step towards a solution. There would also be a need for additional storage capacity.

Q. With ninety new housing units going in on US Route 1, with the current existing well, distribution system and current storage tanks, can the Town provide them adequate water?

A. The Town can supply them daily water. The bigger issue is the fire suppression. Without restrictions put in place on the irrigation, the system will be compromised.

The Board asked Superintendent Jones to come up with a long-term plan and come back to the Board within six months. The plan should layout what conditions the Town will be looking at in five or ten years, water treatment plant allocation, and additional well possibilities. Based on these changes, how much more housing could the district support? This is important information for the Planning Board to know.

Q. There is an annual rate for water and then there is a charge for the overage amount. How many customers are charged for overage?

A. In 2021, 1,704 customers were below 50,000 gallons and used a total of 24,000,000 gallons. 870 customers were charged for overage. Total usage was 138,000,000 gallons. The interesting thing about 2021 is that there were no drought conditions, however there was an astronomical amount of water used.

Q. Would increasing the cost of the water in the overage units help curb the usage?

A. Generally, the customers in the overage categories, are not worried about the costs. Also, some of the properties in these categories are multi-units, nursing homes, and businesses, such as the golf course.

Chair Epperson pointed out that currently customers are paying \$133.00 for 50,000 gallons of water. If they raised it to \$150.00 - \$175.00 for 75,000 gallons, more customers would be in compliance. For the customers who use over the 75,000 gallons, the rates could be raised to an unbelievable amount. He suggested that if the Town drilled another well and produced a million gallons a day forever, these customers would use a million gallons a day forever.

Q. What are the rates above the 50,000 gallons, currently?

A. There are different rate tiers. There is a chart that the district will provide the Board.

It was suggested that if you want to change behavior, economics is the way to do it. This is a part of a multi-common strategy. The other pieces would be a storage tank or a pump or something else, while cutting demand by increasing pricing and putting restrictions on irrigation systems. Not any one of these is the way to go, the district would need some of each.

There are a couple of different consultants that do a great job at evaluating water rates for communities across the country. This may be a great opportunity to use an outside consultant to study Rye's rates and review its infrastructure. The goal would be conservation versus consumption and appropriate rate structure, while keeping it in balance with taxes. There was also a suggestion that if a homeowner is going to put in an irrigation system, they should be required to get a permit.

Q. Is there a way to put a sensor on an irrigation system so that it doesn't come on or run when it's raining? Could that be made part of the permitting process?

A. Kim Reed Planning Board Administrator: It could be made a condition of approval for a subdivision but not for an individual house. The Planning Board does not get involved in individual houses, only if it is a teardown and rebuild.

Commissioner Art Ditto: Several years ago, the district proposed an ordinance for irrigation systems. It failed because it would have been too hard to enforce, even though the Water District would have taken on the enforcement. The district had outlined the rules to follow, but there was conflicting discussion on managing the ordinance, so the idea was dropped.

Planning Administrator Kim Reed: The time to start zoning amendments is in the summer. She still has the draft ordinance from the district. She will pull the minutes and the draft ordinance and get it before the Rules and Reg Committee. They can work with the Rye Water District as to how the enforcement will look.

The DES is now taking a proactive approach in terms of landscaping regulations for municipalities. Which weighs heavily on irrigation. It is very precise in terms of detailed requirements for irrigation. This can be used in land development regulations, sites, subdivisions and change of use. But they must figure out how they can use it legally in an ordinance.

The Select Board and Water District will meet again in the near future on this matter.

Wastewater along Route 1

Chair Epperson gave a short background on the process of trying to bring sewer down Route 1 from Portsmouth. There was a warrant article that passed a few years ago to bring the sewer from the Portsmouth line to Washington Road. Rye tried to enter into a municipal agreement with Portsmouth, which didn't happen. There was a lot of private funding that was committed to this project. Maggie Hassan, Tom Sherman and Jaci Grote were all involved. Then Covid happened. Now with the Federal Infrastructure Bill of 1.5 billion, the Board has reached out to the town's representatives to see what has to be done to apply for some of that funding.

Sewer Director Lee Arthur: The larger issue is that Portsmouth has a capacity and line issue within their own infrastructure. It would require moving a pumping station and changing the distribution system at this end. It depends on how they prioritize. For Rye to send their sewer to Portsmouth, they must correct some issues in their system. The treatment plant does have the capacity to handle the extra. Rye can apply for the funding for the construction of the line, but Portsmouth will also have to correct their issue in order to accept the wastewater. Portsmouth's priority now is to expand their sewer system, but they are not correcting that issue.

There was discussion in regard to developing a TIFF district with cost recovery within five to ten years.

Chair Epperson suggested the next step would be to reapproach Portsmouth to get another opinion.

Ideally, more users would help to bring down the costs of the treatment plant, as Portsmouth's rates are extremely high. It could be a win-win if it's approached from that point. There are all kinds of things that can be put into an intermunicipal agreement, that could be beneficial to both parties.

6:30 P.M.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Town Offices will be closed Monday, February 21st for the Presidents' Day holiday
- B. Covid update:
 - Fifteen active cases in Rye
 - Three new cases
 - Vaccinated one dose is at 80.5%
 - Fully vaccinated 70.1%
 - Vaccinated one dose in the State 63.5%
 - Fully vaccinated in the State 56.6%
 - Next Vaccination Clinic, February 23rd. - Public Safety Building

Chair Epperson asked the Board to move discussion item G, Pease Air Cargo Facility, to Discussion Item B. The Board agreed.

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

- A. **Bill Riley of Pioneer Road:** Objected to the proposal of an air cargo facility going into Pease.

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

- A. Appointment: Heritage Commission – 1-year term ending 4/01/2023
 - 1. Karin Nelson: Appointment as an alternate – email rec'd 2/7/2022
 - 2. Recommendation letter rec'd 2/03/2022 from Phil Walsh, Chair
- B. Appointment: Heritage Commission – 3-year term ending 4/01/2025
 - 1. Tim Durkin: Appointment as an alternate – Letter rec'd 2/07/2022
 - 2. Recommendation letter rec'd 2/03/2022 from Phil Walsh, Chair
- C. Parsons Field Application – Rye Jr. High & Katy Sherman request to hold 8th grade graduation and post-graduation celebration, Tuesday, 6/14/22, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
- D. Event Application: Bill Epperson requests permission to hold a sign for candidacy at the Recycling Center on Saturdays, 2/26/22 & 3/5/22, 7:00 – 10:45 a.m.

- E. Event Application: Cathleen Hodson requests permission to hold a sign for candidacy at the Recycling Center on Tuesdays, 2/22/22 & 3/1/22 and Saturdays, 2/26/22 & 3/05/22, 7:00 AM – 3:45 p.m.
- F. Event Application: Susan Ross requests permission to hold a sign for candidacy at the Recycling Center on Saturdays, 2/26/22 & 3/5/22 7:30 AM – 3:45 p.m.
- G. Event Application: Karen Oliver request permission to hold a sign for candidacy at the Recycling Center on Tuesdays, 2/22/22 & 3/1/22 and Saturdays, 2/26/22 & 3/05/22, 7:00AM – 3:45 p.m.

Chair Epperson asked that Consent agenda items A, B, C, and D be pulled for discussion.

- Consent agenda item D.

Chair Epperson explained that he made an error in filling out his event application. The time that he will be at the recycling center will be from 7 am to 3:45 pm not 10:45.

- Consent agenda item A.

Karin Nelson: Appointment as an alternate to the Heritage Commission.

Ms. Nelson was not in attendance.

Motion by Bill Epperson to appoint Karin Nelson as an alternate to the Heritage Commission. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

- Consent agenda item B.

Tim Durkin: Appointment as an alternate to the Heritage Commission.

Mr. Durkin was not in attendance.

Motion by Bill Epperson to appoint Tim Durkin as an alternate to the Heritage Commission. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

- Consent agenda item C.

Parsons Field Application – Rye Jr. High & Katy Sherman request to hold 8th grade graduation and post-graduation celebration, Tuesday, 6/14/22, 5:30-9:30 PM.

Katy Sherman of 25 West Road addressed the Board: This is a local event with the 8th grade students and their families for their graduation ceremony and celebration. After talking to Police Chief Walsh, she suggested moving the ceremony to 5:00 p.m. and ending the event at 9:00 p.m.

Chief Walsh would prefer that the event is the same as last year, ending at 8:30, with clean up and everyone off the field by 9:00. He added that the plan last year was well executed, and the event was successful, with the exception of a thunderstorm. He feels that the school should make the call to have the event indoors if there is going to be bad weather. The lighting is the main issue with the pedestrians coming off the field and traffic.

After further discussion, the Board felt that it is an important event and worth making an exception for.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the event with the time change to end at 9:00 pm and cleanup and everyone off the field by 9:30 and to maximum lighting for safe exiting. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

Motion by Phil Winslow to waive the \$50.00 fee. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

Administrator Bergeron reminded the Board that last year, the Board voted to allow any resident that was running for town office to participate with polling time at the transfer station. She recommended that they move a similar motion this year to allow any resident running for a contested office to hold campaign signs at the transfer station on Tuesdays and Saturdays from now until March 5, 2022; provided that the candidates have provided an application with handouts, if applicable, to the Select Board Office prior to the date they wish to hold the sign. Handouts must be approved by the Select Board.

**Motion made by Phil Winslow as presented. Seconded by Tom King.
Vote: 2-0-1 Bill Epperson abstained. Motion Passed.**

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review of Mask Mandate in Town Buildings

Fire Chief Cotreau, Lt. Jake MacGlashing and Dr. Snow addressed the Board. Chief Cotreau pointed out that they are relying on the data that is being put out. As such, they are recommending that the Town start phasing in no mask needed, specifically for the police, fire and the DPW, just because those departments get less traffic.

Dr. Snow reported that hospitalization is declining. Benjamin Chan, NH State Epidemiologist, said that Covid is not going away, and people will have to learn how to live with it. The variants seem to be not as lethal as the delta. There is no uniformity of opinion regarding masking. She explained that what she is recommending is that the Board continue the mask mandate for the Town Hall and the election. The reason being the square footage of the Town Hall. If one employee gets sick, they would have to close the Town Hall. They believe there is probably going to be an uptick with the children, so the school is going to require the kids to wear the masks a while longer. She recommended that they reevaluate in two weeks.

Selectman King asked if they could establish a benchmark matrix of positivity rate that would guide the decision making regarding the mandatory mask requirements versus masks not needed.

Dr. Snow agreed that would be helpful and added that they anticipate an uptick right after the spring break vacations.

Motion by Phil Winslow to extend the mask mandate for the Town Hall and election for a period of two weeks, until the next Select Board meeting, and to follow the church requirements for

Recreation and to start the phase out for the Public Safety Building and the Public Works Department, and to notify the library. Seconded by Tom King. All in Favor

B. Pease Air Cargo Facility – Move from Discussion item G.

Selectman Winslow explained that the Board learned on the 21st of January, through an article in the Portsmouth Herald, that the Pease Development Authority is working with an outside contractor to fund an expansion of a 435,000 square foot facility to provide a cargo capability at Pease. This would increase air flights coming into Pease and tractor trailer trucks leaving the facility. This will have a significant impact on the quality of life for people living in the seacoast area. The Board's intention is to get feedback from the public. Also, the Board's intention is to reach out to other neighboring seacoast towns with the same concerns in order to marshal some direction and action to sway the PDA in their decision. This may be very difficult as it is an FAA requirement, and they will have their attorneys on staff. He opened to Jaci Grote, Rye's State Representative.

Ms. Grote stated that she was at the meeting representing herself as Rye's State Rep, as well as Senator Tom Sherman who was at a Select Board meeting in Newton. She assured the Board that they will give them whatever support is needed through information and cooperation. Senator Sherman said that he would work to put together a town coalition, in order to share this issue amongst the towns that will be affected by the cargo facility.

- **Keriann Roman of 33 Locke Road:** Expressed concerns regarding the proposal. There is not a lot of information online. She has done some research, and there are two facilities that are proposed. The size of the freight facilities being proposed are comparable to facilities in Anchorage, Indianapolis, Baltimore and Tampa. Pease can handle that volume because there is 40 acres and a very large runway to accommodate large cargo planes. There is a New York investor behind this project because it is going to be big money. There is zero benefit for Rye and all the other communities. Portsmouth and Newington might get some revenue from it, but it will be nowhere near what will be taken away. She asked the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to take an active role in working with the PDA, going to their meetings and asking questions so that at a minimum, the town will know what effects this is going to have on the communities and at best, oppose the project.

Selectman Winslow announced that there is going to be a meeting at the Pease Development Authority on the 17th of March at 8:30 a.m. at 55 Corporate Drive.

- **Steven King of 2020 Ocean Blvd.:** Echoed Ms. Roman's concerns. He stated that they live under the final approach course to the northwest runway at Pease. His main concern is the noise throughout the night. The other concern he has is the increased traffic, the degradation of the quality of life for the people who come in the summer for the beaches, and the increase in the icing operation and pollution. He stated that they are counting on the Select Board to protect the residents of Rye, in keeping the quality of life as it is and as it has been for a long time.

- **Julien Gewirtz of 161 Wallis Road:** Mr. Gewirtz has the same concerns as Ms. Roman and Mr. King. He stated that he supports the Select Board in engaging further in this issue, as it sounds like it is going to be incredibly significant.
- Other concerns from residents were:
 - The strain this proposal will be putting on the established health care, hospitality, and retail industries in the area.
 - The demand on the road infrastructure around Pease.
 - The impact on the value of homes in the area.
 - The strain on the workforce housing shortage and schools.
 - Air and water pollution.
 - Light and noise pollution.
 - The effect on the wildlife, the marshes, Great Bay, and the environment.

Selectman Epperson stated that the Select Board is not in favor of this project. However, just because people don't like it, is not a reason to oppose it. There must be facts and they must be explainable. They must be based on what is known to be true; noise, pollution and quality of life. The Select Board will do whatever they can to slow it down and ultimately stop it.

Selectman King stated that as a pilot, he has seen this from the operational side. He has flown into Baltimore, Indianapolis and other airports where they have these facilities. They are pretty impressive to see but are not appropriate for Portsmouth. The way it is lit up at night, it would be seen from overhead in Manchester. However, they have to be realistic about this. There are cargo flights already coming into Pease, even though there is no facility. This is not going to be an easy task. They are going to have to convince the PDA, the Governor's Council and the Governor, who has the power to sway the PDA, to not go forward with this proposal. This is something that needs to be looked at from the technical side, as well as the political side.

There was discussion on strategies that may help fight this proposal.

- **Keriann Roman of 33 Locke Road:** Given that there is already cargo coming into Pease, some may say that it's suited for a cargo facility. Looking at the PDA history they have never said that they proposed expanding cargo to this size. This is something that they have never fully vetted or considered. There should be pressure on the PDA to work with the communities. The Town should say let's stop this, this is not appropriate, it is way too big. Let's work together for something small and more appropriate, or maybe it's not appropriate.
- **Steven King of 2020 Ocean Blvd.:** It would be great if it could be stopped. However, limitations on the operations could certainly be drawn up, such as;
 - The times that the planes can come in
 - The number of operations during nighttime hours
 - Put curfews in place, where planes cannot leave after 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. can't land before 6:00 or 7:00 a.m.
 - Noise sensors around the airport area

The FAA should be doing a study on this project. The EPA should be doing an environmental study.

- **Linda Toumpas of 10 Bass Drive:** Asked the Board if it would be appropriated to have a table at the election with information so that the residents are made aware of what is going on.

Chair Epperson said that it was a great idea.

Representative Grote stated that she would work with Linda on putting it together.

- **Bill Riley:** This proposal has been going back and forth in the Letters to the Editor. What is disturbing is that there is a lot of talk about making this a big profit center. When it was an air base it was not a profit center. It was a service to the nation. The idea that it has to be a big profit center is wrong for this region. Profit centers are wonderful on Madison Avenue and Wall Street, but this is not about profit center. It is about quality of life. It says in the charter of our community that the residents value the semi-rural way of life.
- **Lori Carbajal of 18 Tower Ave.:** The State and Federal EPA has not been involved in this yet. Because of the Amazon warehouse, the City of San Bernardino is the home of over 75 large warehouses and is ranked as having the worst ozone pollution in the United States. Suffering from more than 100 bad air days a year.

Next Steps: The Board asked Administrator Bergeron to call neighboring towns to find out which ones have addressed the issue and what their position is on the proposal.

C. Recreation Director Position - Moved from Discussion item E.

Chair Epperson asked the new Recreation Director, Dyana Martin, to tell everyone a little about herself:

Ms. Martin thanked the Board for the opportunity to work for Rye. She is very passionate about parks and recreation. It is very important to a community and is what makes a community. She comes from Hampton where she worked in recreation for 25 years. She also worked for Kennebunk, Maine, and Eastman Recreation in Grantham. She is hoping to bring that experience to Rye and is looking forward to working with a new team. She looks forward to meeting all the people in the community.

The Board welcomed Dyana to Rye.

Motion by Tom King to appoint Dyana Martin as the Recreation Director. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

D. Regional Association Review Committee Member Appointments – Moved from Discussion item F.

Selectman King gave a short background on this topic. There are approximately twenty-one different regional organizations that the Town donates to every year. This year, the amount is \$56,000. The process is that a petitioned warrant article would go on the ballot. Once it is approved by the voters, the organization would go on the list, and stays on the list. As far as the Board knows, this process has never been reviewed. Some of the organizations have merged, and some have changed their mission. The Board is setting up a committee to review the organizations and the process. The committee will sunset July 1st. A report from the committee will be due to the Select Board prior to the next budget cycle.

The Board has received letters on interest from five volunteers; Linda Toumpas, Ronna Werner, Suzanne Barton, Valerie Fagin and Susan Ross. The Town Administrator will send the volunteers a copy of the charter. Selectman King will be the Select Board Rep on the committee; however, he will not have a vote.

Chief Walsh asked that the department heads also review the list, as some of the organizations are quite active in the Town.

The Board felt that was a reasonable request.

Motion by Bill Epperson to appoint the five volunteers to the Regional Association Review Committee. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

E. Tim Whitney, Project Engineer for GPI/Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. Discussion re: NHDOT's Rail Trail Project between Hampton and Portsmouth

Tim Whitney spoke to the Select Board via Zoom. Joining Mr. Whitney was Mike Dugas, State Highway Safety Engineer. He is also the project engineer for the State. Mr. Whitney gave the Board an update on the project using a PowerPoint presentation. The trail runs through five seacoast towns:

- Hampton
- North Hampton
- Greenland
- Rye
- Portsmouth

The southern limit is just north of Drakeside Road in Hampton. It runs 9.6 miles to Barberry Lane in Portsmouth.

The purpose of the project is to improve the condition of the existing railroad corridor to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians. It will ultimately become part of the East Coast Greenway, which runs from Maine to Key West Florida. There are two additional projects that will take the trail to the Massachusetts State Line. These are on the NH DOT's 10-year plan. One is scheduled for 2030 and the other is schedule for 2032. The trail will be a 12-foot-wide stone dust trail with 2-foot-wide grass shoulders on either side. The environmental concerns that will be addressed include:

- Soil Contamination
- Historic Resources
- Wetlands

The length of trail that runs through Rye is about 1/3 of a mile.

The project has been split into two projects. The Northern section is 7.9 miles, the southern is 1.7 miles. The project split point is at the Hampton/North Hampton Town Line, with the 1.7 miles all in Hampton. There is a lot more research and engineering that needs to be done in that area. The northern section can move a lot faster if the project is split. The municipalities will be tasked with the trail heads. The NH DOT will build the rail trail, but the owners will be the municipalities. The municipalities will be handling all the maintenance. The cost of the project is:

- Northern 7.9 miles \$5,100,000
- Southern 1.7 miles \$2,000,000

Estimated Project Schedule for the Northern 7.9 miles:

- Public Officials Meetings February 2022
- Preliminary Design Submission February 2022
- Public Informational Meetings Spring of 2022
- Final Design March – November 2022
- Construction 2023 – 2024

Estimated Project Schedule for Southern 1.6 miles:

- Public Officials Meeting January 31, 2022
- Preliminary Design Submission Summer 2022
- Public Hearing Fall 2022
- Final Design January – September 2023
- Construction 2024

The Board asked for clarification regarding trail heads.

Trail heads are the access points to and from the trail. There is typically a parking area. Scott Bogle is working with the communities to find the logical places for the trail heads. These are not part of the construction costs and will be the responsibility of the municipality. Rye will not have an access point. It will have to rely on Portsmouth and Greenland for access.

F. SB 249 – Prohibiting Planning and Zoning Ordinances that Prohibit Short-term Rentals

After a short discussion, the Select Board felt that this bill would take away their rights or local control to restrict, enforce or regulate any function (safety, noise, parking, etc.) associated short-term rentals in the Town. They feel that Senator Sherman should not support this bill. The Board strongly opposes this bill.

G. TAP Grant Next Steps

Selectman Winslow explained that the warrant article in the amount of \$1,070,000 that was passed last year, was to renovate the entire Center of Town. This year the State reviewed 26 applications and cut that in half. Out of the 13 that were approved for funding, Rye was number 11. The next steps would be to work with the NH DOT to decide when the Town should begin the process.

Chair Epperson pointed out that the Town has \$300,000 that was voted in two years ago. With the TAP Grant, there is a total of 1.1 million dollars. Now that the Town has the funds, the Town Center Committee should start looking at engineering firms.

Selectman King explained that the project is now in the State's 10-year plan. It must be approved by the Executive Council before the Town can actually spend any of the money. The first step is to hire a project manager. The Board agreed to use the State's project manager.

The Town Center Committee is a committee of the Select Board, so all decision making will have to come back to the Select Board for final approval.

The Select Board asked Administrator Bergeron to contact Tom Jamerson to find out the next steps would be.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE – None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS – None

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Beach Parking Permit Policy Review

Selectman King reported that he has talked to the Town Clerk's office, and they are happy with the policy so far, and are getting positive feedback from the residents.

The only issue is with leases. The form that is filled out for a beach permit has the name and signature of the owner of the property, so there is no need for the tenant to have to provide the physical lease.

Motion by Tom King to remove the physical lease requirement from the Beach Parking Permit Policy. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

B. Trash Cans at the Beach Access Points.

Chair Epperson stated that the Board allowed trash cans to be placed at the beach access points, as a trial, with the provision that people did not abuse it by placing their home trash in the barrels. He stated that they are being abused, so he recommends that the barrels be taken out tomorrow morning.

Selectman King disagreed because he felt that the barrels are solving the dog waste problem. He agreed that they are getting some trash, but the benefits are outweighing it. He pointed out that the Town has the barrels out during the summer. He asked why winter should be any different.

Everyone agreed that a barrel that has an enclosed lid, with a small hole or slot, would help prevent people from putting in their household trash.

PWD Rucker stated that his department would come up with a barrel solution.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting, Monday, November 29, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the meeting minutes of Monday, November 29, 2021, as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

2. Non-Public Session, Monday, November 29, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Non-Public Session minutes of Monday, November 29th per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) hiring as written and not to seal. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

3. Non-Public Session, Monday, November 29, 2021 (2) per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Non-Public Session minutes of Monday, November 29th per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) hiring as written and not to seal. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

4. Meeting, Monday, December 13, 2021, 6:00p.m. Rye Town Hall

Motion by to accept the Monday, December 13, 2021, meeting minutes, as written. Seconded by Tom King. All in Favor.

5. Non-Public Session, Monday, December 13, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the non-public session minutes of Monday, December 13, 2021, per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) reputation, as written and not to seal. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

6. Meeting, Monday, December 20, 2021, 1:00 p.m. Rye Town Hall

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the meeting minutes of Monday, December 20, 2021, as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

7. Non-Public Session, Monday, December 20, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (1) Legal

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the non-public session minutes of Monday, December 20, 2021, per RSA 91-A:3 II (1) legal, as written and not to seal. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

8. Non-Public Session, Monday, December 20, 2021 (2) per RSA 91-A:3 II (1) Legal

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the non-public session minutes of Monday, December 20, 2021, per RSA 91-A:3 II (1) reputation, as written and to seal. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

9. Non-Public Session, Monday, December 20, 2021 (3) per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the non-public session minutes of Monday, December 20, 2021, per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) personnel, as written and not to seal. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

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

The follow was noted:

- Page 3, 5th paragraph should read: The Commission wrote to the Drinking Water Trust Fund and recommended to them that they offer test kits and pitcher filters to those individuals that have high manganese.
- Page 3, 6th paragraph should read:
 - \$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

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the meeting minutes of Monday January 10, 2021, as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

11. Meeting, Saturday, February 5, 2022, 9:00 a.m., Rye Jr. High School

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the meeting minutes of Saturday, February 5, 2021, as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Phil Winslow to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. Seconded by Tom King All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger