

# TOWN OF WEBSTER

## SELECT BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES MONDAY MARCH 4, 2024

The Select Board held a meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024. The meeting was held at 945 Battle Street, Webster, NH 03303

**Select Board Members present:** David Hemenway, Marlo Herrick, Normandie Blake.

**Also present:** Town Administrator Dana Hadley, Police Chief Stephen Adams, Fire Chief/Road Agent Emmett Bean, Land Use Coordinator Russell Tatro, Tara Gunnigle, Cheri Lux, and Kim Fortune.

Chairperson Hemenway opened the meeting at 6:36pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. He then took attendance, and all Board Members were present. He then announced that the Roads weigh limits had been posted. He also announced that the Inventory of Taxable Property Forms had been mailed and would be due on April 15, 2024. His final announcement was that the Town Reports were now available on the Town's Website and in the Town Office.

Chairperson Hemenway moved to the first item on the agenda, Department Heads.

Police Chief Adams went over the Police Departments projected remaining budget and informed the Board that February had been a quite month. He then went over the incident report from the previous month. He was also happy to inform that Board that the Department was currently in the process of hiring its first female officer.

Fire Chief/Road Agent Bean began his highway report by informing the Board that this year's mud season had been difficult so far due to the fluctuations in weather. He then thanked everyone for their continued patience and understanding regarding the Roads.

Fire Chief/Road Agent Bean began his Fire Department Report by going over the 40 calls the Department had received so far this year. He also informed the Board that the Department was gearing up for the upcoming Brush season. Administrator Hadley brought up the topic about hazardous trees on Manchester Drive and asked if the Board had considered removing them. The Board agreed that it made sense to remove them and asked Fire Chief/Road Agent bean to take care of it. Fire Chief/Road Agent Bean then concluded his report by informing the Board that the cold-water trailer had been purchased and would be ready to use soon. Chairperson Hemenway asked if there had been any new progress on the tanker truck. Fire Chief/Road Agent Bean responded that the chassis had been shipped and he would call the contractor for an update.

Chairperson Hemenway asked Administrator Hadley if they had heard anything new regarding the furnace replacement at Town Hall. Administrator Hadley responded that he was working on getting more quotes, but he didn't have anything new for the Board at the moment. The Board then discussed if they would need to amend the budget on the floor of Town Meeting to account for the expense of the new furnace.

Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item on the agenda, the Town Meeting Warrant Article presentation.

The Board went over the warrant articles and discussed who would speak on each one. Administrator Hadley stated that he would type up who would speak to each article and provide the list to Moderator Jette.

Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item on the agenda, Master Plan Recommendations.

1 Chairperson Hemenway informed the Board that he wanted to discuss the recommendations in the Master  
2 Plan's because he felt that the Board should review them every few years. Selectwoman Herrick asked for  
3 the reason he wanted to go over them. Chairperson Hemenway responded that he hoped it would help  
4 give the Board direction in the upcoming years on long term projects they should be working on. The  
5 Board then began reviewing the recommendations.

6  
7 Selectwoman Herrick commented that she wasn't sure about the recommendation to move the Salt Shed.  
8 She had discussed the topic with a member of the Planning Board, and they felt that the project would be  
9 costly and likely ruin another piece of land. Chairperson Hemenway responded that it wasn't just about  
10 moving the Salt Shed it was also about getting everything into one easy to access location. He added that  
11 the new building would be designed to properly contain the salt to prevent contamination.

12  
13 Upon hearing the recommendations for the Library, Kim Fortune commented that she was concerned  
14 about the Master Plans heavy emphasis on using the Library to increase the public activities offered to the  
15 residents of the Town. She hoped that the Board would use the Library for all of these efforts because  
16 some residents like her would be excluded. She felt this way because she had been denied a library card  
17 for years and she was never told the reason. The Board asked Administrator Hadley to investigate why  
18 Ms. Fortune had been denied a library card.

19  
20 Upon hearing the recommendations for the Historical Society, Kim Fortune asked why the Town had  
21 discontinued the Historical Committee. Chairperson Hemenway couldn't comment on the reason because  
22 it had happened long before he had been on the Board. The Board then asked Administrator Hadley to  
23 investigate the Historical Committee.

24  
25 Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item on the agenda, correspondence.

26  
27 Administrator Hadley informed the Board that he had been surprised to receive a letter from MT Trash  
28 informing the Board of the recent increase in tipping fees at the transfer station. Chairperson Hemenway  
29 pointed out that the fees should not have been increased because it had not yet been discussed and no  
30 public hearings had been held. He then asked Administrator Hadley to reach of to Hopkinton Town  
31 Administrator Neal Cass.

32  
33 Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item on the agenda, Public Comment.

34  
35 Tara Gunnigle asked about the request Sara Kimball and made for a sign in front of the Town Office.  
36 Chairperson Hemenway responded that the Town had purchased a digital sign for in-front of the safety  
37 building, and it hadn't been installed yet.

38  
39 Ms. Fortune commented that the Town should have a full forensic financial audit. Chairperson  
40 Hemenway responded that the cost for that would be substantial and would likely cost almost as much as  
41 the annual Town budget. He then asked Administrator Hadley if it would be possible for the Auditors to  
42 come to a future meeting to explain the services they provided. Administrator Hadley responded that he  
43 would ask them.

44  
45 **MOTION:** Chairperson Hemenway

46 *To approve the public minutes and non-public minutes from 2/20/24 as written.*

47 **SECOND:** Selectwoman Blake

48 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**

49 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**

50 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**

51 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**

1 **MOTION:** Chairperson Hemenway  
2 *To enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3i at 8:18pm*  
3 **SECOND:** Selectwoman Blake  
4 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**  
5 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**  
6 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**  
7 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**

8  
9 The Board exited non-public session at 8:34pm

10  
11 **MOTION:** Chairperson Hemenway  
12 *To enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3c at 8:34pm*  
13 **SECOND:** Selectwoman Blake  
14 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**  
15 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**  
16 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**  
17 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**

18  
19 The Board exited non-public session at 8:59pm

20  
21 **MOTION:** Chairperson Hemenway  
22 *To enter non-public session under RSA 91-A:3a at 8:59pm*  
23 **SECOND:** Selectwoman Blake  
24 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**  
25 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**  
26 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**  
27 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**

28  
29 The Board exited non-public session at 8:59pm

30  
31 **MOTION:** Chairperson Hemenway  
32 *To seal the non-public minutes of 3/4/24 sessions 1-3*  
33 **SECOND:** Selectwoman Herrick  
34 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**  
35 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**  
36 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**  
37 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**

38  
39 **MOTION:** Chairperson Hemenway  
40 *To adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm*  
41 **SECOND:** Selectwoman Herrick  
42 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**  
43 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**  
44 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**  
45 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**

46  
47 *Minutes taken by Russell Tatro.*