

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2009**

In attendance were Acting Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Lars W. Johnson; Member Margaret C. McGillivray; and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Acting Chairman Salvucci opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Acting Chairman Salvucci asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence. Miss McGillivray asked everyone to remember James “Snookie” Conway who passed away earlier today. Mr. Conway was once a member of the Board of D.P.W. Commissioners. Mr. Lynam asked everyone to remember Cornelius “Putsie” Paulding, who passed away last week. Mr. Paulding was a former Veterans’ Agent for the Town of Whitman. He also served as an Assessor.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to approve Bill and Payroll Warrants. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to accept Correspondence in the Read File. Second Mr. Johnson, so voted 4-0.

Acting Chairman Salvucci opened Public Forum and Fire Chief Timothy Grenno came forward to address the Board. Chief Grenno announced that Scott Figgins has been hired to fill a vacancy that will be created by the upcoming retirement of a lieutenant. Mr. Figgins was the top candidate on a list received from Civil Service, with the second candidate being Michael Salvucci. Chief Grenno stated that both Mr. Figgins and Mr. Salvucci are Whitman Call Firefighters. Mr. Figgins is 36 years old and has been a call firefighter since May 3, 1991. Chief Grenno added that Mr. Figgins is a basic EMT, he is currently attending Paramedic school and he will be attending the academy beginning on March 30, 2009 for thirteen weeks.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to approve the Executive Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

At 7:05 p.m. Acting Chairman Salvucci announced that the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health will now hold a joint meeting in order to fill an interim vacancy on the Board of Health until the Annual Town Election on May 16, 2009. Present for the Board of Health were Mr. John Duval, Chairman, and Ms. Ruth Burke, Clerk. Also in attendance was Mrs. Barbara White. Acting Chairman Salvucci asked for a nomination for Chairman of the joint meeting. Mr. Duval nominated Ms. Burke to serve as Chairperson of the joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 6-0. Mr. Salvucci noted that the applicant, Ms. Diane MacNeil, was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. However, the Board of Health is recommending that she be appointed to the position. Acting Chairman Salvucci went on to say that he would also like to give his recommendation to appoint Ms. MacNeil as he feels she would be a great asset to the Board of Health. Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to appoint Diane MacNeil to fill an interim vacancy on the Whitman Board of Health until the Annual Town Election on May 16, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson. At this time, Mr. Duval stepped up to the podium and announced that Ms. MacNeil will be replacing Mr. William Lemon, who served on the Board for 53 years. Mr. Duval added that Mr. Lemon was a great asset to the entire town and he is sorely missed. Mr. Duval went on to say that Ms. MacNeil has stated that it is her intention to give back to the town. Acting Chairman Salvucci called for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Duval – yes; Ms. Burke – yes; Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Johnson – yes; Miss McGillivray – yes; Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. So voted 6-0. Acting Chairman Salvucci extended his congratulations to Ms. MacNeil and thanked her for stepping forward.

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to approve the renewal of Taxi/Livery Licenses and Taxi/Livery Driver's Certificates for the period April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 subject to the receipt of license renewal fees and all necessary documents. Second Mr. Johnson, so voted 4-0.

Fire Chief Grenno returned to the podium for the next item on the agenda. Chief Grenno announced that approximately every two years, the rates for ambulance services are increased. He went on to say that the Fire Department is in the process of changing billing companies and he has received a list of current rates, which have been presented to the Board of Selectmen. The proposed increase in rates would take effect on May 1, 2009. Chief Grenno stated that he is asking the Board to approve the rate increases. Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to approve the request of Fire Chief Timothy Grenno to increase the rates for Ambulance service effective May 1, 2009. Second Mr. Johnson, so voted 4-0.

The next item on the agenda was the request of Christine A. Walker to be appointed as a member of the By-Law Study Committee through June 30, 2009. Mr. Lynam announced that a late letter of interest arrived in the Board of Selectmen's office. Mr. Lynam then asked that the Board table this item until the next meeting so that both applicants may be considered for the appointment. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to table the request of Christine A. Walker to be appointed as a member of the By-Law Study Committee through June 30, 2009, in order to fill a vacancy until the meeting scheduled for March 31, 2009. Second Mr. Johnson, so voted 4-0.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to approve the request of Michael Ganshirt on behalf of Dollars for Scholars of Whitman and Hanson to erect a fundraising thermometer on the Town Hall lawn for the month of April. Second Mr. Bezanson. Miss McGillivray, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, thanked Mr. Ganshirt for his tireless efforts and all that he has done with this organization. Acting Chairman Salvucci asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. So voted 4-0.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to approve the request of Michael Ganshirt on behalf of Dollars for Scholars of Whitman and Hanson to proclaim the month of April as *Dollars for Scholars Month*. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Acting Chairman Salvucci announced that the Tri-Town Lions Club will be sponsoring an Italian Night at the Knights of Columbus hall located on Route 18 in Whitman on Sunday, March 22, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with all proceeds being donated to the Whitman and Hanson food pantries.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to approve the request of Town Clerk Pamela Martin to reappoint Elaine M. Foster to the position of Registrar of Voters for a three-year term, through March 31, 2012. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

The next item on the agenda was to consider the revocation of the Class II Auto Dealer's License for Auto Crafting Unlimited (James E. DeCouto) on the premises located at 1215 Auburn Street (licensee has failed to provide the required surety bond as required by the M.G.L., Chapter 140, Section 58). Miss Linda Souza, Assistant Town Administrator, advised the Board that Mr. DeCouto has yet to obtain a surety bond, however, he has provided a letter from his insurance company stating that his application is being processed. Miss Souza added that Mr. DeCouto has turned in his license to the office of the Board of Selectmen, therefore she would like to request that the Board table this issue until their next meeting. Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to table the consideration of the revocation of the Class II Auto Dealer's License for Auto Crafting Unlimited (James E. DeCouto) on the premises located at 1215 Auburn Street until the meeting scheduled for March 31, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that the Veterans' Agent is requesting a transfer from the Reserve Fund in the amount of \$10,189.28 in order to pay for the month of April. Mr. Lynam went on to say that it is his intention to seek additional funding for the months of May and June at the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Lynam then asked the Board to endorse the request to the Finance Committee. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to endorse the request to

the Finance Committee of Veterans' Agent Gerald Eaton for a Reserve Fund transfer in the amount of \$10,189.28 to pay Veterans' benefits for the month of April. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Lynam announced that the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting was prepared at the end of February, however, there were some articles that were inadvertently omitted. The first is Article 27 which is to provide a vote to transfer from the Fine account to the All Other Services police line. Also omitted were Articles 47 and 48, which are at the end of the warrant. These are articles that were to be submitted by the Finance Committee to transfer to stabilization. Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to authorize the placement of Article 27, Article 47 and Article 48 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

Next, Mr. Lynam asked the Board to open the Special Town Meeting warrant and to close it on March 27, 2009. Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to open the Special Town Meeting warrant within the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 4, 2009, and to close same on March 27, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

The next item on the agenda was for Recreation Director Michelle Winnett to discuss proposed Policies and Procedures for the Whitman Recreation Commission. Mr. Lynam advised the Board that the work on this issue is underway. He has provided the Board with a second draft and he would ask that each member review it and provide any comments, recommendations or changes by March 20, 2009. Mr. Lynam went on to say that he will then meet with the Recreation Director on Monday, March 23, 2009, to finalize the final draft, which will be voted on at the next meeting. Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to table the discussion with Recreation Director Michelle Winnett regarding proposed Policies and Procedures for the Whitman Recreation Commission until the meeting scheduled for March 31, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.

The last item on the agenda was a report of the Building Projects Committee. Mr. Lynam stated the committee met last Thursday to discuss the O.P.M. that was selected. The Building Projects Committee will be meeting again on Thursday, March 19, 2009, where they will be meeting with the O.P.M. and the second candidate for O.P.M. Mr. Lynam added that he hopes to have a contract in place by March 31, 2009.

Acting Chairman Salvucci announced that he had the opportunity to attend the Taste of Whitman and Hanson, an event that was put on to raise money for Dollars for Scholars. Acting Chairman Salvucci noted that this was a fantastic event, he had a great time and he cannot wait until next year.

At 7:25 p.m. Miss McGillivray **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L., Chapter 39, Section 23B, (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and (6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, if such discussions may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body and a person, firm or corporation. Second Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed Miss McGillivray – yes; Mr. Johnson – yes; Mr. Bezanson – yes; Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. So voted 4-0. The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 4-0.