

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2009**

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

Chairman Kowalski asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the read file. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Chairman Kowalski opened public forum, and no one in attendance came forward to address the Board.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 4, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0-1 (Chairman Kowalski abstained).

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve Executive Session minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 4, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0-1 (Chairman Kowalski abstained).

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept with regret the resignation of Caryn MacDonald from the position of Full Member of the Recreation Commission. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of William E. Scharnick to be reappointed to the position of Constable for a three-year term, through June 30, 2012, subject to the receipt of a Public Officials' Bond. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept with regret the resignation of Dr. John McEwan from the position of Voting Member of the Building Projects Committee. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the appointment of Deputy Chief of Police Scott Benton as Ex-Officio Member of the Building Projects Committee. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to appoint Deputy Chief of Police Scott Benton to the position of Voting Member of the Building Projects Committee in order to fill the vacancy recently created by the resignation of Dr. John McEwan. Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the Junk Dealer's License for Whitman Flea Market (Jimmie Morgan) on the premises located at 356 South Avenue for the period May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010 (licensee failed to take appropriate steps to renew license, and landlord has advised licensee abandoned the premises several months ago). Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the Disclosures of Financial Interest by Municipal Employee and Determination by Appointing Authority as required by M.G.L., Chapter 268A, Section 19, in connection with the application Recreation Director Michelle Winnett received from her son, Alexander Winnett, for the seasonal position of Life Guard. Second Mr. Johnson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Commander Eugene W. Brundige on behalf of the Whitman V.F.W. Post No. 697, to hold a Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 25, 2009. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

The Board set their June meeting schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., and if necessary, Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:05 p.m. Chairman Kowalski opened a public hearing in connection with the petition of Regal Marketplace, Inc. (John Vemis) to alter the licensed premises located at 401 South Avenue in connection with the All Alcohol Package Goods Store Liquor License, as follows: to move the storage area from the first floor to the second floor of the building; with sales to remain on the first floor. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the petition. Second Mr. Bezanson. Following a brief discussion in which Mr. Vemis stated that the reason for the alteration to the premises is to remove the smaller coolers and add a larger cooler, which will make things more efficient, Chairman Kowalski called for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. So voted 5-0. Mr. Vemis thanked the Board as he took his leave at this time.

Next, discussion ensued with regard to the sale of the First Baptist Church. Chairman Kowalski announced that he was able to take part in a tour of the church on Friday of last week. At this time Chairman Kowalski turned the discussion over to Mr. Lynam, who stated that after touring the building, he feels this is something the Town should consider. The location of the building is ideal for Town use, and is in many ways historic and a show piece of our community center. Mr. Lynam went on to say that he has spoken to Council on Aging Director Patricia McCarthy regarding the practicality and suitability of using part of the building as a Council on Aging Center, as the space available within the First Baptist Church would be a very significant upgrade. Mr. Lynam also noted that the newer section of the church has three levels, where there is substantial space for meeting rooms or offices. It would not be difficult or expensive to equip the building with an elevator, which would most definitely be needed. At this time Mr. Lynam asked permission from the Board of Selectmen to look further at acquiring the First Baptist Church for the Town. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize the Town Administrator to engage the services of a structural engineer and architect to conduct a feasibility study of the First Baptist Church for possible acquisition for the Town of Whitman. Second Miss McGillivray for discussion. Chairman Kowalski invited Mrs. McCarthy to come forward and express her thoughts on this matter. Mrs. McCarthy began by saying that many of the seniors who frequent the existing Council on Aging facility are members of this particular congregation and had brought this matter to her attention. Mrs. McCarthy went on to say that the location is extraordinary and the whole idea is very exciting. Mr. Lynam reminded everyone that the cost of converting the armory building to a Council on Aging facility would be approximately \$4 million dollars; putting such a facility into this church would be less than half the cost. Mr. Salvucci, Mr. Bezanson and Mr. Johnson, as well as Chairman Kowalski, were all in favor of the idea. Miss McGillivray stated that this would serve the seniors of this town very well. This is an anchor location and it would serve us well to go forward with this project. Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor, so voted 5-0.

At this time, Chairman Kowalski asked Mr. Lynam for a report of the Building Projects Committee. Mr. Lynam stated that he expected to see Mr. Brendon Murphy, a resident of Park Avenue, present at this meeting; however he is not. Mr. Lynam announced that he would like to take a moment to explain the layout of the proposed police station, in case Mr. Murphy is watching this meeting from home. Chairman Kowalski felt it would not be appropriate for the Board to discuss Mr. Murphy's concerns without Mr. Murphy being present. Discussion was put on hold until Mr. Murphy is able to be in attendance, possibly at the Board's next meeting which is scheduled for June 2, 2009. Mr. Lynam stated that the Building Projects Committee has received proposals from nine architectural firms for the proposed police station and three proposals for the peer review for the renovations to Town Hall and the fire station. The Building Projects Committee will be meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 4:30 p.m., at which time a short list of firms will be chosen to be interviewed. At the same time, a firm should also be chosen to perform the peer review for the Town Hall/Fire Station renovations.

Mr. Salvucci reminded everyone that the annual Town Election will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2009; and he would like to urge everyone to get out and vote as every vote counts.

Mr. Bezanson recognized the fact that Mr. Salvucci is up for re-election. He would like to personally thank Mr. Salvucci for all of his service to the Town, regardless of the outcome of the election on Saturday. Mr. Bezanson then wished Mr. Salvucci good luck.

Chairman Kowalski also urged people to get out and vote as elections are important. He also wished Mr. Salvucci luck.

At 7:20 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L., Chapter 39, Section 23B, (1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual; and (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. Second Miss McGillivray. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; Mr. Johnson – yes; Miss McGillivray – yes; Chairman Kowalski – yes. So voted 5-0. The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 8:10 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk