

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEEETING
JUNE 2, 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, which was followed by a moment of silence.

At this time Mr. Lynam called for reorganization of the Board of Selectmen. He opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chairman. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to nominate Dr. Kowalski to the position of Chairman. Second Mr. Bezanson. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Lynam called for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. It was so voted 4-0-1 to appoint Dr. Kowalski Chairman of the Board of Selectmen (Miss McGillivray abstained). Mr. Lynam turned the meeting over to Chairman Kowalski. Chairman Kowalski then called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Salvucci to the position of Vice Chairman. Second Chairman Kowalski. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. It was so voted 4-0-1 to appoint Mr. Salvucci to the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen (Miss McGillivray abstained). Chairman Kowalski then called for nominations for the position of Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Bezanson to the position of Clerk. Second Chairman Kowalski. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. It was so voted 4-0-1 to appoint Mr. Bezanson to the position of Clerk of the Board of Selectmen (Miss McGillivray abstained). Chairman Kowalski advised that he will be making the assignments for the various town committees over the next two weeks. He then asked Miss Souza to circulate the assignments from last year. Chairman Kowalski then asked the other members of the Board to notify him if they would like any alterations made to their respective assignments.

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

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

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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Executive Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

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. Chairman Kowalski explained that this Board voted to approve this petition at the last meeting which was held on May 12, 2009; however, the Life Quest Community Church, which is located across the street, was not notified of the hearing. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to reaffirm approval of 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; and to determine that the premises are not

detrimental to the educational and spiritual activities of the Life Quest Community Church located at 356 South Avenue, Whitman, MA. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to reappoint Joel C. Thomas to the position of Constable for a three year term, through June 30, 2012. 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, §19, for Recreation Commission Member Jack Hatfield, Jonathan Hatfield and Tracy Hatfield. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to approve the request of June O'Leary on behalf of the Whitman Cultural council to reserve Town Hall as an alternative location for the summer band concerts scheduled to take place every Thursday during the month of July in the event of inclement weather. Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.

Next, Mr. Salvucci expressed his concerns with regard to the intersection of Routes 18 and 14 in connection with the Old Colony Planning Council – Joint Transportation Committee Year End 2008 Management Systems Annual Report. Mr. Salvucci noted that the eastbound and westbound traffic at this intersection continues to pose a safety threat due to left turning traffic. He would like to see the left lane traffic in both directions be restricted to left turn only, and the right lane used for traffic proceeding straight ahead or making a right turn onto Route 18. Chairman Kowalski noted that the opening of McDonald's will also change the nature of that intersection as well. Mr. Lynam expressed concern with regard to a crosswalk that was located on Route 18 at the corner of Forest Street prior to a repaving project. Since the road has been repaved, the crosswalk has not been repainted and this is creating a safety hazard for children who are trying to cross Route 18 to attend the nearby elementary school. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to send a letter to Mr. Bernard McCourt, Director of Mass Highway District #5, with regard to the intersection at Routes 18 and 14, requesting that Mass Highway consider restricting the left lane in both directions to left turn only; and to give similar consideration to the northbound and southbound traffic at this same intersection where McDonald's is constructing a facility which will be opening in July; and to ask for Mass Highway's assistance in re-marking the cross walk at Route 18 and Forest Street. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0. Mr. Salvucci advised he will follow up on this issue at the next OCPC-JCT meeting.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Town Treasurer May Beth Carter for a line item transfer in the amount of \$6,000.00 from line item #181 (Medical and Life Insurance – Town Match) to line item #38 (Treasurer – Tax Title Costs). Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Library Director Jennifer Inglis for a line item transfer in the amount of \$8,488.20 from line item #158 (Adult Services Librarian) to line item #161 (Library Technicians – part time). Mr. Salvucci asked if Ms. Inglis has already been before the Finance Committee. Mr. Lynam answered that both the Town Treasurer and the Library Director have been before the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has voted on the request of the Town Treasurer and is waiting for the Board of Selectmen to act before voting on the request of the Library Director. Chairman Kowalski asked for a motion in connection with the vote on the floor. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the recommendation of Fire Chief Grenno to award the bid for the purchase of a new Fire Rescue engine to Greenwood Fire Apparatus. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss regionalization of services. Chairman Lynam announced that a couple of weeks ago he attended a meeting in Hanson of area selectmen which consisted of approximately eleven communities. One of the proposals by the group was for Town Administrators to go back to their individual boards and address the question of whether or not communities want to consider regionalizing services where

practical. The services included health, inspection, police and fire dispatch and other public safety options. It was recommended that the managers of these communities meet to see if they can find some common ground and then go back to their select boards with recommendations. Mr. Bezanson stated that both he and Mr. Salvucci attended this meeting, which was very informative as to the plight of the surrounding towns, some of which are in much worse shape than Whitman. Mr. Lynam stated that it was suggested that the towns should look carefully at what might be subject to regionalization. Right now, it is very difficult to see where the savings would be without redefining the jobs and the positions. Mr. Lynam went on to say that he is not sure that any town is prepared to do that now. Miss McGillivray expressed concern with Whitman, which is in healthy financial straights, assuming and sharing the burdens that other towns might have. Miss McGillivray then asked to hear what both the fire chief and the police chief thoughts are on this subject. Chief Grenno stepped forward and stated that the regionalization of dispatch is on a fast push at this time. The sheriffs department has put in a request to the E911 Committee for \$8 million dollars and there is an RFP waiting to be signed by the County Commissioners to be sure the sheriffs department is the correct location. This is expected to be up and running in a year. Chairman Kowalski asked Chief Grenno if he could see any lessening of services to his department. Chief Grenno answered that he expected to see an increase in services, due to the fact that the fire department runs a five man shift. At this time, one person has to answer the phones and radios at all times. If dispatch is regionalized, it would not be necessary to keep that person at the station at all times to handle all of the calls. Chief May-Stafford stated that her situation would be different. The police department always has an officer manning the phones and the radios. If dispatch is regionalized, then there would not be an officer in the station at all times. Chief May-Stafford feels that there should always be someone there, especially for people that just walk into the station to speak to an officer. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to allow Mr. Lynam to participate in talks with other town administrators/managers regarding the issue of regionalization; and report back to this Board with the results.

The last item on the agenda was a report of the Building Projects Committee. Mr. Lynam announced that the Building Projects Committee came to the conclusion that the OPM that was originally selected was not a good fit, so the Committee has moved on to its second choice which is Daedalus Management, Inc.. The Committee is in discussions with Daedalus, whose contract is currently with Town Counsel. Mr. Lynam went on to say that the peer review for the Town Hall/Fire Station has been re-advertised and he expects to see bids begin coming in next week. The Committee has also identified two architects for the police station and has taken a vote subject to conditions. There are currently two architectural firms in the running; Donham & Sweeney and Durland Van Voorhis. Mr. Lynam finished by saying the Committee will be meeting again on Thursday, June 4th.

Mr. Lynam announced that Kevin Donovan has been approved to paint the Collector's office and the Accountant's office as his Eagle project. Kevin will begin fundraising and he expects to finish the project this summer.

Mr. Johnson stated that a joint project began last fall between the Friends of the Park and the D.P.W. at the memorial wall. Replanting was done that would change with the seasons and would always appear inviting to the public. The first phase was completed in time for Memorial Day weekend and Mr. Johnson hopes that it was enjoyed by all. Mr. Johnson also requested more police patrols in the park due to the fact that trees on the Maple Avenue side of the park were vandalized. Chief May-Stafford came forward and stated that as of last weekend, the number of patrols has been increased. There are four patrols each night, which are done sporadically. She has also spoken to the D.P.W. with regard to shutting the lights off in the park at 10:00 p.m. Chief May-Stafford assured Mr. Johnson that the police will follow up on any leads that come in with regard to the damage done to the trees.

Mr. Salvucci thanked everyone that voted for him and all of those who helped him with his campaign to get re-elected to the Board of Selectmen.

At 7:40 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L., Chapter 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; and (6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or real value of property, if such discussions may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body and a person, firm or corporation. Second Miss McGillivray. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; Mr. Johnson – yes; Miss McGillivray – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. So voted 5-0. The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 8:50 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk