

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 7, 2009**

In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice-Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Members Lars W. Johnson and 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.

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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve correspondence in the Read File. Second Mr. Bezanson, 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 the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on June 16, 2009. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 4-0-1 (Chairman Kowalski abstained).

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Executive Session minutes of the meeting held on June 16, 2009. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 4-0-1 (Chairman Kowalski abstained).

The next item on the agenda was in connection with the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off program. Patricia McCarthy, Director of the Council on Aging, stepped forward to address the Board. Mrs. McCarthy advised the Board that last year there were 33 eligible participants for this program. Tonight, she is asking the Board to approve an increase in the number of eligible participants from 33 to 34 for FY10. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Council on Aging Director Patricia McCarthy to increase the number of eligible participants for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off program from thirty three (33) to thirty four (34). Second Miss McGillivray for discussion. Mr. Salvucci inquired about the amount of money each participant is entitled to deduct from their tax bill and the number of hours they must work. Mrs. McCarthy answered that the amount is \$800.00 for 100 hours of work. The money is appropriated from the overlay account. She also noted that last year she had 34 eligible people and only 27 participated. Chairman Kowalski called for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. So voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept with regret the resignation of Kevin Derosier from the position of Facilities manager, effective June 30, 2009. Miss McGillivray took a moment to thank Mr. Derosier for all of his efforts. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of KathyJo Boss to be appointed to the Whitman Cultural Council for a three year term, through June 30, 2012, in order to fill an existing vacancy. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Victoria Robillard to be appointed to the Whitman Cultural Council for a three year term, through June 30, 2012, in order to fill an existing vacancy. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Fire Chief Timothy Grenno stepped forward for the swearing in ceremony for Firefighter Scott Figgins and Fire Lieutenant Al Cunningham. Chief Grenno announced that Lieutenant Lloyd Plasse will be retiring on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. after over 30 years of service to the Town and he would like to publicly thank Lloyd for his service. Chief Grenno explained that with the retirement of Lieutenant Plasse, a vacancy would be created for a shift commander. Following a Civil Service test, and interviews conducted by a panel which included three outside Fire Chiefs, Firefighter Paramedic Al Cunningham was chosen to fill the vacancy. Chief Grenno went on to say that Al is a

lifelong resident of Whitman, has been a call firefighter since 1995 and was appointed as a full time firefighter in 1998. He was also awarded a department citation in 2004 for his efforts at the scene of a motorcycle accident. Lieutenant Cunningham's wife, Kate, and daughters Laura and Emma were present for the swearing in ceremony. Town Clerk Pamela Martin was in attendance to administer the oath. After Lieutenant Cunningham was sworn to the duties of the office, his two daughters, Laura and Emma, came forward to pin his badge. Next, Chief Grenno announced that with the promotion of Lieutenant Cunningham, another vacancy would be created. Chief Grenno called for a list from Civil Service and Scott Figgins was at the top of that list. Scott recently completed a 12 week recruit program at the Mass. Fire Academy, where he finished in the top 10% of his class. Chief Grenno noted that Scott is the son of retired firefighter Bob Figgins, Sr. and is the brother of Bob Figgins, Jr., who is currently a member of the department. Scott has been a call firefighter since 1991 (Chief Grenno noted that Whitman historically hires from within its Call Firefighter Department; and that 15 out of 21 career members were originally call firefighters), he is a basic EMT, and is enrolled in paramedic school. At this time, Firefighter Figgins stepped forward to be sworn in. Afterward, his parents, Diane and Bob, came forward to pin him with his new badge. The Board extended their congratulations to both Lieutenant Cunningham and Firefighter Figgins after they were each sworn in and pinned with their new badges.

After a brief recess, Chairman Kowalski moved on to the next item on the agenda which was to discuss Stop & Pump, located at 753 Bedford Street, selling Keno To Go. When asked by Chairman Kowalski, Mr. Lynam stated that he is unaware of any complaints regarding Stop & Pump wishing to sell KENO To Go. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to not object to Stop & Pump, located at 753 Bedford Street, pursuing a license to sell KENO To Go. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of June O'Leary on behalf of the Whitman Cultural Council to use the Town Hall Auditorium on Saturday, September 26, 2009, from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. for the third annual "Champagne, Cake & Art" show, and to approve a One-Day Liquor License and waive the fee for said permit. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was to take action to rescind the Class II Auto Dealer's License for AMS Motorcars (Richard Sargent) on the premises located at 934 Temple Street, due to the fact that the licensee has failed to comply with the conditions of said license. Mr. Lynam noted that Building Commissioner Robert Curran is present tonight, and that he has inspected the property. The licensee, Mr. Sargent, is also present tonight. Mr. Sargent has indicated to Mr. Curran that paving the lot would pose a great burden to him at this time. Mr. Lynam continued by saying that Mr. Curran is recommending that the pylon sign on the property be removed immediately; the parking area be re-graded; the removal of all vehicles from the property that are not for sale; and removal of the stone pile at the front of the property. Mr. Lynam then suggested the Board address the issues related to the license. Mr. Curran stepped forward and advised the Board that the handicap parking area has been marked, however; the cost of paving the whole lot is not something Mr. Sargent can afford at this time. Mr. Curran suggested the Board of Selectmen extend the deadline to bring the parking surface up to code until the next licensing period; the other issues should be taken care of within two weeks. Mr. Sargent advised the Board that the sign has been removed and all vehicles that are not for sale will be removed on Wednesday. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to table action to rescind the Class II Auto Dealer's License for AMS Motorcars (Richard Sargent) for 2 weeks and to extend the deadline to bring the parking surface of the licensed premises up to code to December 31, 2009. Failure to comply will result in the non-renewal of Mr. Sargent's Class II Auto Dealer's License for the calendar year 2010. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0. After a brief discussion in which it was determined that the Board did not have another meeting scheduled for the month of July, the Board set their August meeting schedule for Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. At this time, Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to amend the previous motion and to table action to rescind the Class II Auto Dealer's License for AMS Motorcars (Richard Sargent) on the premises located at 934 Temple Street until the Board's next meeting on August 4, 2009; and to extend the deadline to bring the parking surface of the licensed premises up to code to December 31,

2009. Failure to comply will result in the non-renewal of Mr. Sargent's Class II Auto Dealer's License for the calendar year 2010. Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Department of Public Works Superintendent Donnie Westhaver for a line item transfer in the amount of \$2,920.37 from line item #238 Sewer Enterprise Fund (Technical Services) to line item #233 Sewer Enterprise Fund (Electricity). Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Bill Cordaro, President of Whitman Youth Soccer, to hold their annual Opening Day Parade through the center of Town on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of James Chandler to be appointed to the position of full Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a five year term, through June 30, 2014, in order to fill an existing vacancy (John Goldrosen, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, recommends appointment). Second Miss McGillivray, so voted 5-0.

Miss McGillivray **MOVED** to rescind the appointment of James Chandler to the position of Associate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.

Next, Mr. Lynam opened discussion regarding centralizing personnel records and information. Mr. Lynam stated that he feels it would be more efficient if the Board of Selectmen's office was the repository for the storage of the records. Currently the Selectmen's office is responsible for the records for all collective bargaining employees, and training with new software has been completed. Mr. Lynam went on to say that this would just be formalizing something that is already being done. Following discussion, the Board agreed to postpone voting on this issue until all department heads have been made aware and have had the opportunity to come forward with any concerns.

At this time, Mr. Lynam gave a report of the Building Projects Committee. Mr. Lynam announced that the Committee is on board with an architect and an OPM. The architect is conducting the preliminary work necessary for the schematic design of the police station. Mr. Lynam went on to say that he has discovered that in 2004 changes were made with regard to a peer review being a requirement. Conducting a peer review is no longer a requirement, it is an option. After discussing this with the Building Projects Committee, it was agreed to forego the peer review and to go ahead and hire LPBA Architects. Mr. Lynam will have another update at the Board's next meeting.

Mr. Lynam announced that he recently had a conversation with State Representative Allen McCarthy regarding legislative changes that he has been concerned with, particularly the Sheriffs Bill and the costs that Plymouth County would face in the transfer of personnel. They also spoke with regard to the Quinn Bill and the fact that as of July 1, 2009, any police personnel not enrolled in a college program will not be eligible for Quinn benefits. Mr. Lynam advised that the FinCom has asked for a meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the department heads once all of the numbers have been compiled.

Next, Mr. Lynam announced that there are a number of departments that utilize cell phones. Today the Town converted from Nextel to Verizon, which will save approximately \$3,000.00 per year.

Miss McGillivray extended her congratulations to John Goldrosen, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, on his recent marriage.

Mr. Salvucci announced that he attended the first meeting of the Route 18 study in Abington. They will be calling for another meeting, in fact, a meeting will be held in each town along the Route 18 corridor where citizens will be able to attend and voice their concerns with Route 18. Mr. Salvucci advised that he did discuss Miss McGillivray's concerns with regard to the intersection of Routes 18 & 14.

Mr. Bezanson commended the First Baptist Church for their closing ceremonies. Mr. Bezanson stated that it was very tastefully done and it was a pleasure to be there. Chairman Kowalski stated that as a speaker representing the Board of Selectmen during the closing ceremony it was a pleasure for him as well.

At 7:40 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; (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 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 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. Johnson, so voted 4-0.

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk