

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2023**

In attendance were Chairman Randolph G. LaMattina; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Justin R. Evans; Member Shawn M. Kain; Member Dr. Carl F. Kowalski; and interim Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Chairman LaMattina opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and followed by a moment of silence.

Chairman LaMattina announced the meeting is being recorded and televised by WHCA.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept bill and payroll warrants. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

Chairman LaMattina opened public forum and Ken Lailer came forward to address the Board. Mr. Lailer thanked the Board of Selectmen and Chief Clancy for their kind words expressed at the prior meeting about his late wife, Marie Lailer, who contributed immeasurably to the Town of Whitman. Mr. Lailer requested the Town consider honoring Marie's vision by establishing a historical museum, and naming it the Marie E. Lailer Historical Museum.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Request to Reclassify Assessor Clerical from Level 1 to Level 2**

Principal Assessor Kathy Keefe advised the Board of her request for reclassification presented to the previous town administrator in June, 2022, and asked to amend Mr. Lynam's recommendation of an effective date of January 1, 2023, to an effective date of July 1, 2022. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to reclassify the Clerical Level 1 position in the Office of the Board of Assessors to Clerical Level 2, effective July 1, 2022; and to authorize the interim town administrator to engage OPEIU, Local 6 in bargaining for said reclassification. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

**Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee FY24 Budget Introductory Presentation & Discussion**

Present for the Finance Committee were Chairman Richard Anderson; Kathleen Ottina; Chuck, Colby, Ralph Mitchell; Rosemary Connolly; and Leslie DiOrio. Chairman Anderson began the meeting by stating there are decisions to be made to be sure Town taxpayers can continue to live in the community. A slide show was presented to show updates and improvements meant to convey additional transparency within line items rather than being rolled up into generic categories. Chairman Anderson stated these procedures will assist budget managers in seeing trends. He thanked the budget and policy subcommittees for their work. Mr. Kain expressed that

he is impressed by the new format and looks forward to receiving feedback from department heads.

Mr. LaMattina noted that there will be a joint meeting of the School Committee, Whitman and Hanson Boards of Selectmen and Whitman & Hanson Finance Committees on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6:30pm at the high school.

Kathleen Ottina stated there is a lot of work to be done before the February 1, 2023, vote on a school budget. Frank Lynam stated that an outline had been provided reminding administration that they are trying to keep increases under 2%, with the exception of special circumstances. Chairman Anderson suggested they focus on ideas, challenges and goals of each department before making budget recommendations. Mr. Kain explained the annual DLS budget process and how they first look at forecasts in the fall of each year, then have a joint meeting to review projections and thirdly, distribute budget guidelines to department managers. Each department head must be aware of budgetary limitations prior to forming their budget which will eliminate conflict. Mr. Evans suggested the incoming Town Administrator will be submitting the budget. Mr. LaMattina stated that department heads will presumably submit their wants which will exceed the 2% budget suggestion. Mr. Salvucci reminded that all departments of the Town are important and cannot be secondary to the school department.

Chairman Anderson announced that there is a vacancy on the Finance Committee and requested that qualified candidates apply on the website or reach out to the moderator.

At 6:45 p.m. the joint meeting adjourned. Chairman Anderson thanked the Board of Selectmen for agreeing to meeting this evening.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Chief Clancy provided a COVID-19 update. 351 tests were performed with a 9.4% positivity rate which is an increase being blamed on holiday gatherings; and noted that new variants have been identified.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Lynam announced that he has been in contact with former Treasurer/Collector Mary Beth Carter about assuming the role of Town Administrator. All members of the Board agreed that she is an appropriate candidate with the experience and work ethic needed for the position. Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to offer the position of Town Administrator to Mary Beth Carter, subject to successful negotiation of an employment contract. **Second** Mr. Salvucci, **so voted 5-0.**

### **NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)**

#### **Requests for Tollbooth Fundraisers**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve tollbooth fundraisers at the intersection of Washington Street and Route 27 for the following organizations:

Whitman Area Toy Drive: September 9, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

American Legion Post #22: April 29, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a rain date of May 6, 2023.

Knights of Columbus: October 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Whitman Little League: June 10, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
**Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

**WCC: Request for Use of Town Hall**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to approve the request of Dawn Byers on behalf of the Whitman Cultural Council for permission to use the Town Hall auditorium on Sunday, March 12, 2023, for a performance of “Great Day for the Irish” **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

**Request of Town Clerk: Election Workers, Annual Town Election Hours**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Town Clerk Dawn Varley to appoint election workers for 2023 in accordance with the list provided in a memo dated December 20, 2022; and to set the Annual Town Election hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

**Appointment: Robert Kimball**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Robert Kimball to the position of Associate Member, Board of Appeals, for the remainder of a two-year term, through June 30, 2024, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

**Appointment: Brian LaPierre**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Brian LaPierre to the position of Member, Conservation Commission, for the remainder of a three-year term, through June 30, 2025, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Camp Alice Carlton**

After a brief follow-up conversation regarding the request of South Shore Select Soccer to use a portion of land located at Camp Alice Carlton for recreational soccer fields, Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize the interim Town Administrator to enter into discussion with South Shore Select Soccer in connection with the land at Camp Alice Carlton. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Evans confirmed that final decision will be made at a future Board of Selectmen meeting.

**INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

**Copeland Foundation Grant for Animal Control**

Mr. Lynam reported a check from the Copeland Family Foundation that was sent to the previous town administrator in 2021 was lost. When he discovered the loss of the check, Mr. Lynam contacted the Copeland Family Foundation to ask if they would consider replacing it. He recently received the replacement check and a vote of the Board is required to accept it. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept a gift of \$6,000 for the Whitman Animal Control Department from Copeland Family Foundation to be used for the Animal Shelter. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

A 7:06 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to Purpose 3 to discuss strategy with respect to ongoing litigation in Town of Whitman v. Edward Murphy, Plymouth Superior Court, Docket No. 2183CV000789, as an open meeting may have a

detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. **Second** Dr. Kowalski. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. Kain – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman LaMattina – yes. **So voted 5-0.** Chairman LaMattina declared that having this meeting in Open Session will have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body. The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 7:26 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

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Justin R. Evans, Clerk