

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

The meeting was held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room located in the upper level of Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Justin R. Evans; Member Randolph G. LaMattina; and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept 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 Tuesday, February 11, 2020. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

SCHEDULED MEETINGS/HEARINGS

Joint Meeting with the Board of Health

Present for the Board of Health were Chairman Eric Joubert, Member Mary Kelly, Health Inspector Alexis Andrews and Administrative Assistant Elaine Williams. Mr. Joubert briefly outlined the FY21 Board of Health budget; and discussed the role and responsibility of the Board; the reasons why a full-time health inspector is required; the role and responsibilities of the health inspector; and upcoming changes to the department, including assuming the duties of Norwell VNA, effective July 1, 2020. Mr. Joubert also provided salary comparisons and a 5-year budget projection. Chairman Kowalski thanked Mr. Joubert and read the following letter into the record:

Unfortunately I am unable to be at the meeting to voice my support of the Health Inspector position remaining at full-time status.

As the most experienced member of the Board I can attest to the fact that this position should have been full-time even prior to the addition of the Animal Control Dept.

The Health Department has not been able to keep up with the demands placed on it by the residents, businesses, and State Department of Public Health.

As stated in the information provided to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee the role of the Health Inspector needs to be expanded so that the needs/expectations of the Town can be addressed without the delay of Board members being contacted or waiting for a Board meeting. Issues need to be addressed in a timely manner.

Barbara J. White

Chairman Kowalski noted that almost all surrounding towns have a full-time health inspector and the Town of Whitman is fortunate to have a very good health inspector.

Mr. Salvucci asked Mr. Joubert to explain the yearly salary increase shown in the proposed 5-year budget. Mr. Joubert stated each year reflects a 2 percent increase; however, these figures are flexible and can be adjusted if needed. Mr. Salvucci agreed with Chairman Kowalski that Alexis is very good at her job and she is needed on a full-time basis.

Mr. Bezanson asked if the Finance Committee has seen this proposal. Mr. Joubert said no, but the Board of Health expects to be meeting with the Finance Committee in the near future.

Chairman Kowalski thanked Mr. Joubert for all of the information he provided.

The joint meeting ended at 7:15 p.m.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

See Budget Review

BUDGET REVIEW

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that he is currently working on the budget for FY21, and will be meeting with the Buildings, Facilities and Capital Expenditures Committee soon to discuss capital projects. Mr. Lynam reminded everyone the annual Town Meeting warrant closes on Friday. He also advised the Board that going forward, debt articles will be rolled into Article 2 in order to keep from placing repetitive articles for debt payments on the warrant. Mr. Evans noted the next meeting of the Buildings, Facilities and Capital Expenditures Committee is March 12, 2020.

Chairman Kowalski read a proclamation for Eagle Scout James Kohler into the record. The proclamation will be presented to James at his Court of Honor on April 4, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

McGuiggan's Pub 5K Road Race

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Richard Rosen on behalf of McGuiggan's Pub to conduct the 11th Annual McGuiggan's Pub 5K Road Race on Sunday, May 17, 2020; to close off Legion Parkway from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.; and a One-Day Liquor License to serve beer and wine from a tent set up at 16 Legion Parkway, subject to receipt of the license fee. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Harbor to the Bay Charity Bike Ride

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Jim Morgrage and David Whitman on behalf of Harbor to the Bay, Inc. for permission to pass through Whitman along Route 58 between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, 2020, as part of the 18th Annual Harbor to the Bay Charity Bike Ride. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Revocation of Class II Auto Dealer's License: Tarky's Auto Body

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to revoke the Class II Auto Dealer's License held by Tarky's Auto Body (Thomas Tarkanian) on the premises located at 916 Temple Street due to the licensee's failure to take the necessary steps to renew said license for calendar year 2020 and to retain a surety bond. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Request to Increase Rate for Legal Services

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Murphy, Lamere & Murphy to increase the hourly rate for legal services to \$200.00 per hour, effective July 1, 2020. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Community Preservation Act Proposal

Assistant Town Administrator Lisa Green presented the Board with a Community Preservation Act (CPA) proposal, noting the Town attempted to pass the Act in 2002; however, after being approved by Town Meeting, it failed at the ballot. Communities that have adopted the Act have the ability to raise funds annually by placing a 1 to 3 percent surcharge on property taxes. The money is then used to fund qualified projects. Mrs. Green went on to say that there are currently 176 cities and towns that have adopted the Act. If Whitman also adopts the Act, approximately \$182,000 to \$190,000 could be raised each year. The town will also receive an annual match from the state CPA Trust Fund, amounting to approximately 13.9 to 23.9 percent of the surcharge funds. The communities that collect the minimum 1 percent surcharge are guaranteed to receive money from the CPA Trust Fund. Mrs. Green explained that a 1 percent surcharge would be applied to annual property tax bills, with the total surcharge being based on the assessed value. Surcharges would range from \$32.00 to \$79.00 per year. Mrs. Green recommended the Board authorize placement on the annual Town Meeting warrant for approval. If approved, it will then be placed on the Presidential Election ballot.

Mr. Evans stated that he has been looking at this since he was a member of the Finance Committee and there are plenty of projects identified in the Collins Report that could benefit from it. Mrs. Green noted a CPA Committee will be formed if this passes as the ballot.

Mr. Bezanson expressed concern with a surcharge being added to property tax bills along with a possible override next year; and noted it will be important to be sure the residents realize how they will be affected if this is approved. Mrs. Green agreed and explained that this is why she is recommending a 1 percent surcharge. Mr. Bezanson stated that he feels the plan has merit but we need to be cautious.

Mr. LaMattina advised the Board members that the Town of Abington recently adopted the CPA and has been able to do some great things. He went on to say that he is in favor of this; and noted that there is currently a bill before the House to increase the rates.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to place the Community Preservation Act on the May 4, 2020 annual Town Meeting warrant for acceptance at one (1) percent; and to place the Community Preservation Act question on the November 3, 2020, Presidential ballot. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

E-911 Police Secondary Answering Point

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that regional dispatch in Holbrook has been handling 911 calls and dispatch for the fire department. Currently, they call the 911 calls into the police department.

The company that manages 911 has established a \$1,075.00 monthly fee for secondary points. Chief Hanlon has been analyzing this and feels the service should be discontinued. A ring down line can be installed and the police department can take the calls going forward. Mr. Lynam recommended the Board vote to notify Comtech that we wish to discontinue their service. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to notify Comtech that the Town of Whitman wishes to exercise its option to discontinue the secondary PSAP license. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

March Meeting Schedule

The Board set their March meeting schedule for Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:34 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21a, (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.** Chairman Kowalski declared that having this meeting in Open Session will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body. The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 8:00 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk