

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 10, 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; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Justin R. Evans; and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci and Member Randolph G. LaMattina were absent. 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.

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

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

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

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Update re COVID-19

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that information pertaining to the virus has been placed on the town website under the Board of Health; and the town hall is being cleaned both in the morning and late afternoon. Mr. Evans stated that he was asked if a town employee has to self-quarantine, if the employee must use all of their sick leave. Mr. Lynam answered yes, but if the employee were to exhaust all of their sick leave before they return to work, any additional sick leave required would need to be addressed by the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Kowalski noted that Massasoit Community College is asking people to report any travel plans. Mr. Lynam stated that the same can be done with town employees as well.

Use of Town Hall Auditorium

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that he approved use of the Town Hall Auditorium for practice for the Conley School Talent Show, provided the auditorium is available on the dates requested.

Appointment of Recreation Director

Mr. Lynam reminded the Board that the Recreation Director resigned in January; and the process to select a new director was started by the Recreation Commission which operates with appointed voting members and non-voting members. The candidates were selected and interviews were conducted last Monday; however, the Recreation Commission voted on the candidates to be interviewed during a meeting where they did not have a quorum of voting members present. As a result, the candidates will be re-interviewed with a quorum in place.

Discussion re Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Lynam provided the Board with a draft warrant, noting that he will also be providing it to the Finance Committee. He also advised the Board that he would like a vote to open the special Town Meeting warrant tonight. To date, he has received 4 articles, one of which is in regard to the regional school agreement. Mr. Lynam has analyzed revenue and requests and feels the FY2021 budget should be manageable. Mr. Lynam also noted there will be a capital plan in FY2022. When asked by Mr. Bezanson about the regional school agreement, Mr. Lynam stated that the two towns are talking and will try to find an effective way to be good partners. Following discussion, Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to open the special Town Meeting warrant and to close said warrant on Friday, March 27, 2020. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Authorization of Fire & Police Chief to Apply for & Accept Grants

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to authorize the Fire Chief and Police Chief to apply for and accept grants up to \$25,000 provided that matching funds, where required, have been appropriated, and acceptance of grant(s) do not require subsequent appropriations as a condition of said grant; and further, that no additional personnel are required as a condition of acceptance. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Taxi/Livery License & Driver's Certificate Renewal

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to renew the Taxi/Livery License and Taxi/Driver's Certificate for Eric Young, dba Sleipnir Transportation, 8 Danecca Drive, for the period April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021, subject to payment of the license fee(s) and the submittal of all required renewal documents. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

Surplus Material

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to declare two (2) 2008 Ford Taurus unmarked detective cars, one (1) 2004 Ford Crown Victoria police vehicle and one (1) 2011 Crown Victoria police vehicle as surplus. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.** Mr. Lynam noted that two of these vehicles will be used by Chief Grenno for training purposes. If the others have value, they will go to auction.

WBSA: Request to Hold Opening Day Parade

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to approve the request of John Graham on behalf of Whitman Baseball & Softball Association to conduct its Opening Day Parade on Saturday, April 11, 2020, beginning at 9:00 a.m., with a rain date of April 18, 2020. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

Appointment to Recreation Commission

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to appoint Ronald R. Rock to the position of Voting Member of the Recreation Commission, through June 30, 2020, in order to fill an existing vacancy; and to rescind the appointment of Ronald R. Rock from the position of Non-Voting Member of the Recreation Commission. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

WHRSD Regional Agreement Review Committee

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to designate Francis Lynam (Town Administrator); Justin Evans (Selectman); Richard Anderson (Finance Committee) and Christopher George (Citizen at Large) as members of the WHRSD Regional Agreement Review Committee. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

Appropriation for WMS Feasibility Study

Mr. Lynam advised the Board of the Budget Override Evaluation Committee's desire to appropriate \$750,000 for a feasibility study for the Whitman Middle School. Last week, Mr. Lynam received an article from the school asking for \$1 million for the study. Mr. Lynam stated that he spoke with Michelle Lindberg and Ernie Sandland who both said the MSBA recommends \$1 million be set aside. Mr. Lynam has also spoken with Weymouth, Bridgewater and Easton officials who all said they appropriated \$1 million for their feasibility studies. This information must be presented accurately to the public because upon completion of the study, the borrowing process will begin. Mr. Lynam reminded the Board that it was decided by the BOEC to use free cash for the study; and he suggested this be presented to the public on a ballot as well as to Town Meeting. Mr. Lynam will speak with the Finance Committee and the BOEC in order to keep them included in the process. He also discussed a \$1 million capital exclusion or a two year debt exclusion, and noted if this does not receive voter support, we will need to go back to the drawing board. Mr. Evans noted the Collins Center recommended debt financing. Mr. Lynam stated we can borrow money within the levy limit and pay out over 3 to 4 years. Also, some money spent on the feasibility study is reimbursable if the process is followed.

Chairman Kowalski announced the meeting of the school committee scheduled for tomorrow evening has been postponed until Thursday evening.

At 7:32 p.m. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0.**

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk