

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 24, 2020**

Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam attended the meeting from the Selectmen's Meeting Room located in the upper level of Town Hall. Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Randolph G. LaMattina; and Member Justin R. Evans attended the meeting via teleconference. Vice Chairman Salvucci opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

*Because Vice Chairman Salvucci was able to attend the meeting from the Selectmen's Meeting Room, he was asked by Chairman Kowalski to oversee the meeting.*

Vice Chairman Salvucci asked each member of the Board to identify themselves before speaking on any issue in order for the meeting minutes to be accurate. He also advised that all votes must be roll call votes.

Vice Chairman Salvucci asked for a motion to move into Executive Session. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21a, (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. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Chairman Kowalski – yes; and Vice Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

At 7:09 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

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

Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Chairman Kowalski – yes; and Vice Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. **Second** Chairman Kowalski. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Chairman Kowalski – yes; and Vice Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**Announce Retirements**

Mr. Lynam announced the retirement of Council on Aging Director Barbara Garvey, effective July 18, 2020. Mr. Lynam noted the Council on Aging board will need to seek a new candidate to replace her. In addition, Assistant Town Treasurer/Collector Michele Hayes will be retiring on April 30, 2020. Mr. Lynam advised the Board that the Treasurer/Collector would like to seek a replacement immediately. Mr. Lynam is concerned with this due to the current pandemic but he will devise a plan within the next two weeks. Although interviews cannot be conducted immediately, Mr. Lynam will possibly advertise the position in a few weeks.

## **BUDGET REVIEW**

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that the Finance Committee will be reviewing Article 2 this evening.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **MOU: Local 1769, I.A.F.F., AFL-CIO**

Vice Chairman Salvucci announced an agreement between the Town of Whitman and the Whitman Firefighters Association for a one-year extension of the current contract. The agreement, which includes a 2 percent salary increase, was ratified by the union last night. Earlier, during Executive Session, the Board of Selectmen voted to ratify the agreement as well and must now vote again in Open Session. Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Whitman and the Whitman Firefighters Association, Local 1769, IAFF, for the period July 1, 2020, through and including June 30, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Chairman Kowalski – yes; and Vice Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Surplus Equipment – Hydrants**

Chairman Kowalski **MOVED** to declare four (4) Smith hydrants, six (6) Darling hydrants, one (1) Kennedy hydrant and six (6) antique hydrants (various manufacturers) as surplus; and authorize the CPO to dispose of said hydrants by public auction. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. Lamattina – yes; Chairman Kowalski – yes; and Vice Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Skate Park Equipment**

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that this equipment has been stored behind the bleachers at Memorial Field for many years and has become an attractive nuisance. The DPW is asking for permission to demolish the equipment for use as an aggregate product. Mr. Bezanson noted that he was chairman of the skate park committee in 2004. Although it was a good idea at the time, the skate park was doomed from the start and he is disappointed that it did not come to fruition. He also noted he is in favor of the DPW's request. Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to authorize the Department of Public Works to dispose of the skate park equipment located at Memorial Field. **Second** Chairman Kowalski. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Chairman Kowalski – yes; and Vice Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Town Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Lynam reminded everyone that the Town By-laws state that Town Meeting takes place on the first Monday in May and the Town Election takes place on the third Saturday in May. Due to the current pandemic and new legislation put in place by Governor Baker, the Hanson Board of Selectmen has voted to reschedule their Town Meeting to June 15. Mr. Lynam has discussed our schedule with the Finance Committee, two members of the Board of Selectmen and department heads and he believes the Town of Whitman can meet the May 4, 2020, schedule. Chairman Kowalski noted the pandemic could be the only reason to reschedule. Mr. Lynam advised the Board that Southwick, MA held a special Town Meeting this evening in a parking lot. He went on to say that we do have options but he is not sure if we will be ready from a social standpoint.

New legislation also allows the Board to reduce the quorum for Town Meeting; however, a decision is not required this evening.

Mr. Evans asked if absentee voting is strictly for those who will be unable to vote at the polls. Mr. Lynam stated there is a provision for those concerned about their health. The Board will need to make a decision on the date of Town Meeting by mid to late April. The Town Clerk can meet with the Board to discuss the issue if necessary.

Mr. Lynam also stated that he has asked town counsel if articles intended for the special Town Meeting can be placed on the annual Town Meeting warrant if they include a specified effective date. If they can, a quorum of only 50 people would be required. He promised to notify the Board when he receives an answer.

Mr. LaMattina suggested discussing this issue again in April in order to see how the current situation is playing out. Mr. Lynam agreed, and noted it will be interesting to see how other towns that have meetings scheduled within the next few weeks handle the situation.

The Board set their April meeting schedule for Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Lynam noted that tonight's meeting has been conducted by way of a conference call and broadcast live by WHCA. WHCA cannot continue to accommodate us in this way; therefore, our next meeting will be via Zoom. There will be no members of the Board in the Selectmen's Meeting Room as everyone will be able to connect remotely. Mr. Evans noted the school committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow will be conducted via Zoom and will give us the opportunity to see how it works.

At 7:30 p.m. Chairman Kowalski **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – Yes; Chairman Kowalski – yes; and Vice Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

---

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk