

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 26, 2019**

The meeting took place 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 Randolph G. LaMattina; Member Scott J. Lambiase; 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. This was followed by a moment of silence.

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 19, 2019. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Having nothing to report, Chairman Kowalski turned the floor over to Mr. Lynam.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Community Assessment Survey

Mr. Lynam announced that the results of the survey were presented by Dr. Tarsi at a public meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, and he is still waiting on additional data. Mr. Lynam extended his appreciation to Dr. Tarsi and her students for all of their hard work.

BUDGET REVIEW

April Meeting Schedule

Chairman Kowalski called for a meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in order to review a budget that Mr. Lynam is working on that differs from the budget that has been used to this point.

Chairman Kowalski: WHRSD Funding

Chairman Kowalski stated that the Board should give some direction to the Finance Committee concerning the school budget. At our last meeting, two scenarios were presented, one with a 6 percent increase in the assessment and one with a 10 percent increase. Chairman Kowalski went on to say that a 10 percent increase will devastate all of the other town departments. A 6 percent increase will still result in cuts to the other town departments, including some layoffs. Chairman

Kowalski reminded everyone that the schools requested a 15 percent increase and that the Finance Committee seems to want to give them 10 percent. He then asked for a motion to let the Finance Committee know that 10 percent is not an option. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to not support a 10 percent increase for the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District operating expenses. **Second** Mr. Bezanson for discussion. Mr. Salvucci noted that we control our budgets and keep our salary increases low. The schools need to take a look at their budget and try to come up with something that will help both Whitman and Hanson. Chairman Kowalski stated that talks between Mr. Lynam and the Hanson Town Administrator indicate that Hanson is looking at giving the schools 6.5 percent. At this time he would like to send a signal to the Finance Committee that we cannot consider 10 percent. Hearing nothing further, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. **So voted 5-0.**

Plymouth County Mosquito Control

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve an estimated assessment of \$29,339 for FY20 for the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Salvucci announced that he attended a meeting of the MBTA Advisory Board and learned that Whitman's assessment will be \$49,908 – a reduction of \$24,258

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Board of Selectmen Handbook

Chairman Kowalski suggested discussing the handbook next week, in order to allow for more time to review it. All members present were in agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing: Mass. Electric and Verizon New England

Chairman Kowalski opened a public hearing in connection with the petition of Mass. Electric Co. and Verizon New England requesting permission for National Grid to install new sub pole 2-84 and anchor for pole 2 in place of existing push brace 2-89; and to install underground facilities on Angelina Drive. Tim Lydon of National Grid explained that this is being done at the request of a resident of Angelina Drive. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the petition of Mass. Electric Co. and Verizon New England requesting permission for National Grid to install new stub pole 2-84 and anchor for pole 2 in place of existing push brace 2-89; and to install underground facilities on Angelina Drive. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Public Meeting: Application of 746 Auto Sales for a Class II Auto Dealer's License

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of 746 Auto Sales (Nicholas Loring) for a Class II Auto Dealer's License on the premises located at 746 Bedford Street subject to proof of Workers' Compensation insurance, receipt of the license fee and final inspection/approval of the Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Mr. Salvucci explained that the applicant is taking over the business from his father, who recently retired. Hearing nothing further, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. **So voted 5-0.**

Taxi/Livery License, Taxi/Livery Driver's Certificate Renewal: Sleipnir Transportation

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to renew the Taxi/Livery License and Taxi/Livery Driver's Certificate for Eric Young, dba Sleipnir Transportation, 8 Danecca Drive, for the period April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2020, subject to payment of the license fee and all required renewal documents. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

Permission to use Town Hall Auditorium

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that he received a request via email from Christine Morse to use the auditorium in Town Hall to hold a beauty pageant. If approved, Ms. Morse will need to provide an insurance endorsement and have a police detail present during the event, if Chief Benton feels it is necessary. She will also be responsible for payment for the cost of the town's maintenance person to be on-site as well. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Christine Morse for permission to use the Town Hall auditorium on Saturday, October 5, 2019, in order to hold a beauty pageant to benefit the Miss Whitman Scholarship Organization, subject to proof of an insurance endorsement; the presence of a police detail during the event (if deemed necessary by Chief Benton); and payment for the cost of the town's maintenance person to be on-site during the event. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

Reappointment to the Position of Registrar of Voters; Alice Riddell

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Town Clerk Dawn Varley to reappoint Alice Riddell to the position of Registrar of Voters for a three-year term, beginning on April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2022. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

Drake Petroleum: Request to Amend the Current Access Agreement

Mr. Lynam outlined the request of Drake Petroleum to install additional groundwater monitoring wells on town owned property in order to detect contaminants. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Drake Petroleum Company, Inc. to amend the current access agreement in connection with Town Parcel ID 7-72-1 so that it may install up to four (4) additional groundwater monitoring wells on Town of Whitman property in order to obtain environmental monitoring data as part of ongoing environmental activities at the former Whitman Xtramart property. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

Status of Class II Auto Dealer's License: Ally Motors, Inc., 934 Temple Street

Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer Robert Curran advised the Board that he has been in the process of inspecting all dealerships in town. When he performed an inspection at Ally Motors, Inc., on February 12, 2019, several display vehicles were parked too close to the street. There were also 100 vehicles on the lot and the license only allows for 60 vehicles. Since then, Mr. Ponomarenko has moved the vehicles back 8 feet from the street and added mulch and planters in front of them. He has also reduced the number of vehicles to 85 and submitted a proposed plan to allow him to have more than 60 vehicles. Mr. Curran has asked the owner to make changes to the surface and park the vehicles according to the site plan. If he complies, Mr. Curran stated that he would be willing to increase the number of vehicles to 100. Mr. Salvucci stated that the owner was approved for 60 vehicles, he ignored the site plan that was approved, parked the vehicles in the front so that they were encroaching on route 27 and parked vehicles in the back that were encroaching on neighboring property. He went on to say that the owner needs to show this Board that he can abide by the rules with the 60 car limit that he was approved for

before he asks to add more vehicles to the site. Mr. Salvucci also stated that the only reason the owner has made any changes at all is because he got caught. Mr. Curran agreed. Craig Donahue, 344 Sportsmen's Trail stated that over time, the owner has parked too many vehicles in the back. He also brought in a bobcat to level the field and a dump truck to spread stone. The dump truck hit a power line which caused a power outage for several hours. There has also been a garage built on the property and Mr. Donahue feels it may be being used for repairs. Mr. Ponomarenko apologized for the power loss, noting that it was a staff member who immediately called the fire department and the electric company. He also stated that the garage in the back is used for car detailing only – all repairs are done off-site. A brief discussion took place in order for the Board to determine how much time the owner would be allowed to remove the excess vehicles from the property. All members agreed that 14 days would be adequate. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to require Ally Motors, Inc. (Alexander Ponomarenko) to maintain a maximum of 60 vehicles for sale on the premises located at 934 Temple Street; to order all excess vehicles be removed from the property within 14 days; and to revisit at a later date the request of Mr. Ponomarenko to increase the number of vehicles for sale in connection with his Class II Auto Dealer's License. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Status of Class II Auto Dealer's License: WR Cars, Inc., 991 Bedford Street

Mr. Curran advised the Board that upon inspection of this property, he discovered an island with plantings at the front of the property had been removed in order for sale vehicles to be parked closer to the street. This property was formerly a daycare center and the owner, Mr. Rodovalho, received permission from the Zoning Board of Appeals to sell cards on this property. Mr. Curran stated that he advised Mr. Rodovalho that he was not in compliance with the site plan approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Selectmen and that the island and plantings needed to be restored or his license would be in jeopardy. Mr. Rodovalho advised the Board that he is in the process of having a new site plan drawn up that may be better suited for his business. He understands that a change in the site plan will require approval of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Rodovalho was advised by the Board and Mr. Curran that if he wants to make major changes, he will need approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals; otherwise he will need to restore the island and plantings. Mr. Curran promised to keep the Board updated on this issue.

Set April Meeting Schedule (cont'd)

The Board scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in addition to the meeting that was scheduled earlier for Tuesday, April 2, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

WBSA: Request to Change Route of Opening Day Parade

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that the Opening Day Parade is scheduled on April 20, 2019. They generally gather at the Holy Ghost Church parking lot, but because the parade is scheduled on the same day as Holy Saturday, the church has asked them to have all of their vehicles out of the parking lot by 8:15 a.m. Because the request didn't fit with their schedule, WBSA is asking for permission to change the route. Mr. Lynam has spoken with Brian Schwede of WBSA and suggested they gather at Memorial Field. He also gave Mr. Schwede suggestions for new routes; and asked him to call Chief Benton to advise him of the change. Chief Benton stated that he has not yet heard from Mr. Schwede. The Board had no concerns or issues with a change in the route of the Opening Day Parade.

At 7:47 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. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Lambiase – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.** The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk