

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 11, 2023**

In attendance from the Board of Selectmen were Chairman Randolph G. LaMattina; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Justin R. Evans; Members Shawn M. Kain and Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter. Member Dr. Carl Kowalski was absent.

Chairman LaMattina opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and was followed by a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Kevin Barradas, who was a long-time dedicated employee of the Department of Public Works.

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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 4-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 4-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on March 21, 2023. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 4-0.**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Chairman LaMattina provided a Covid-19 update. There were 212 tests performed resulting in 5 positive tests resulting in a positivity rate of 2.36%.

OLD BUSINESS

Kevin Cleary: Update of DPW Building Project

On April 1, 2023, there was an Open House at the DPW facility. It went very well, and a lot of positive feedback was received. The next Open House is scheduled for April 22, 2023, from 9:00 to 2:00 p.m., with a touch-a-truck event for the community members. On April 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. there will be a Q&A in the Town Hall auditorium. He also reported that the website is up and running. The new building is 50%-60% designed with cost estimate of \$17.8 million dollars over what has already been appropriated. The project is estimated to take 12-13 months to complete.

Chairman LaMattina supports the project, and he recommends that everyone should see the building if they have not already. Mr. Evans inquired on the completion date for the architectural documents to which Mr. Cleary stated that they should be completed by early June. Mr. Kain would like to hold the vote after Town meeting once the designs have been completed and a solid estimate has been submitted. Mr. Lynam clarified that there must be a vote of Town Meeting in order to go out to bid for the project.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

FY24 Budget

Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter stated that \$293,999 of free cash has been used to balance the budget. Chairman LaMattina suggested that the Town will be looking at cuts to public safety

and possible closure of the library if the School Committee does not lower its budget. Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter said 10% of the Town staff could be impacted due to such cuts.

OLD BUSINESS (cont'd)

Recorded Meetings/Public Meeting Decorum

Mr. Lynam conveyed that he is creating a citizens' petition to be added to the Annual Town Meeting warrant to have all public meetings recorded. This is in part due to poor behavior he witnessed by members of the Finance Committee at a number of their meetings; noting some of the comments made by members of the Finance Committee could be considered libelous. Mr. Kain would like to have meetings recorded for transparency but does not believe that it should be a blanket article for all Town committees. Chairman LaMattina also would like to see all meetings recorded to avoid targeting a particular committee; and further stated that a public open meeting should be accessed by all. Julia Nanigian of the Whitman Cultural Council voiced her concern that if meetings are recorded it might be hard to keep members as they may not want to be on camera. Chairman LaMattina clarified that meeting recordings would be audio only and not video. Mr. Salvucci agreed it would be beneficial to all Town committees to have the meetings recorded as important committee news and information would be broadcast. Mr. Evans also agrees that it is a positive move toward transparency.

Discuss WMS Debt Exclusion

Chairman LaMattina announced the Whitman Middle School Building Committee would like to have a ballot vote in November. Mr. Salvucci agrees that November would be a good time to have the ballot vote. Chairman LaMattina would like to see the vote scheduled for after the holidays. Mr. Evans would like to have a Special Town Meeting on October 30, 2023, with the Special Town Election on November 4, 2023. Mr. Kain expressed his agreement that it makes sense to have an earlier election scheduled, as opposed to waiting until March.

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to enter into **EXECUTIVE SESSION**. **Second** Mr. Evans. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. Kain – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman LaMattina – yes. **So voted 4-0.**

At 8:15 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to reconvene in Open Session. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 4-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Dollars for Scholars Tree Lighting Event

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Michelle LaMattina to hold the 4th Annual Dollars for Scholars Decorating Event at the Whitman Town Park on December 8, 9, & 10, 2023; and for use of the Town Hall auditorium on Friday, December 8, 2023, and Saturday, December 9, 2023, in order to hold a vendor fair. **Second** Mr. Evans; **so voted 4-0.**

Board of Health: Request to Hold Drive-Thru Rabies Clinic

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of the Board of Health for permission to use the Animal Shelter, Essex Street, on Friday, June 23, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, in order to conduct a Drive-Thru Rabies Clinic for dogs and cats. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 4-0.**

Whitman VFW: Request to Hold Buddy Poppy Drive

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Whitman V.F.W. Post No. 697 to hold its Annual Buddy Poppy Drive at Stop & Shop and the Post Office on April 28, 29 & 30, 2023. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

Appt. to Recreation Commission: Angela McCue

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Angela McCue as Member, Whitman Recreation Commission, for the remainder of a three-year term, through June 30, 2025, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

Appt. to Historical Commission: Michael Simmons

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Michael Simmons as Member, Historical Commission, for the remainder of a three-year term, through June 30, 2025, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

Appt. to Historical Commission: Anne Holbrook

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Anne Holbrook as Associate Member, Historical Commission, for the remainder of a three-year term, through June 30, 2025, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

Appt. to Capital Committee: Francis Lynam

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Francis Lynam as Member, Capital Committee, for the remainder of a three-year term, through June 30, 2024, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

Request to Add Roads to the Accepted Road List

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of DPW Superintendent Bruce Martin to add the following roads currently classified as “unaccepted” to the Town’s accepted road list:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Constitution Circle | Winslow Circle |
| Freedom Lane | Rosina Way |
| Old Colony Way | River Birch Circle |
| Fox Way | Payton Place |
| Henning Drive | Patriot Lane |
| Jacob Lane | Orchard Way |
| John Young Way | Meier Farm |
| Railroad Avenue | Magnolia Circle |
| Robin Road | Grove Way |
| Terri Road | Victoria Drive |
| Valley Road | Fieldstone Circle |
| Wild Turkey Lane | |

Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.

Ballot Questions

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to place the following ballot question on the May 20, 2023, Annual Town Election Ballot:

Shall the Town of Whitman be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of designing, constructing and equipping a new Department of Public Works building, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto? Yes_____ No_____

Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to place the following question on the May 20, 2023, Annual Town Election ballot:

Shall the Town vote to have its elected Treasurer-Collector become an appointed Treasurer-Collector of the Town? Yes ___ No ___

Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.

Multi-Factor Authentication Policy

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to add the Multi-Factor Authentication Policy to the Town of Whitman Personnel Policies and Procedures. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

Authorization re: ARPA Grants

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize the Town Administrator to approve, finalize and submit on behalf of the Town any such American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant application and to make all representations and certifications required to be made on behalf of the Town, to complete each such application with such approval, representations and certifications to be evidenced by the signature of the Town Administrator on such application, and if any such American Rescue Plan Act grant is awarded, the Town Administrator shall be the recipient of such grant on behalf of the Town. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize the Town Accountant or Assistant Town Accountant to prepare and enter information into the Plymouth County American Rescue Plan portal in support of one or more applications to Plymouth County for American Rescue Plan Act grants, to be funded from a grant received by Plymouth County under the American Rescue Plan Act. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Community Resource Comfort Dog

Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter stated the need for the Town to establish a gift account for funds related to the Community Resource Dog. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to establish a gift account dedicated to funds for a Community Resource Dog. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

ATA Position

Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter announced that four applicants for the Assistant Town Administrator position are scheduled to be interviewed next week; and she hopes to have a recommendation for the Board within the next couple of weeks. In addition, she will be advertising the Town Accountant position.

At 8:40 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0.**

Justin R. Evans, Clerk