

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 1, 2020**

In accordance with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, §20, the meeting was held remotely in an on-line conference mode hosted on Zoom.com and members of the public were not able to physically attend. The meeting was broadcast live on Comcast channel 12 and was able to be viewed via live stream at WHCA.tv. The meeting was subsequently broadcast on YouTube.com.

In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Randolph G. LaMattina; Member Justin R. Evans; and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Kowalski asked everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence.

OLD BUSINESS

Whitman-Hanson Regional Agreement Amendment

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that he has spoken at length with Town Counsel on this issue. Town Counsel's concerns have caused her to propose an amendment related to clarity and the method to be used going forward, as she felt the first proposal included unclear language that required clarification. The language that has been presented to the Board of Selectmen addresses those issues. Two copies of the agreement have been posted on the town website. One copy is the original agreement from Whitman-Hanson and the other contains our recommended language. Mr. Lynam noted that when the Board votes to accept and post the warrant, the new language will be inserted.

Mr. Salvucci asked if the Board's vote to accept the warrant will keep him from speaking for or against any of the articles. Mr. Lynam advised Mr. Salvucci that this is a proposed amendment and all are free to speak on the merits of the article. Chairman Kowalski noted that if Town Meeting approves Article 7, it is essentially a vote to approve a 50/50 split of Hanson's share and to use the statutory method going forward. This is an opportunity for the two towns to come together in order to pass the budget. He finished by saying Attorney Company answered all of our questions from last week and has made Article 7 contingent upon Hanson agreeing to our proposal.

Vote to Issue Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. LaMattina stated that he spoke with Representative Cutler and was told that the House passed legislation that gives the Board of Selectmen authority to pass the flood map by-law with a 2/3 vote. He noted that if the Board does not pass the flood maps for Whitman, we will be excluded from the National Flood Plan and residents who live in or near a flood zone will not be able to obtain flood insurance.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the June 22, 2020, Town Meeting warrant as presented. **Second** Mr. Bezanson for discussion.

Mr. Lynam noted that Article 2 is in draft form as it is still under review by the Finance Committee. Mr. Salvucci questioned line 244. Mr. Lynam stated that this is money that is

available if needed to pay out earned or unpaid time to employees that retire or separate from their employment with the town. He also advised Mr. Salvucci that this money was set aside at the recommendation of the auditors. Mr. Salvucci asked why the salary line for some employees is showing a decreased number. Mr. Lynam stated that a reduction means that there were less work days during the year or that a new employee was hired at a lower salary than the person who previously held the position. Mr. Salvucci noted that the fire union is the only union that negotiated a contract; and asked if funds will be set aside in case the other unions agree to a contract. Mr. Lynam stated that letters have been sent to union representatives from our labor counsel and funds have been set aside. Mr. Salvucci asked if the warrant articles and Article 2 are all within the levy limit. Mr. Lynam said no, the ambulance fund is being used to subsidize the total cost of the budget. He also advised the Board that an override will be needed next year in order to continue to fund both the levy and capital plans. Mr. Bezanson expressed concern with an override and what will happen with the town if it fails. Mr. Lynam stated that it will depend on our growth but it cannot be documented based on our assessments to date. Inevitably, the townspeople will have to decide what type of town they want. Mr. LaMattina asked if any funds from line 244 will be used in FY21. Mr. Lynam said yes, there will be a couple of employees retiring and he expects approximately \$20,000 will be spent from this expense line. Chairman Kowalski called for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that he will circulate the warrant to each member of the Board for signatures.

Chairman Kowalski asked Mr. Lynam if there has been any news on the date of Town Meeting. Mr. Lynam stated that the senate should be sending a bill to Governor Baker for signature and he hopes to have an answer this week.

At 3:41 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk