

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 9, 2020**

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 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Kowalski read the following into the record:

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

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

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

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Update: COVID-19

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that we are continuing to move forward with plans to begin engaging the public with activities. Access to town fields will be granted next week and sports will begin in July. A temperature station has been ordered and will be used to screen people entering Town Hall. Delivery of the temperature station is expected in two weeks, at which time all offices will return to being fully staffed on a daily basis. The Town Hall will remain closed to the public; however, anyone wishing to schedule an appointment with any department may do so.

Town Meeting: June 22, 2020

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that because Town Meeting can now be held outside of the geographic boundaries of the town, it can take place at the high school. He then asked if the Board wishes to hold Town Meeting at its currently scheduled date of June 22, or if the meeting should be postponed until July. If the Board chooses to postpone the meeting until July, the town will be placed on a 1/12th budget. The Town Accountant has prepared a budget for the month of July and if the Board decides to hold Town Meeting in July, this budget will require approval of the Board.

Chairman Kowalski stated that he is under a stay-at-home order per his physician, and he has a real concern with attending a meeting on June 22, as well as for others who might be susceptible.

Mr. Evans reminded everyone that Hanson has pushed its Town Meeting off until July. He then asked if there is anything on the warrant that needs to be voted on by July 1. Mr. Lynam said there is an item related to veterans' benefits but he believes he can find the money in other budgets via the option of a line item transfer. Mr. Salvucci stated that he has no issue with proceeding with conducting Town Meeting on June 22. Mr. Bezanson agreed, although he expressed concern with the possibility of a lower turnout due to apprehension. He then suggested postponing Town Meeting until July 27. Mr. LaMattina asked how unplanned public safety events are handled on a 1/12th budget. Mr. Lynam said calculations are based on the previous July; and prior appropriations and revolving accounts are available. Mr. LaMattina stated that we would not be cutting any services by postponing Town Meeting until July, and we may see a better turnout which is the ultimate goal. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to request the Town Moderator consider postponing the June 22, 2020, Annual Town Meeting for 30 days, in consideration of public health and safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Chairman Kowalski read the following letter into the record:

Dear Honorable Board Members:

On behalf of the Whitman Business Community I would like to take this opportunity to commend and thank Police Chief Tim Hanlon, Deputy Chief Joe Bombardier, Fire Chief Tim Grenno and Town Administrator Frank Lynam for their work on this past Sundays Peaceful Protest and Vigil. We would also like to thank the organizers and of course the participants for making this event safe and positive. And certainly all of the local police.

As you know, there was a lot of angst in the community when it was announced that this event was going to be Friday evening. The angst was because of what had transpired in Brockton, Boston and many other communities when the protests turned violent when held at night. We believe that the violence was not caused by the protestors, but others. Many of our local business still have not reopened due to the COVID 19 pandemic and face many challenges in coming days, weeks and months to stay viable. There was much relief when the event was changed to Sunday afternoon.

Again, we would like to thank the organizers for the change in dates and for organizing the event. We as a business community stand with peaceful protests and vigils. Of course we would also like to thank all of the participants who attended. Events like this make small towns such as Whitman the absolute best place in the world to live when a community comes together, as it did Sunday for such a great purpose.

*Sincerely,
Richard Rosen*

BUDGET REVIEW

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that the Finance Committee is meeting this evening and will begin analyzing Article 2. He hopes to have the recommendations of the Finance Committee next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Application for Common Victualler's License: Old Colony Brewing

Dennis Nash, owner of Old Colony Brewing, Inc. was present and thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here this evening. He advised the Board that he has received permission from his landlord, Richard Rosen, to use three parking spaces on the side of the building for outdoor dining; and outlined a list of safety standards that he included with his application. Mr. Lynam advised the Board that in order to offer outdoor service, food must be served. This is the reason Mr. Nash is applying for a Common Victualler's License. Mr. Nash advised the Board that he has also applied for a Retail Food Permit with the Board of Health. Mr. Lynam noted that if the application is approved, an inspection by the Board of Health and Building Commissioner will take place. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of Old Colony Brewing, Inc. for a Common Victualler's License on the premises located at 605 Bedford Street, Unit 1, subject to receipt of the license fee. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Application to Alter the Description of the Licensed Premises: Old Colony Brewing, Inc.

Mr. Lynam noted that if the application is approved, an inspection by the Board of Health and Building Commissioner will take place. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of Old Colony Brewing, Inc. to alter the description of the licensed premises located at 605 Bedford Street, Unit 1, to expand for outdoor seating pursuant to Governor Baker's June 1, 2020, Order subject to final inspection of the Liquor License Inspection Agent. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Authorization to Approve Applications to Expand for Outdoor Seating

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize the Town Administrator to approve applications from Section 12 licensees requesting to expand for outdoor seating pursuant to Governor Baker's June 1, 2020, Order. Authorization will be subject to final inspection/approval of the Board of Health, Building Commissioner and Chief of Police. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Mr. Lynam noted that this authorization will allow for a quick response. Mr. Salvucci asked if ADA rules are relaxed if seating is placed on sidewalks. Mr. Lynam said no, any requests must be for parking lot or side aisle locations. Mr. LaMattina stated that a lot of restaurants have been affected by this. He suggested the Assistant Town Administrator reach out to the restaurant owners in the center of town to see if there is any interest in expanding to outdoor seating one evening each weekend. Mrs. Green agreed, and noted that other towns have done something similar and it has worked out well. She will reach out to the restaurant owners and report back to the Board. Chairman Kowalski call for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

FY21 Annual Appointments

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the FY2021 annual appointments as listed in a document on file in the office of the Board of Selectmen. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Line Item Transfer: Fire Dept.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Grenno for a line item transfer in the amount of \$10,000 from line item #133 (All Other Services) to line item #140 (Ambulance Billing). **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Line Item Transfer: Town Administrator

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of the Town Administrator to transfer \$2,993.49 from line item #206B (Animal Control Expense) to line item #206A (Animal Control Salaries). **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

The Board cancelled their meeting scheduled on June 22, 2020. The next meeting will be held on June 30, 2020.

At 7:36 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting and enter 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; and (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. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.** Chairman Kowalski declared that having this meeting in Open Session will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. The meeting did not reconvene in Open Session.