

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 23, 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 is being held remotely in an on-line conference mode hosted on Zoom.com and members of the public are not able to physically attend. The meeting is being broadcast live on Comcast channel 12 and can be viewed via live stream at WHCA.tv. This 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.

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.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. **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 approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. **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.**

SCHEDULED MEETINGS/HEARINGS

Chairman Kowalski opened a public meeting in connection with the application of MassAutoWorld, Inc. for a Class II Auto Dealer's License on the premises located at 470 Temple Street. Chairman Kowalski announced a letter was received from Building Commissioner Robert Curran stating he has no concerns or issues with this application. Mr. Lynam noted the premises was previously occupied by Star Auto and there will be no change in the site. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of MassAutoWorld, Inc. for a Class II Auto Dealer's License on the premises located at 470 Temple Street, subject to receipt of Articles of Organization; a lease agreement; and 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.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Update: COVID-19

Mr. Lynam stated that his concern as it relates to COVID-19 is the ability to return to normal operations. He is still waiting on delivery of the temperature station; and when it arrives he would like to return to full staff on a daily basis and will ask the Board for authorization at that time. Mr. Lynam noted the Treasurer/Collector offices are currently fully staffed due to it being the end of the fiscal year. He went on to say that we are continuing to encourage our local licensees to take advantage of the opportunity to expand to outdoor dining.

Assistant Town Administrator Lisa Green provided the Board with an update of the results of her reaching out to restaurant owners in the center of town and asking if they would be interested in providing outdoor dining one weekend evening each week. Mrs. Green advised the Board that after speaking with all of the restaurant owners, only one of them expressed interest. The others appreciated the gesture but felt it would be too costly for them to purchase the items required for outdoor dining. Mr. Lamattina expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Green for her efforts. He, too, spoke to one restaurant owner and understands it would be more of a burden at this time; and suggested an event could be planned once the businesses are able to get back on their feet.

BUDGET REVIEW

1/12th Budget

Mr. Lynam discussed the 1/12th budget prepared by the town accountant for the month of July, noting the total amount differs slightly than what was provided to the Board due to a slight increase in the Plymouth County assessment. The entire budget will be presented at the July 27th Town Meeting. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** that the Town of Whitman enact a 1/12th budget for the month of July, 2020, in the amount of eight million, four hundred ninety five thousand, five hundred seventeen (\$8,495,517) dollars for the General Fund, and four hundred forty four thousand, six hundred thirty one (\$444,631) dollars for the Water-Sewer Enterprise Fund, and direct the Town Accountant to submit a request for approval of said 1/12th budget to the Division of Local Services. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Mr. Salvucci asked where the \$8,495,517 is coming from. Mr. Lynam advised Mr. Salvucci that the money will come from funds we eventually raise. Mr. Salvucci asked if money will be spent on something that may not pass at Town Meeting. Mr. Lynam stated that it is possible, and referred to line #175 as an example. Mr. Evans asked if moving forward with a 1/12th budget was made possible by special legislation due to COVID-19. Mr. Lynam said no, this has always been allowed if for some reason Town Meeting was not able to be held. He also noted that 87 school districts will be proceeding with a 1/12th budget in July. Chairman Kowalski called 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.**

NEW BUSINESS

Restoration Coffee

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the Common Victualler's License for Restoration Coffee on the premises located at 401 South Avenue as this business is no longer operating at this location. **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.**

Whitman Youth Soccer: Opening Day Parade

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Helen Iannone on behalf of Whitman Youth Soccer to hold the Opening Day Parade on Saturday, August 29, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in accordance with the route outlined in a letter received on June 8, 2020. **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: Veterans Benefits

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request for a line item transfer in the amount of \$34,273.07 from Article 37 of the 5/16/19 ATM warrant (Thumb Latches for Schools) to Line Item #224 Veterans Benefits. **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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Grenno for a line item transfer in the amount of \$8,751.50 from Line Item #137 (Town Owned Sprinkler/Fire Maintenance) to Line Item #135 (Expense). **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.**

Free Cash Appropriation

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that on June 30, 2020, any free cash that is unappropriated will not be available until it has been certified by the Department of Revenue. Due to COVID-19, the state has issued temporary authorization to use free cash for 2019 as long as it has not been appropriated. \$823,490 will be retained in free cash and the Finance Committee has asked the Board of Selectmen to support \$300,000 being transferred to Stabilization and Capital Stabilization to put us in a better position for next year. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize the Town Accountant to submit a request for authorization to appropriate July 1, 2019, certified free cash; and to appropriate July 1, 2019, verified retaining earnings for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. **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.**

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

Mrs. Green explained the program to the Board, noting that it opens up grant funding opportunities. Some tasks will have to be completed with the assistance of the Old Colony Planning Council, which will help to identify the infrastructure most vulnerable in severe weather. Mrs. Green then asked for the Board's approval to get the program up and running. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to support the Town of Whitman's participation in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. **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.**

Appointment to COA: Patricia Goldmann

Mr. Lynam reminded the Board that Ms. Goldmann retired from her previous position on the Council on Aging Board. With the upcoming retirement of Council on Aging Director Barbara

Garvey, Ms. Goldmann is willing to return to the board in order to help with the transition of a new director. Mr. Lynam advised the Board that Mary Holland, former Assistant Town Clerk, has been offered the position of Director of the Council on Aging. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Patricia Goldmann to be appointed as Member of the Council on Aging for a three-year term, through June 30, 2021, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **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 asked if it is necessary for the Board to meet next week. Mr. Lynam stated that the Board will need to meet briefly in order to discuss a complaint received from a resident of Carleton Street and to vote on a second appointment to the Council on Aging Board. Chairman Kowalski asked Mr. Lynam to follow through with Chief Hanlon and the DPW with respect to the Carleton Street complaint prior to the meeting.

At 7:38 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting and to 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 will not reconvene in Open Session.

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk