

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

In attendance were Chairman Dr. Carl Kowalski, Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Members Shawn M. Kain and Laura Howe; and Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter. Mr. Evans was absent.

Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and 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 Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

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

Chairman Kowalski opened public forum and no one in attendance came forward to address the Board.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Kowalski remarked that there is an increase in tick-borne disease in Whitman and cautioned townsfolk to be cautious when outside.

Chairman Kowalski announced he will meet with the chair of the School Committee and the chair of the Hanson Board of Selectmen regarding timing of the 2024 budget; and agreed to pass on the information he received via email from Mr. Kain. Chairman Kowalski will also be meeting with Mr. Galvin prior to the budget meeting taking place.

Chairman Kowalski reminded everyone that on August 29, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. the annual opioid vigil will take place at Massasoit Community College to remember those who lost their lives due to a drug overdose. Chairman Kowalski encouraged all to attend and stated that the number of victims is rising.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rescind License: Rivers Custom & Classics LLC

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the Class II Auto Dealer's License for Rivers Custom & Classics LLC on the premises located at 605 Bedford Street, Unit #9, as the business is no longer operating. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

Resignation: Sara Lansing, VSO

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept with regret the resignation of Veterans' Services Officer Sara Lansing, effective June 22, 2023. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.** Mr. Salvucci extended his thanks to Ms. Lansing; and stated that she was particularly good in her role as Veterans' Services Officer.

Resignation: Laura Andrade, COA

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the resignation of Laura Andrade as a member of the Council on Aging, effective June 1, 2023. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

Surplus Material

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to declare a table located in the auditorium balcony as surplus material. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.** Mary Beth Carter clarified that the table has no value.

Appointment to By-Law Study Committee

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Timothy Grenno to be appointed to the By-Law Study Committee, through June 30, 2024, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

Appointment to By-Law Study Committee

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Fred Small to be appointed to the By-Law Study Committee, through June 30, 2024, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

Renewal of License: Starr's Tarot Cards

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to renew the Fortune Teller's License for Starr's Tarot Cards on the premises located at 418 Bedford Street, subject to receipt of all renewal paperwork and the license fee. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

Donation to Animal Shelter

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept a donation of \$7,500 from the Copeland Family Foundation, Inc. to be used for the Animal Shelter. **Second Mr. Kain, so voted 3-0-1** (Ms. Howe abstained).

Request to Use Town Hall Auditorium: Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Elaine Mauro on behalf of the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra to conduct a free concert on Sunday, December 3, 2023, and Sunday, April 28, 2024, inside the Town Hall auditorium. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

Line Item Transfers

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Hanlon for a line-item transfer in the amount of \$11,699.82 from line item #739 (Auxiliary Expense Line) to line item #112 (All Other Services). **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Hanlon for a line-item transfer in the amount of \$3,000.00 from line item #585 (Expense Line) to line item #112 (All Other Services). **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Mary Beth Carter for a line-item transfer in the amount of \$12,000.00 from line item #35 (Vacation Pay for Terminating Employees) to line item #35 (Unemployment Compensation). **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.** Mary Beth Carter declared that fraudulent unemployment claims have been submitted and paid for and that the Town is expecting to be reimbursed, although it is not guaranteed.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Mary Beth Carter for a line-item transfer in the amount of \$1,762.00 from line item #14 (Expense, Furnishings & Equip.) to line item #35 (Facilities Manager). **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

Strategic Plan

Mr. Kain stated a lot of progress has been made since the inception of the Strategic Plan. We have made significant progress in finance and are making great progress in strategic priorities. With respect to public facilities and infrastructure, the Facilities Director has done a great job documenting the needs of the Town. Some progress has been made in economic development; and an update of the Master Plan is in the works. Mr. Kain noted that Assistant Town Administrator Kathy Keefe will be looking into grants. Justin Evans and Mary Beth Carter have investigated grants such as an EPA grant for the train station. He went on to say establishing a Chamber of Commerce should be considered in the near future. Ms. Howe expressed interest in being involved with that. Mr. Kain also advised that more time should be spent on citizens services in the near future. Also, the schools have been able to implement full day kindergarten and will begin working on their strategic plan next month. Chairman Kowalski asked Mr. Kain if he would be willing to present a report each year in July outlining the progress of the Strategic Plan and Mr. Kain agreed to do so.

Meeting Schedule

The Board set their next meeting schedule for Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Whitman Firefighters Association, Local 1769, IAFF: Holiday MOA

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to ratify the Holiday MOA between the Town of Whitman and Whitman Firefighters Association, Local 1769, IAFF; and to authorize the chair to sign said agreement. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

CBA: Whitman Firefighters Association, Local 1769, IAFF

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to sign the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Whitman and the Whitman Firefighters Association, Local 1769, IAFF, for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Camp Alice Carlton

Mary Beth Carter advised the Board that she met with Mr. Lynam and Select Soccer representatives on the status of the parcel of land in Rockland. Mr. Salvucci stated that he thought the land was given to the Town for recreational use to which Mary Beth Carter confirmed. Whitman resident Eric Joubert inquired about buildings being placed on the land after the land has been lying dormant since 1984. He would like to see the land be kept as green space. Laura Howe agreed with Mr. Joubert and stated that the space is important to animals. Mr. Kain thanked Mr. Joubert for bringing his thoughts. Chairman Kowalski asked Mary Beth Carter to form a committee because he feels Mr. Joubert's point of view should be explored. Whitman resident Gloria Knox informed the Board that she oversaw managing the Camp and knew the Carlton family. She stated that the Carltons wished for the land to be used by children enjoy nature

Addition to Summer Concerts

Mary Beth Carter announced that the Cultural Council has added an additional event for July 27, 2023, and is asking for permission to use the Town Hall auditorium in the event of inclement weather. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to allow the Whitman Cultural Council to use the Town Hall auditorium on July 27, 2023, in the event of inclement weather in order to conduct an additional event in conjunction with the Summer Concerts. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 4-0.**

At 7:50 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a) (1) to discuss the physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual; and (7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

- Platinum Automotive Sales Corp.; and

pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with MassCOP if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares; and

pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

- Building Inspector; and

pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a)(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.

- AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Council 93, Local 1700

Second Ms. Howe. Roll call vote revealed: Ms. Howe – yes; Mr. Kain – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 4-0.** Chairman Kowalski declared that having this meeting in open session will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

The meeting did not reconvene.

Justin Evans, Clerk