

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 20, 2021**

In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Member Randolph G. LaMattina; and Town Administrator Lincoln D. Heineman. Clerk Brian J. Bezanson and Member Justin R. Evans were absent. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Kowalski asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence dedicated to Drew Paglia and Barbara Finkelstein.

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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

SCHEDULED HEARINGS/MEETINGS

7:05 P.M. – Public Meeting re: the Application of Whitman Auto Sales Corp.

Chairman Kowalski opened a public meeting at 7:05 p.m. in connection with the application of Whitman Auto Sales Corp. for a Class II Auto Dealer’s License on the premises located at 864-878 Bedford Street. Mr. Cardozo explained that the former tenant, Martin’s Pre-Owned Auto Sales moved to a different location and he is now leasing the property. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of Whitman Auto Sales Corp. for a Class II Auto Dealer’s License on the premises located at 864-878 Bedford Street, subject to receipt of the license fee and final inspection/approval of the Building Commissioner. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation by State Representative Alyson Sullivan to Claire LaMattina

Citations were presented to Miss LaMattina by State Representative Alyson Sullivan and Senator Michael Brady for her idea to sell “Whitman Strong” lawn signs during the pandemic in order to raise money for the Whitman Food Pantry. Her efforts raised over \$17,000 and inspired other communities to do the same.

Presentation of Citations to Detective Eric Campbell and Officer Christopher Lee

Chairman Kowalski read citations honoring both Detective Campbell and Officer Lee for their live saving actions, both on and off the job. Detective Campbell was honored for responding to a call while off-duty and performing CPR on someone inside a local store. Officer Lee was honored for his actions in alerting a National Grid crew working inside a trench of an oncoming vehicle in which the driver was in medical distress.

Presentation of Citation to Firefighter Andrew McGillivray

Chairman Kowalski read a citation honoring Firefighter Andrew McGillivray. Firefighter McGillivray was performing with the Greater Boston Pipes and Drums during the Quincy July 4th Parade when another participant of the parade went into cardiac arrest. McGillivray helped to secure the scene and perform CPR, saving the person's life.

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. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

Rescind Appointments: Special Police Officer

Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to rescind the following from the position of Special Police Officer: Brian J. Bezanson; Robert P. Curran; Justin R. Evans; James Ewell; Mark J. Getchell; Lincoln D. Heineman; Carl F. Kowalski; Randolph LaMattina; Peter Palaza; Thomas E. Ruble; and Daniel Salvucci. **Second Mr. Salvucci.** Chief Hanlon explained that due to the Police Reform Act, changes have been made to training requirements. He noted that our auxiliary officers are currently trained and certified but will need to keep up with that status through some sort of academy in the near future. Mr. Heineman indicated he would be in support of sending these officers to the academy; however, he would ask that the town be paid back if they were to leave their position with the town within a certain timeframe. Chairman Kowalski called for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. **So voted 3-0.**

Appointment to COA: Ellice Piper

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Ellice Piper to the position of Member of the Council on Aging for a three-year term, through June 30, 2024, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

Rescind Appointment to Cultural Council: Joseph Kleinmann

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the appointment of Joseph Kleinmann to the position of Member, Whitman Cultural Council. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

Appointment to Whitman Cultural Council: Julianna Dunn

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Julianna Dunn to the position of Member, Whitman Cultural Council for a three-year term, through June 30, 2023, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

Appointments to Community Preservation Committee

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint the following to the Community Preservation Committee:

- John Goldrosen for a one-year term, through June 30, 2022
- Melissa Lothrop for a two-year term, through June 30, 2023
- Richard Rosen for a three-year term, through June 30, 2024
- Ryan Tressel for a three-year term, through June 30, 2024.

Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.

Appointment to Board of Appeals: Gerald Eaton

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Gerald Eaton to the position of Associate Member of the Board of Appeals for a two-year term, through June 30, 2022, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

Appointment to Whitman Housing Authority: Michelle Frazier

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Michelle Frazier to the Whitman Housing Authority in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

Resignation – Auxiliary/Special Police Officer: John Hubbard

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the resignation of John Hubbard from the position of Auxiliary/Special Police Officer, effective July 9, 2021. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

McGuiggan’s Pub: Request to Hold a Watch Party

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Richard Rosen to extend the hours of operation for McGuiggan’s Pub and The Patio at McGuiggan’s to 2:00 a.m. on Friday, August 6, 2021, in order to conduct a watch party for the U.S. women’s soccer team on Thursday, August 5, 2021; to close Washington Street between Temple Street/South Avenue and School Street beginning at 8:00 p.m.; and a One-Day Liquor License to serve from a tent set up at 16 Legion Parkway, subject to receipt of the license fee. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

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 28, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in accordance with the route outlined in a letter received July 14, 2021. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

Block Party Request

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Tina Moniz and Jenn Fernandez to hold a block party on Saturday, August 14, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., with Fox Hill Run being blocked off to traffic between Shelly Lane and Hunter’s Path. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 3-0.**

Town Administrator’s Evaluation

Chairman Kowalski announced that pursuant to the contract of employment with Mr. Heineman, the Board will be evaluating Mr. Heineman based on his goals and objectives; and a meeting must be scheduled in order for Mr. Heineman to deliver those goals and objectives. Following discussion, it was agreed a meeting will take place on August 24, 2021, during which Mr. Heineman will present his goals and objectives to the Board. He must also submit them to the members of the Board 2 weeks prior to the August 24th meeting.

Chairman Kowalski announced that the Board will also meet with Ann Donner regarding the Strategic Plan on August 24th. He suggested she be given the survey results and reports from the Override and Capital Committees. He also noted Ms. Donner will be meeting with department heads tomorrow. Mr. LaMattina stated that it was previously made clear that the schools should be included, not just the department heads. Chairman Kowalski agreed.

August meeting Schedule

The Board set their August meeting schedule for Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Fiscal Year-End Financials

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that department heads are working with him and the Town Accountant on encumbrances for FY21. Chairman Kowalski asked if the 2020 audit has been completed. Mr. Heineman advised Chairman Kowalski that the auditors have everything they need and the audit should be completed soon.

Town Website Redesign

Mr. Heineman advised the Board of discussion he has had with Technology Director Josh MacNeil with respect to redesigning the Town website. The goal is to be sure the overall design is more user friendly than the current website and easier for people to find what they are looking for. The top line menu will offer links to elected and appointed boards and committees as well as town government offices and departments. Mr. LaMattina stated that he feels the current website is difficult and he would like it to be easier to navigate. Chairman Kowalski agreed.

Update: Whitman Middle School Project

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that the Whitman Middle School Building Committee is meeting monthly. Bids for the owners' project manager are due July 28th. Whether the school will accommodate grades 5 through 8 or grades 6 through 8 has yet to be determined. The estimated cost is \$50 to \$85 million. He then outlined the timeline for the entire project. Mr. LaMattina noted there is some division among committee members as some are trying to be fiscally sound.

Discussion re: MGL 40R and 40S

Mr. Heineman outlined Chapter 40R (the Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District Act) which encourages communities that have a transit station to create residential or mixed use zoning districts that include a high percentage of affordable housing units within a half mile of the station. If adopted, the Town would be eligible for density bonus payments from the state. If not, we would become ineligible for three state grant programs. Mr. LaMattina stated that he would like the Planning Board to review this and forward their thoughts to the Board. Chairman Kowalski and Mr. Salvucci agreed. Chairman Kowalski asked Mr. Heineman to discuss this issue with the Planning Board and report back to the Board of Selectmen.

Strategic Plan

See Town Administrator's Evaluation.

CARES Act/American Rescue Plan Act

Mr. Heineman advised the Board of total expenditures from funds received from the CARES Act; and reimbursements received to date from Plymouth County for those expenditures. He also advised the Board of the amount of funds remaining, and suggested using those funds for electronic permitting for the Fire Department; an a/v system in the Town Hall auditorium; and replacing the roof on a portion of the armory building. He asked if the Board was comfortable with those particular expenditures and noted there is no guarantee of reimbursement from the

CARES Act. Mr. LaMattina asked Mr. Heineman to speak with the technology director as he believes there may be a plan for some tech items. Mr. Heineman advised Mr. LaMattina that he has already spoken with him; and then asked the Board to vote on the items mentioned.

Chairman Kowalski stated he would prefer Mr. Heineman prepare a list of these items in order for the absent board members to review them before voting on this issue at the next meeting. He then asked Mr. Heineman to prepare a list, send it to the board members, ask for a consensus and set a deadline for the members to respond.

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that the Plymouth County Commissioners have applied for funds from the American Rescue Plan Act and will split the funds based on population.

Guidance on how the program works should be available within the next 45 to 60 days.

Whitman could receive as much as \$2.3 million and will have 3 years to spend it. Funds can be used for revenue replacement (funds lost during the pandemic), wastewater and sewer broadband projects and premium pay for lower wage employees that worked through the pandemic.

Eagle Scout Projects

Mr. Heineman advised the Board of 4 Eagle Scout projects – a kiosk at Harding’s Pond, a kiosk at Hobart Pond, a flagpole at the library and a pavilion at Hobart Pond.

Chairman Kowalski advised the Board that he will be preparing the liaison assignments for FY22; and asked anyone wishing to make a change in their current assignments to let him know.

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. LaMattina, **so voted 3-0.**

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk