

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2023**

In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Justin R. Evans; Member Shawn M. Kain; Member Laura Howe; and Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter.

Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and was followed by a moment of silence in memory of Robert Vaillancourt, Joseph Dwyer, and Dan Donovan. Chairman Kowalski would also like folks to keep the late Ava Patete in mind.

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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0.**

Chairman Kowalski opened public forum and no one came forward to address the Board. Ms. Howe took a moment to read a letter from Whitman resident Dennis Chick commending Jake Cappalletti of Troop 59 on his Eagle Scout project of clearing the Don Flaherty Trail on route 14.

Mr. Salvucci took a moment to thank Ms. Howe and several members of the Whitman Fire and Police Departments for saving his life during a recent medical crisis.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. **Second** Mr. Kain, so voted 4-0-1 (Mr. Evans abstained).

At 6:05 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** 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 a Police Department employee; 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; and

pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Whitman Police Union, MassCOP, Local 494 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) (7) to comply with, or act under the authority of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

- Approval of July 11, 2023, Executive Session minutes

Second Mr. Evans. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Evans – yes; Ms. Howe – yes; Mr. Kain – 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 reconvene in open session.

The meeting reconvened at 7:14 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Announce Approval of Class II Auto Dealer’s License Application & Act to Rescind Current License

Chairman Kowalski announced the approval of a Class II Auto Dealer’s License application for Platinum Automotive Sales Corp. (Collin Emerson), 10 Buckley Avenue during an executive session held at the previous meeting; and asked for a motion to rescind the license currently held on the property. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the Class II Auto Dealer’s License for Platinum Auto Sales (Caroline Snow) on the premises located at 10 Buckley Avenue. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0.**

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Kowalski reminded everyone the opioid vigil will be held August 29, 2023 at Massasoit Community College and encouraged all to attend.

Chairman Kowalski congratulated the School Committee on a great meeting; and noted. Mr. Kain was not acknowledged during open forum which caused him to write a letter to the Whitman Express.

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans’ Services Officer

Ms. Carter stated that after interviewing several candidates for the position of Veterans’ Services Officer, Shannon Burke has been offered the position. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Shannon Burke to the position of Veterans’ Services Officer, subject to Ms. Burke’s acceptance of the Offer of Employment. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0.**

Whitman Cultural Council: Request to Hold Whitman Day

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Adrianna Destefano on behalf of the Whitman Cultural Council to hold Whitman Day annually on the second Saturday of June. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0.** Ms. Destefano thanked the Board for approving the request.

Revocation of Class II Auto Dealer's License: Legacy Auto Sales and Repair, Inc.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to revoke the Class II Auto Dealer's License for Legacy Auto Sales and Repair, Inc. (Willi Moreira) on the premises located at 288 Essex Street for failure to provide proof of reinstatement of a surety bond as required by MGL, c.140, §58. **Second Mr. Evans; so voted 5-0.**

Auxiliary/Special Police Officer Appointment: Christopher Lee

Chief Hanlon outlined Mr. Lee's qualifications, and noted his recent retirement after serving over 20 years with the Whitman Police Department. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Hanlon to appoint Christopher Lee to the position of Auxiliary/Special Police Officer, through June 30, 2024. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Auxiliary/Special Police Officer Appointment: Peter Aitken

Chief Hanlon outlined Mr. Aitken's qualifications, and noted his upcoming retirement on August 8, 2023, after serving approximately 25 years with the Whitman Police Department. If the appointment is approved, it should be effective August 9, 2023. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Hanlon to appoint Peter Aitken to the position of Auxiliary/Special Police Officer, effective August 9, 2023, through June 30, 2024. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Chief Hanlon: Request to Attend IACP Annual Conference

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Hanlon to attend the IACP Annual Conference in San Diego in October. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Leslie DiOrio: Mt. Zion Cemetery

Ms. DiOrio presented a letter which she sent to the DPW in May in which she did not receive a response. Ms. DiOrio would like to ask the Town for permission to clean gravestones at Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Mr. Evans asked Ms. DiOrio to clarify which products are used to clean the stones. She will provide a list of products to the Board.

Molly Schnabel, Chairperson of the Whitman Historical Commission, spoke and agreed with the comments made by Ms. DiOrio, noting the Historical Commission has applied for a grant for this purpose and Ms. Schnabel would like Ms. DiOrio to continue with the project in conjunction with the Historical Commission.

Mr. Salvucci asked Ms. DiOrio what would happen if a stone were to be damaged during the cleaning process. Ms. DiOrio stated that a stone would not break from cleaning.

Mr. Evans **MOVED** to grant Leslie DiOrio permission to clean gravestones at Mt. Zion Cemetery in conjunction with the Whitman Historical Commission filing for a grant related to the preservation of said gravestones. **Second Mr. Kain, so voted 5-0.** Mr. Kain thanked Ms. DiOrio for her volunteer work.

Request to Place a Bench on the Town Hall Lawn

Ken Lailer advised the Board he has ordered a bench and plaque from the DPW and is looking for permission to place it on the front of the Town Hall lawn, near the sidewalk. The bench would be in honor of his late wife, Marie Lailer, former chairperson of the Whitman Historical Commission.

Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter advised the Board that she reached out to the DPW and was notified of a moratorium on bench placement at the Town Park and the Town Hall; however, Mr. Lailer is welcome to place the bench at Memorial Field or on Colebrook Boulevard.

Mr. Lailer stated he feels the Town Hall lawn is the proper place for the bench.

Chairman Kowalski asked the members of the Board if they have any issues with placing the bench on the Town Hall lawn. There were no objections.

Ms. Schnabel advised the Board of the Historical Commission's idea to replace a fallen tree on the Town Hall front lawn with another tree in memory of Mrs. Lailer. This idea had not yet been made public, and she jokingly chastised Mr. Lailer for spoiling the surprise.

Following discussion, Mr. Evans **MOVED** to approve the request of Ken Lailer to place a bench on the front lawn of Town Hall in memory of his late wife Marie Lailer; and to support the Whitman Historical Commission in its endeavor to replace a fallen tree on the front lawn of Town Hall with a new tree in memory of Marie Lailer. **Second Mr. Kain, so voted 5-0.**

Peaceful Meadows: Right of First Refusal Process

Ms. Carter advised the Board of a meeting held with John Hornstra of Hornstra Farm in Norwell, who plans on bidding on the Peaceful Meadows property. If Mr. Hornstra is successful, he would have a working dairy farm and continue to maintain the ice cream stand. He would also expand the dairy store. In addition, if financially feasible, Mr. Hornstra would also be interested in purchasing the 55 acres of agricultural land. This would be in conjunction with a state-offered program – the Agricultural Preservation Restriction.

Mr. Evans stated the parcel could be placed under an Agricultural Preservation Restriction or the Town could purchase it and preserve it as open space with CPC funds (currently \$273,000) or with ARPA or town funds for municipal use. If it's the intent of the winning bidder to change the use of the property, the town would have the opportunity to match the bid and purchase the property. Mr. Evans noted a similar parcel in Rockland sold for about \$800,000 two years ago.

Discuss Request to Reduce the Speed Limit on Auburn Street

Mr. Robert Kimball, resident of Auburnville, discussed his request to reduce the speed limit on Auburn Street to 35 miles per hour from Bedford Street to Captain Allen Way; and 45 miles per hour from Captain Allen Way to the Brockton town line. He stated that members of the senior housing residence walk to the shops along Bedford Street, and it is a danger. He said that South Avenue, Plymouth Street/route 58, and Washington Street have speed limits of 35 miles per hour.

Chairman Kowalski told Mr. Kimball that he makes a good case. Mary Beth Carter stated that because this is a state road, the Town will need to submit a request to the Mass DOT to reduce the speed limit.

Chief Hanlon said that the department gets requests for traffic reinforcement quite often. The DPW placed signs to survey speeds, and it was recorded with an average speed of 34.7 mph to Brockton and 40.1 mph to route 18. Chief Hanlon said that those numbers could increase once the construction of route 14 has been completed. He suggested beginning the process to seek a reduction of the speed limit now, rather than waiting until construction is complete.

Mr. Kain **MOVED** to seek to reduce the speed limit to 35 miles per hour and to add a no passing zone on Auburn Street (route 14) from Bedford Street to Captain Allen Way; and to seek to reduce the speed limit to 40 miles per hour beyond Captain Allen Way to the Brockton line.

Second Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.

Set meeting schedule

The Board set its next meeting for Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Carter announced the Boston 25 Zip Trip will be held on Friday, August 11, 2023 at the Town Park

Ms. Carter announced the Whitman Recreation Commission is sponsoring a family movie night on Friday, August 11, 2023 at 7:45 p.m. at the Town Park

Ms. Carter announced the Alice Carlton Land Committee has been established and will be meeting soon for its first meeting.

At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Justin Evans, Clerk