

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
AUGUST 24, 2021**

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 Lincoln D. Heineman. 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 former Selectman Dan Holbrook.

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

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

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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 3-0-2** (Mr. Bezanson and Mr. Evans abstained).

**PROMOTIONAL CEREMONY: Whitman Fire/Rescue & Emergency Services**

Town Clerk Dawn Varley swore in Bryan Smith as Fire Lieutenant. Lieutenant Smith was then pinned with his badge by his daughter. Following the ceremony, Lieutenant Smith was congratulated by the Board.

Mr. Bezanson took a moment to discuss the increase in military deaths by suicide. He then thanked all those who have served; provided the suicide hotline number; and encouraged everyone to reach out to a veteran.

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS/HEARINGS**

**7:10 P.M. – Public Hearing: Cowbells Café – Application for Wine & Malt Liquor License**  
David & Tricia Doyle were present for the hearing. Mrs. Doyle advised the Board that they have been in business for 7 years and are seeking approval to sell beer and wine. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of Cowbells Café (David Doyle) for a Common Victualler’s Wine & Malt Liquor License on the premises located at 25 South Avenue subject to receipt of the license, advertising and mailing fees; approval of the ABCC; and to determine that the premises are not detrimental to the spiritual activities of the Holy Ghost Rectory and Congregational Church. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Chairman Kowalski announced the Board will take the agenda out of order and act on a few items under New Business before meeting with the Board of Library Trustees at 7:15 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Rescind Appointments: Timothy Grenno**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the appointment of Timothy Grenno from the position of Forest Fire Warden, Municipal Coordinator “Right to Know” and Director – WEMA. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

### **Appointments: Timothy J. Clancy, Jr.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Timothy J. Clancy, Jr. to the position of Forest Fire Warden (through June 30, 2022); Municipal Coordinator “Right to Know” (indefinite term); and Director –WEMA (through June 30, 2022). **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

### **September Meeting Schedule**

The Board set their September meeting schedule for Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

### **SCHEDULED MEETINGS/HEARINGS (cont’d)**

#### **7:15 P.M. – Joint Meeting with the Board of Library Trustees**

Chairman Kowalski announced the purpose for the meeting is to fill an existing vacancy on the Board of Library Trustees until the May 21, 2022, Annual Town Election. Present for the Board of Library Trustees were Susan Durand, Margaret McEwan, Katherine Getchell, Michael Ganshirt and Lauren Kelly. Ms. Durand explained Patricia Eunice has applied for the vacant seat and the Trustees would like to appoint her to fill the vacancy. Mr. Ganshirt **MOVED** to appoint Patricia Eunice to the Board of Library Trustees in order to fill an existing vacancy, through May 21, 2022. **Second Ms. Durand.** Roll call vote revealed: Ms. Durand – yes; Mrs. Getchell – yes; Mr. Ganshirt – yes; Mrs. McEwan – yes; Mrs. Kelly – yes; Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; Chairman Kowalski – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; and Mr. LaMattina – yes. **So voted 10-0.**

### **NEW BUSINESS (cont’d)**

#### **Dawn Byers: Update on Whitman Cultural Council**

Whitman Cultural Council members Dawn Byers, Eric Johnson and William Haran were present. Ms. Byers thanked the Board for appointing her and several others over the last few weeks as said appointments have resulted in all vacancies being filled. Mr. Haran provided the history of the Cultural Council; and announced an upcoming concert at the Town Park and an Open House at the Whitman Public Library.

#### **Michelle LaMattina: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DFS Decorating for Scholars Event**

Mrs. LaMattina reminded the Board of the Decorating for Scholars event held last year, noting it was one of the largest fundraisers for Dollars for Scholars. With approval of the Board, the event will take place again this year during 3 days in December, and will be larger with the addition of food trucks and other vendors. Mr. LaMattina thanked Dollars for Scholars for putting the event together. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Michelle LaMattina on behalf of Dollars for Scholars to conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DFS Decorating for Scholars event at the Whitman Town Park on Friday, December 10, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 11, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, December 12, 2021, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0-1 (Mr. LaMattina abstained).**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Town Administrator’s Goals & Objectives**

Chairman Kowalski announced that he and Mr. LaMattina, worked with Town Counsel to incorporate a list of goals and objectives provided by Mr. Heineman into the evaluation form. Mr. Heineman has indicated he is comfortable with the evaluation form; therefore, it will not be necessary to discuss it in Executive Session. Chairman Kowalski also noted that Mr. Heineman requested the Board choose 3 to 5 goals and objectives; however, his entire list of 14 goals and objectives were incorporated into the evaluation form. He then asked Mr. Heineman to identify 3 or 4 goals and objectives he would like to achieve in FY22. Mr. Heineman stated his choices would be improving communication with and participation of appropriate representatives of the

WHRSD relative to the development of strategic planning and budget process, including a (full-day?) retreat with Town and School personnel and communicating earlier in the budget process about the Schools' financial needs and wants; identify and pursue a clear path forward for the final disposition of the Park Avenue School; partner with the Board of Selectmen, Board of Public Works Commissioners, and DPW Superintendents to bring a final plan for a new DPW building to Town Meeting for its consideration; and develop a plan to regionalize Animal Control services with adjacent town(s), and achieve this consolidation (pending participation by neighboring communities). Chairman Kowalski stated that he thought hiring an Assistant Town Administrator would have been one of Mr. Heineman's top 3 choices. Mr. Heineman agreed. Mr. LaMattina stated that while he does not think any of the items on the list should be removed, he feels that a few of them fall under day to day operations and he would like to see a timeline developed for those items that don't. Chairman Kowalski agreed and asked Mr. Heineman to prepare a timeline to be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Salvucci noted legal issues surrounding the Park Avenue School could interfere with Mr. Heineman's plans for final disposition in FY22. In addition, a new DPW building only works if Town Meeting votes in favor of it. This results in both of these items being out of Mr. Heineman's hands. Mr. Bezanson stated that he particularly likes Mr. Heineman's goal related to road and sidewalk repair. Following discussion, Mr. LaMattina asked Mr. Heineman to review the list, identify the day to day items, provide a timeline for the others and present the findings to the Board on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Kowalski announced an opioid vigil will take place at Brockton High School on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Heineman announced the positivity rate in Whitman is rising due to the Delta variant. Last week, he met with Chief Clancy to put together a plan for booster shots. The Town has been following Board of Health recommendations and recently the Board voted to recommend masks be worn inside Town buildings. Earlier today, the Board of Health voted to leave the recommendation in place and to not mandate masking. The Board is also not recommending a vaccine mandate. Mr. Bezanson asked Mr. Heineman to verify OSHA saying employees required to get vaccinated are suing their employer. Mr. Heineman agreed to speak with Town Counsel on this issue. Chairman Kowalski discussed the importance of wearing a mask and getting vaccinated. Mr. Bezanson noted that he is against a mask mandate. Mr. LaMattina agreed, adding he feels people are skeptical about getting the vaccine because it was politicized. He went on to say the vaccine is working but he believes it is a personal choice. Mr. Evans stated the numbers have shown the vaccine works and he feels it is more effective than masks are. He is also not in favor of a mandate at this time.

### **Clerical Position – Treasurer's Office**

Mr. Heineman explained that a vote was taken in Executive Session on December 1, 2020, to adjust the clerical position in the Treasurer's office to a Level 2 position. The vote was contingent on conditions which have been met and Town Counsel was consulted. He went on to say this item is not on the agenda tonight but will be voted on in open session at the next meeting. Mr. Heineman has advised the Treasurer-Collector to pay this individual retroactive from July 1, 2021.

### **WMS Project**

Mr. Heineman advised the Board the RFS for an Owners Project Manager was cancelled and will be done over after changes were made to the expected range of the project. Mr. LaMattina stated

that the meeting held earlier today was very productive, and noted that a new building is clearly a necessity.

### **MBTA Community/Smart Growth**

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that the Planning Board was asked for input on rezoning. The Board discussed this issue at its last meeting and is discussing it again tonight. He will advise the Board of Selectmen of the outcome.

### **Clock Relocation**

Mr. Heineman advised the Board of a meeting he had with Historical Commission member Marie Lailer regarding moving a grandfather clock from the library to Town Hall. He suggested placing the clock in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, but asked the Board for their thoughts. Chairman Kowalski asked the members of the Board to contact Mr. Heineman with their ideas for placement of the clock.

At 8:24 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** 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 or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating 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 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 for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 8:51 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

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Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk