

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2015  
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

PRESENT: Dario F. Nardi, Chairman, Robert E. Lavash Sr., Vice-Chairman, James A. Gagner Jr., Clerk  
ATTENDEES: See list (attached)

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**Chairman Nardi called the meeting to order at 7:00 and led the Pledge of Allegiance in the Selectmen's Meeting Room in the Shepard Municipal Building.**

Chairman Nardi announced that tonight's meeting was being both video and audio taped and requested anyone in the audience to disclose if they are recording tonight's meeting. Ms. Colleen Montague acknowledged she was recording.

**Minutes**

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of November 17, 2015 and November 24, 2015 as so written made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

**Old Business**

- Veterans Agent Vacancy

Mr. Nardi stated he had received concerns over the posting of the Veterans' Agent Vacancy. The vacancy has been posted on the Town website, WCAT and three newspapers.

- Purple Heart Community

Mr. Nardi announced that signs and posts for the designation are being worked on.

- Conflict in Contract Negotiations

Mr. Nardi noted that at the prior meeting, concern was raised of a possible conflict of interest with Board members negotiating the new Police Chief contract. Town Counsel was contacted, Mr. Nardi read from Counsel's response, which indicates there would be no conflict and the full Selectboard can fully participate in negotiations of said contract.

**Comments & Concerns**

Mr. Gary Ordion commented there is debris along with leaves on/along the stairwell of the Town Hall; he is suggesting it be cleaned up in the near future. Mr. Lavash will take this as an action item.

Mr. Stanley Soltys asked the Selectboard to arrange for a joint meeting, including Mr. Seth Blackwell and himself on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> to meet at the Town Hall Clock Tower. He has obtained a Christmas tape and would like to see about installing it. He suggested 10:00 AM. As the Selectboard is conducting their annual Class II and III inspections that morning, Mr. Nardi suggested noon. Request was made to contact Mr. Blackwell. The Board will contact Mr. Soltys to confirm appointment.

**Correspondence**

The Board reviewed the following:

- The office received a memo from Town Planner, Bill Scanlan regarding Green Communities. The memo explains the benefits and requirements for Warren to become a "Green Community" under the Department of Energy Resources. Warren is in the Western Region and Mr. Jim Barry is the Regional Coordinator. Mr. Barry is willing to come before the Board of Selectmen and provide additional information if desired. Selectboard requested to invite Mr. Barry to the next Selectmen's meeting.

**Police Department Appointments – Dispatchers – Possible Discussion/Vote – Tabled to Dec 8, 2015 Mtg**

**Igor Kuprycz – WCAT 12 – Cable Rate Regulation – Possible Discussion/Possible Vote**

Mr. Kuprycz spoke briefly on the notice received from the Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable, regarding Cable Rate Regulation. After discussion with the Cable Advisory Committee, they recommend that the Board contact the DTC and advise them that the franchising authority (CAC/Town of Warren) wishes to retain its cable rate regulation authority. Following some additional comments a motion to submit a reply to the DTC, was made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

Additionally, Mr. Kuprycz took the opportunity to mention that the Warren Cable Advisory Committee is seeking to fill two open positions. Only request is that the candidates be Warren residents and over the age of 18, please send letter of interest to WCAT Channel 12.

**Stanton Foundation – Grant Agreement K-9 Program - Possible Discussion/Possible Vote**

Mr. Nardi stated that discussion on this Grant Agreement was tabled at the last meeting. Given the number of attendees at this meeting, he would like to give all an opportunity to speak. He asked that all questions be directed to the Board and would redirect as necessary. He then opened the topic up for discussion.

Subsequent to the BOS meeting of November 24, 2015, the grant had been approved by the Stanton Foundation for the purpose of a K-9 Unit. The grant is for a total of \$25,000.00 over a period of three years. Chairman Nardi turned the floor over to Chief Spiewakowski in order to take questions from the audience on the matter: Questions and comments were as follows with the Chief's response in italics:

Leona Wrobel – How many crimes have been solved with the help of a dog? – *Dog's do not solve crime, they assist in the process.*

Will the dog be trained? – *The grant covers the dog, training, and related expenses. Once the formal agreement is signed, Officer LaFlower will travel to Pennsylvania and he will be paired with a dog that is compatible. Both he and the K-9 will attend training. Dogs can be trained for different specialties. Currently, the department is looking to train for the purpose of patrol and narcotics.*

Once the Officer and dog are trained will the Officer request an increase in salary? – *Budgetary issues will need to be looked at as the town moves forward.*

Gary Odiorne – What happens when the K-9 Officer is away – *there is a network of handlers that are trained and can be called in to handle and house the dog if need be.*

Ed Kretkiewicz – feels that the addition of a K-9 Unit would serve as a deterrent to crime in town and fully supports the program

Patricia Scanlon – she lives in a rural part of town and feels that the K-9 Unit would help the town immensely with the ongoing drug problems and break-ins.

Beverly Soltys – When the grant is over, how much is the program going to cost the town? – *Approximately \$1,200.00 with most veterinarians offering their services for free. Other towns also have set up accounts in which people can contribute to the care and upkeep of the dog.*

Will the town convert a cruiser for the sole purpose of the K-9? – *Currently, the crown Victoria is being outfitted from parts of the other cruisers. The grant covers expense of conversion.*

Dario Nardi – feels that this is a great opportunity for the town and advised all that he personally intends to fully support a new vehicle for the department.

Stanley Soltys – Will there be an increase to the police budget after the grant period is over? – *It would depend on the number of calls and staffing. Better projection after the program is in place.*

Chief Adam Lavoie – is in full support of the program and feels that this is another tool in the town’s tool box. He also feels that the town should take every opportunity when grant money is available.

Robert Lavash – feels it is a good program and the town should not miss out on an opportunity.

James Gagner – in full support and thanked Officer LaFlower for the time and effort he put in to secure this grant.

Officer LaFlower – wanted to reassure all that he is committed to this town and the program and thanked the Selectmen and residents for allowing him to be a part of it.

What are costs if dog gets called to another town? –*At present there are mutual aid agreements in place. There has been no costs to the Town when other towns have brought their K9 units to assist us.*

Tom O’Donnell – feels that this is an excellent opportunity for the town and should be acted upon immediately.

Hearing no further discussion on the matter, a motion to approve and sign the grant application made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

A general question was asked as to the next step? *Turn in paperwork, select a dog in the spring.*

Scot Mansfield stated that when Officer LaFlower was ready to build the kennel, he could reach out to the students of Tantasqua who would be happy to help build it.

**Treasury Warrants and Invoices**

Motion to approve the following warrants made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous

<u>Date</u>	<u>Warrant #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11/30/2015	<b>73</b>	<b>38,755.54</b>
	<b>75</b>	<b>790,584.21</b>

Motion to approve the following warrants made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – 1 abstention

<u>Date</u>	<u>Warrant #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11/30/2015	<b>74</b>	<b>210.97</b>

Motion to approve the following warrant made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – 1 abstention

<u>Date</u>	<u>Warrant #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11/30/2015	<b>76</b>	<b>1,980.00</b>

**New Business**

Mr. Lavash stated that the Tree Lighting event was a big success and extended a Thank you! to Millie Gushue for coordinating again this year and a Thanks to the Decorating Committee for assisting with the holiday decorations.

Mr. Gagner stated he participated in a recent state conference call with MEMA, wherein information was distributed to all the communities regarding the upcoming winter season.

**Next Meeting Date: December 8, 2015 @ 7:00 PM**

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop  
Administrative Secretary

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James Gagner, Clerk