

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2015  
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

PRESENT: Mr. David A. Delanski, Chairman, Mr. Robert E. Lavash, Sr. Vice-Chairman and Mr. Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

ATTENDEES: See list (attached)

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

**MINUTES**

Motion to accept the open meeting minutes of January 24, 2015 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Delanski. Mr. Lavash – abstained due to absence.

Mr. Delanski recognized Highway Surveyor, Tom Boudreau who wished to address the Board. Mr. Boudreau gave brief updates regarding his department and current winter season.

- Requested that residents give plow drivers space
- Drive slow as streets are narrow; in addition to watching breaking distance between vehicle and plow
- Protect plow drivers – refrain from clearing snow back onto roads; clear to the right; to aid snow plowing
- He is currently down 2 contract plow vendors due to equipment issues
- Concerns or emergencies – contact Police Dispatch they will reach him
- Salt Shortage – he is working with limited supply, will work more with sanding than salting
- Drive slow and be patient; crew is working to clear as best as possible
- Has recruited additional contractors to work on downtown intersection
- He thanked everyone for all their patience and support.

The Board thanked Mr. Boudreau for his efforts. Mr. Boudreau departed the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chief Spiewakowski introduced Anastasios Karamanakis as the third successful candidate for consideration for appointment as a Part Time officer. He stated he had been before the board a few weeks back with the other two candidates; following some personal matters he needed to take care, Mr. Karamanakis was now able to accept the position.

The candidate has auxiliary experience as well. Mr. Delanski asked if Mr. Karamanakis was a registered voter. The response was affirmative. Mr. Nardi remarked he had already spoken with the Chief and was confident the candidate met the requirements for the position. Lastly, Mr. Delanski asked the Chief for the number of officers in the department; Chief responded 7 full time, 8 part-time. With no further discussion, a motion to appoint Mr. Karamanakis to the department with the customary conditions for the position and probationary period was made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Mr. Nardi addressed that a prior meeting; the Board had met with Mr. James Fountain pertaining to land adjacent to the Highway bard. Mr. Nardi asked that a letter be sent to Mr. Fountain seeking a date/time to sit down to discuss the matter further. All were in agreement.

Mr. Lavash asked his colleagues for support to seek a new Engineering firm to continue work on the Town Hall as per recommendations by the Town Hall Remediation Committee. All were in agreement.

Mr. Delanski spoke to a recent situation at the Senior Center involving ice and snow on the roof; leading to water leaking into the building. He spoke with Director Meli and both agreed to the urgency in getting the snow off the roof and clearing the ice. Director Meli would be calling vendors; and would more than likely need to approach Finance Committee or the Board for an Article to offset this unexpected expense.

Mr. Delanski apologized for the oversight, and 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. Audience member Michael Baril stated he was recording the meeting.

Mr. Baril asked the Board if they were seeking vendors or volunteers for the snow removal at the Senior Center. Mr. Delanski remarked vendors as they need to have the appropriate insurance for the work. Mr. Baril suggested that perhaps current snow plow vendors could be approached as they are known to be insured.

## **COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Mr. Stanley Soltys inquired if the Board had the opportunity to secure two dates for a walk through at the Town Hall to review the coral system. Mr. Delanski asked Ms. Prokop to get in touch with Mr. Seth Blackwell and request two dates he would be available. The office would get back to Mr. Soltys.

Mr. Barry Mongeon addressed the Board relative to concerns over the current number of Finance Committee members. Following the recent resignation of Ms. Hadley, FinCom is down to four members and there is a concern the Committee cannot operate/vote with a quorum. Mr. Delanski requested that a notice seeking residents interested in serving, be place on the WCAT blue screen and a public service announcement in the local papers. There was a discussion as to what business the Committee could conduct now that we are in budget season; Mr. Delanski suggested the Committee continue to hold work session meetings; but cautioned taking any votes without a quorum. Mr. Delanski stated he would attend the next Finance meeting and would encourage anyone in the listening audience if interested in joining to submit letter of interest to the Moderator via the Selectmen's office.

In closing, Mr. Delanski requested a letter sent to Director Meli authorizing expenditures to stop roof leaks at the Senior Center.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board reviewed the following:

- Notice from Chief Lavoie that the Warren Firefighters Association would like to replace the chassis on the brush truck currently housed at Station A. The truck, a 1987 Ford was purchased and outfitted by the Association and donated to the Town some time ago. The Association is planning a fundraising campaign throughout the Town and proposes a "thermometer fund sign" that would measure the campaigns' progress. The WFF Association is looking to the Board for their support in this endeavor. The Board fully supports.

- Notice from Mass. Municipal Association – Spring Legislative Breakfast meeting dates: March 6<sup>th</sup>; March 13<sup>th</sup> or March 20<sup>th</sup> – registration form in the office. Noted
- Letter from Finance Committee Chair, Stephanie Hadley, with regrets that she tendering her resignation from the FinCom citing personal and professional interests that dictate the decision. Send Ms. Hadley a letter thanking her for her involvement.
- The Conservation Commission has announced a job posting for their department’s Secretary Position. Applications and resumes must be submitted to the Warren Conservation Commission by February 13<sup>th</sup>. A job description can be found on the town’s website at [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov). Noted
- Fire Chief Lavoie’s January 2015 Report. Noted
- Correspondence from Fire Chief Lavoie, commending the extreme efforts and compassion displayed by both the Warren Highway and Warren Police Departments. During several snow events the Highway Department guided the ambulance and fire apparatus to their destinations and assured residences were accessible. Police officers shoveled walkways and porches; they went above and beyond to assist where they could to assure the Fire Department could assist residents in need. He is very proud of all the members on the Warren Fire Department who are dedicated to helping others. Lastly, he is thankful for the cooperation and support demonstrated by all the Town Departments that work to ensure the community is protected even during trying times. Send letter to all three departments; acknowledging efforts and Thank you.

Chief Lavoie encouraged residents to assist in clearing hydrants in their neighborhood.

### **TREASURY WARRANT(S) AND INVOICES**

Motion to accept warrants # 65 (payroll) and # 66 (vendor) dated February 9, 2015 in the amounts of \$38,342.18 and \$ 244,625.42 respectively was made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

Motion to sign and approve PVPC invoice #2 for FY 2014 Warren Community Assistance Program in the amount of \$670.48 was made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Lavash asked residents to be careful shoveling and clearing snow. Mr. Nardi reminded all to check for vents that may be blocked by snow and to check on elderly neighbors.

Mr. Delanski addressed recent concerns he received over the Senior Abatement program. He noted that Town Clerk had asked him to check with Town Counsel for an opinion on abatement program participants; who also worked for department(s) in another capacity and conflict of interest. Mr. Delanski summarized that the recently received opinion from Town Counsel noted that a participant in the abatement program could volunteer in an office where they also receive compensation for other work; provided the position is categorized as Special Municipal Employee and the participant(s) provide in writing a full disclosure letter wherein they describe their involvement with the department(s) they are seeking to work and volunteer. Mr. Delanski noted that assignments for the current year’s program have already been made and given the latest information the Board would need to decide to allow the change of anyone who falls under the described circumstances. Mr. Delanski used as an example; a Registrar working for the Town Clerk, could volunteer in the Town Clerk office; provided they qualified as SME and filed a disclosure statement. With no further discussion, the Board agreed it would allow the changes – motion made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Next scheduled meeting: February 19, 2015 @ 6:30 PM – prior to STM and February 24, 2015 @ 7:00 PM.

Lastly, Ms. Prokop brought to the attention of the Board, documents turned into the office relating to the Borrego Solar project and site plan review. The Planning Board is seeking the Chairman’s signature as Owner/Equitable owner of the property at the Landfill. A motion to allow the Chair to sign the document; made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

Mr. Delanski cautioned everyone to drive carefully and take care with the upcoming snow storms expected in the area over the next few days.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Lavash, second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop  
Administrative Secretary

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Dario F. Nardi, Clerk