

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2015
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

PRESENT: Robert E. Lavash Sr., Chairman, Dario F. Nardi Vice-Chairman, James A. Gagner Jr., Clerk

ATTENDEES: See list (attached)

Chairman Lavash 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.

Chairman Lavash 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. Michael Baril made gesture he was recording the meeting.

MINUTES

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 30, 2015 and July 14, 2015 as so written made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gagner remarked that he reverse 911 resource is in use by Town Departments, most recently by the Water District. He continues to follow up on the Cell Tower matter, noting that the Planning Board will be meeting on Wednesday August 19th at 7:00 PM in the Gymnasium to discuss the cell tower bylaw. Latest update, is T. Mobil is interested in this proposed venture.

The updated evaluation form proposed by Mr. Nardi has been reviewed. There is a consensus of the Selectboard that the form is acceptable, therefore a motion to accept the form and distribute was made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous. Mr. Nardi noted it was a standardized form and departments such as police and fire can continue using their own forms.

Mr. Nardi outlined updates on the following:

Surplus Inventory – Memo is out to departments; a handful have responded back still awaiting response from other departments.

ACO/Regionalization – He attending meeting in Palmer this afternoon, FinCom Chair, Barry Mongeon was also in attendance. There is interest from the communities of Wales and Brimfield to possibly enter the conversation.

Assessors/Tax Agreements – he has met with the Assistant Assessors to review PILOT/Tax agreements for current solar projects

Fall Special – he continues to plan for the meeting. There is a lot to discuss.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Gagner announced correspondence from the Department of Housing & Community Development which on behalf of Governor Baker is pleased to announce that the Town of Warren along with the communities of Brookfield and North Brookfield have been awarded an FY 2015 Community Development Fund I (CDFI) grant in the amount of up to \$955,136. From the Mas. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

The Board reviewed the following:

- Monthly report from Chief Lavoie for month ending June 2015. *Noted*
- Memo from the Town Accountant – re: FY15 Legal Bills. A balance of \$2,047.74 remains outstanding for FY15. Although the Accountant received information regarding the Selectmen's vote of July 14, 2015, the Finance Committee was not able to vote due to a lack of a quorum, therefore the outstanding balance will need to be addressed at the Special Town Meeting in the fall. *Noted*
- Mass DOT – Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurance Requirement – by signing the enclosed agreement indicates the communities commitment not to discriminate in any program, service or activity supported by the federal financial assistance. Chairman to sign. *There was a consensus of the Selectboard to have Chairman Sign.*

There was brief discussion as to the removal of Comments/Concerns from the meeting agenda. It is at the discretion of the Chairman, who has removed this section.

VACANCIES ON BOARD OF HEALTH – discussion, roll call votes to be taken

Board of Health: Present – Robert Downing

Mr. Downing briefly discussed the BOH received two letters of interest, following the extension of time and new notice. One candidate works out of town for the moment, however would be a good candidate for future. The second candidate, also a good candidate for the future is not presently a registered voter. His Board continues to recommend the original candidate Nathan Stewart. Mr. Downing made mention that Mr. Stewart’s grandparents and parents have a long standing service to the Town and have passed that down to him. There was a brief discussion, following which a motion to appoint Nathan Stewart was made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi - roll call vote: (Gagner – yes; Nardi-yes; Lavash-yes; Downing-yes) Majority vote to appoint Nathan Stewart as interim Board of Health member until the next town election.

Mr. Nardi remarked he was glad to see interest by the other two candidates and would certainly encourage them both to consider pulling papers for vacancies during the election season. Mr. Downing thanked the Board and departed the meeting.

7:15 POLE HEARING – NATIONAL GRID – SPRING STREET – WEST WARREN – 1 Petition

Present: National Grid – Diane Clause

Mr. Lavash called the hearing open at 7:18 PM – asked that petition be read aloud; Mr. Gagner read the petition for Spring Street.

National Grid Representative Diane Clause spoke briefly as to the location and relocation of intended poles to be removed and replaced within the diagram provided. There was a brief discussion between her and the Selectboard. Tree Warden Lacey was not able to attend hearing, however forwarded a memorandum to the Board that he had no concerns and recommends petition.

There was no further discussion or comments from the Board members and no other person(s) in the audience commented on the requests. . Motion to allow the petition by National Grid was made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous. Mr. Lavash called the hearing to a close at 7:25 PM.

~~**APPLICATION FOR CLASS III LICENSE – FIJOL’S JUNK YARD– 656 OLD WEST WARREN ROAD, WEST WARREN**~~ –Board did not address this matter.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion to appoint the following made by Mr. Gagner, second: M. Nardi - unanimous

THREE-YEAR TERMS

Warren Board of Registrars Clifford M. Rutter 6/30/2018

ONE-YEAR TERMS

Board of Selectmen – Alternate to CMRPC Dario Nardi 06/30/2016

Mass DOT-WRAP (Winter Recovery Assist. Prgm) reimbursement request (*vote to approve/sign*)

Motion to approve reimbursement request and sign made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

FY2016 Formula Gant/Allocation for COA (*vote to approve/chair to sign*)

Motion to have Chairman sign FY16 Formula Grant; by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

PVPC – Town Owner Agreement – (*vote to approve/Chair to sign*)

Motion to approve and have Chairman Sign, by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

TREASURY WARRANT(S) AND INVOICES

Motion to accept warrant # 117 (final FY15 vendor) dated June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$67,183.32 made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi– unanimous

Motion to accept warrant # 6 (payroll) and #7 (vendor) dated July 20, 2015 in the amounts of \$42,441.52 and \$78,553.29 respectively was made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi– unanimous

Motion to accept warrant # 8, (payroll) and #9 (vendor) dated July 27, 2015 in the amounts of \$35,736.83 and \$112,230.50 respectively was made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi– unanimous

Motion to accept warrant # 10 (ambulance payroll) dated July 27, 2015 in the amount of \$720.00 made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Lavash – 1 abstention

OTHER BUSINESS

Town Treasurer – Group Health Insurance

Ms. Beverly Soltys inquired about meeting notices not on the website. Mr. Lavash remarked Town clerk has recently filled the vacancy in her office and should have the system of posting up shortly.

Mr. Gagner remarked on a recent news article wherein the legislature is meeting to lift the cap on energy credits for municipalities. This could be beneficial for the Town given the various projects being proposed renewable/reusable energies. Mr. Nardi remarked it would be beneficial given all the solar projects in town.

Mr. Nardi announced he plans are restarting Department Meetings, the next one tentatively on September 3, 2015 at 2:00 PM, the topic is yet to be determined. His hope is to address general concerns and facilitate the processes of local government.

July 25th Duck Race winners were announced. Ms. Soltys commented she felt it was successful, however it appeared to not have many folks involved at the event.

Chairman called for a brief recess to await Treasurer to join meeting at 7:30 PM
Chairman called reconvened meeting at 7:33 PM

Town Treasurer, William Schlosstein addressed the Board with regards to information regarding the Town's group insurance. Open enrollment is in August with a plan year end September 1st. In meeting with MIIA representative, trends reflect increases in the range of 3% to 10.9%, averaging 9%., Treasurer budgeted for a 9% increase with no increase in enrollment. Given all variables, he would recommend to renew for another year. Municipal Health reform enacted several years ago allows for small changes to plans without union veto, in exchange municipalities are required to comply with eligibility requirements (an audit). MIIA will contract with a service firm to perform the audit at no charge with understanding the town will implement recommended changes. Treasurer provided the Selectboard with Agreement to have HSM Employer Solutions conduct audit and discuss findings with the Town. Treasurer provided assurance that there is no sensitive/confidential information shared with the Town. Motion to have Board sign agreement, made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi- unanimous.

Treasurer additionally made note that the Selectboard in the near future should give consideration to the possible restructuring of the retiree product, to take advantage of coverages offered by the Federal Medicare D drug plan. Changes could be both beneficial to retiree participant and the Town in terms of cost savings. Based on current rates, an estimated \$15,000. savings could be had by the Town if changes were to be implemented. With that said, MIIA would hold workshop for retirees; changes and options would be explored to assess individual needs. New rates will be available in the fall and workshops and discussions can begin at that time. Treasurer anticipates it will be positively received with an easy roll out mid-year.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next scheduled meeting: August 11, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop
Administrative Secretary

James A. Gagner Jr., Clerk