

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2015**

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

ATTENDEES: Stan & Bev Soltys, James Kordek, Jim McKeon, Tim O'Brien, Mary Bellerose and Chief Bruce Spiewakowski

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

Chairman Delanski 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. - None

OLD BUSINESS

Common Victualler's License- Motion to issue to Des' Pizza & More a Common Victualler's License for 2015 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

The Board will invite both libraries to the Selectmen's meeting scheduled for January 20, 2015 at 7:30PM. Letters will be sent to both.

The Board will schedule a time/date to meet with Jim Fountain regarding his property on Brimfield Road that abuts the Highway Garage.

Mr. Nardi reviewed Chief Spiewakowski's contract and it does not state that he is required to provide a monthly report in writing. He does contact both the office and individual members on a daily basis. In addition, any modification to that stipulation would require both parties to agree in writing. This is something that can be discussed and negotiated when his contract is up for renewal.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

In reference to Mr. Nardi's last statement, Mr. Soltys stated that he would like to see something in writing from the Chief. He stated that it is about accountability. Again, the Board is agreeable to consider that provision during contract negotiations.

Mrs. Soltys questioned the barriers that are still in place in front of Town Hall. Mr. Lavash explained that the Committee to which he serves on is waiting for the engineer's report. Once approved by the Building Inspector, then the barriers can be removed. She also questioned the key that was lost, however now found. Apparently, there is a second door around the corner that is open, according to Mr. Lavash. Mr. Seth Blackwell still has full access to the clock.

Mary Bellerose expressed concern over the meeting minutes of August 26, 2014 in which she feels contains "gross mis-statements". She also discussed Nathan Stewart, who serves as an Assessor for the town. Mr. Stewart ran and won the seat at the May elections. She also questioned why the Board of Selectmen would support a write-in candidate (which there wasn't one). Mr. Delanski adamantly stated that he at no time publicly supported one over the other. Lastly, Ms. Bellerose produced a sales brochure from a local real estate company with one of Nathan Stewart's listings. She feels that the Board of Assessor's are in conflict by allowing him to post his listings right outside of their office. Mr. Delanski stopped the conversation stating that individuals will not be discussed without them having the right to be present. Mr. Delanski did state that the bulletin board is strictly for town functions/memos.

Ms. Bellerose also reminded the Board that in the Chief of Police contract, a six-month notice is needed if the town intended on renewing. Mr. Delanski stated that all contract negotiations are held in Executive Session, however the appointment is made in Open Session. Ms. Bellerose felt that the townspeople should have the right to discuss the issue as well. The Board stated that they would take it under consideration. Mr. Nardi corrected Ms. Bellerose of the date to when Chief Spiewakowski's contract expires. Ms. Bellerose also stated that she watched the Special Town Meeting in November and heard him over the audio portion of the meeting state, "these f***ing people are not going to screw me out of my cruiser". Chief Spiewakowski vehemently denies this claim. Ms. Bellerose did not provide any proof whatsoever to corroborate her story.

CORRESPONDENCE

- E-mail from Deputy Director of Emergency Management and CERT Coordinator, Tim O'Brien with a full inventory of equipment provided by Homeland Security. In addition to the inventory, Mr. O'Brien is seeking a response to their inquiry regarding signatory authorization for CERT grant applications, time records, expenses, etc. Lastly, they are looking for approval to establish a "Gift Account" within the Emergency Management Account. ***The Board unanimously agreed to allow Mr. O'Brien and/or Mr. McKeon to sign off on time records, expenses, etc. Any grants would require the Board of Selectmen's approval and signature. The office will contact the Town Accountant to see what steps are necessary to create a "Gift Account" and will advise.***
- Letter from Chief of Police in Holland sharing a letter of commendation on behalf of Officer Patrick Swain who serves as our Veterans Agent. Recently he assisted a distraught military veteran in Holland and feels that he deserves recognition for his actions that day. ***The Board requested that a letter be sent to Mr. Swain for his actions with a copy to the Holland Chief of Police.***
- E-mail from Chief Spiewakowski informing the Board that his department has begun receiving reimbursement from the State 911 office for the grant application that was approved in the amount of \$18,230.00 which will go towards dispatch salaries. ***Noted***

APPOINTMENTS

Sharon Meli's 90 probationary period is up as Senior Center Director. Mr. Nardi stated that he has visited the center and spoke with Sharon on a number of occasions and feels that she is doing a fine job. Mr. Lavash stated that he is at the center on a daily basis and would not hesitate to appoint her to the position. An opinion was requested from the COA, however they are not meeting until January 16th. The Board needs to act in order to have a director, therefore the following motion was made: Motion to Appoint Sharon Meli as Senior Center Director until June 30, 2015 made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to appoint Sharon Meli as Senior Center Elder Bus Driver until June 30, 2015 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

Motion to appoint Kathleen Odiorne to the Board of Registrars for a two-year term until 2017 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

2015 HOLIDAYS

The Board discussed the 2015 Christmas/New Year Holiday. Just recently there was some confusion and discussion regarding the hours that were scheduled for the employees at the Shepard Municipal Building. In order to be uniform, the Board voted to close at 12 noon on the day before Christmas and the day before New Years and pay the employees their regularly scheduled hours for that time only if the holiday falls on a normal work day. (for example: in 2015 Christmas & New Years fall on a Friday, which the MOB is normally closed, therefore employees would be granted holiday on the 24th and 30th. This would not allow for additional ½ day for MOB employees. This "benefit" only applies should the MOB be closed. Motion made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Nardi- unanimous.

TREASURY WARRANTS

- Motion to approve payroll warrant #52 dated 12-22-14 in the amount of \$33,763.11 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

- Motion to approve vendor warrant #53 in the amount of \$30,500.35 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.
- Motion to approve payroll warrant #54 dated 12-29-14 in the amount of \$35,361.09 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.
- Motion to approve vendor warrant #55 dated 12-29-14 in the amount of \$43,169.59 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.
- Motion to approve payroll warrant #56 dated 1-5-15 in the amount of \$36,786.30 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.
- Motion to approve vendor warrant #57 dated 1-5-15 in the amount of \$37,782.43 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

MINUTES

- Motion to approve the Minutes of November 25, 2014 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.
- Motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of December 22, 2014 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Nardi requested a Department Head Meeting be scheduled for January 27, 2015 at 2PM which would allow all Selectmen to attend. A memo will be sent to all Department Head accordingly.

Mr. Nardi would also like to begin discussion regarding the Wage Classification Schedule. All were agreeable.

Mr. Delanski requested that a letter be draft for their signatures as well as those of the Cemetery Commissioners regarding access to Pine Grove Cemetery. The letter will state that the property owner of the gravel pit on Cemetery Road will remove the boulders with the understanding that the Commissioners/Agents agree not to dump or pile debris on his property.

Mr. Delanski requested that the highway surveyor be contacted regarding a stone/boulder in very close proximity to the road in the vicinity of the old Cutler Farm. The office will contact him to see if he can remove it safely.

Next Meeting Date: January 13, 2015 at 7PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous at 7:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Selectmen's Assistant

Dario F. Nardi, Clerk