

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PRESENT: Mr. Dario F. Nardi, Chairman, Mr. Robert E. Lavash, Sr., Vice-Chairman and Mr. James A. Gagner, Clerk
ATTENDEES: Beverly & Stan Soltys, Kathy Odiorne, Tracy Mazur, Judy Perron, Peggy Robideaux, Mary Bellerose and Colleen Montague

Chairman Nardi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance at this time. Mr. Nardi announced that this evening's meeting was being both video and audio taped. Ms. Montague from the Quaboag Current is also audio taping.

MINUTES

Motion to accept and approve the Minutes of November 10, 2015 as written made by Mr. Gagner; second; Mr. Lavash – unanimous

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gagner updated the Board that he has received a list of the town owned properties that the CAC had requested. He will provide that information to Ms. Mundell as she is their lead contact.

Mr. Nardi stated that the RFP for the LED Streetlighting Designer has been released which coincides with the vote at the STM for the conversion of the street lights. Mr. Nardi is hopeful that the costs associated with the conversion will come in under bid. The program is with the Town of Warren and five other communities. Sealed bids are due by December 31, 2015 at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Mr. Nardi also stated that town wide email project is close to complete. All employees have been assigned their new email address however some have yet to activate their account. In addition, all changes have been made to the website. While discussing the website, Mrs. Acerra, who is the primary contact for the website clarified for all some of the recent confusion with regard to the website. She stated for the record that changes/additions/deletions will only be done if the information is provided to her from the proper board/committee. The Board of Selectmen all agree that it is not her job to police the website for updates. It is up to each individual board/committee/office to provide the information to her so she can make the changes. All departments are aware of the protocol in keeping their department's page current. The office is working on a standard approved form that must be filed in order for changes to be made.

Lastly, the donation boxes that were at the corner of North/Main Street in West Warren have been removed. Although it provided a resource for those in need, it was becoming a dumping ground for items that should not have been left.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

As a follow up to the last meeting, Mrs. Soltys requested that the FOTTH be able to use the foyer at the Town Hall so they can set up for the tree lighting ceremony which is set to be held on Sunday, November 29th. Mr. Nardi did speak with the Chief and both have concerns over safety and will not be opened at this time. The building is currently purposed as a Police Department and therefore cannot allow the request. He cited that the lack of security is his concern. Mr. Lavash also stated that the foyer is not handicap accessible and referred to the requirements of the ADA. The current condition of the door that separates the foyer from the Police Department is of notable concern. Mrs. Solyts stated that the door should be replaced by the Police Department. Mr. Nardi will speak with the Chief to see what can be done with regard to replacing the door.

Mrs. Odiorne stated that the "mold issue" is a cop-out and feels that the FOTTH is only getting resistance from the Selectboard. Ms. Mazur requested that if they are not allowed into the Town Hall, then could they set up under the

portico. Again, Mr. Lavash stated that it was not handicap accessible. After a discussion, it was agreed that Mrs. Acerra will contact the Chief and request permission for under the portico/steps with access to a power supply. Mrs. Acerra will contact Mrs. Odiorne or Ms. Mazur tomorrow with a decision.

Mrs. Soltys also requested an update on the downspout. Mr. Lavash stated that Mr. Spera was contacted however does not have any further information at this time. He will follow up and advised all at the next meeting.

Ms. Bellerose questioned the ongoing practice of paying a member of the Police Department for almost a year to stay home and wanted to know from the Board of Selectmen why this was being allowed. Mr. Nardi stated that although he cannot comment on the specifics of this matter, he did state that there should be closure soon. She also reminded the Board that in 37 days, they will be either entering into new contract negotiations with the Chief of Police or advise him that he will be released of his duties. She posed a question to the Board that in light of the fact that two out of the three sitting board members, two of them have had altercations with taxpayers of the Town of Warren in which the police investigated both incidents. With that being said, she has concerns that those individuals may not be able to act in an impartial manner. She did cite Advisory 410 of M.G.L. 268A, Section 23 – “ethical issues for public officials”. She wanted to know if town counsel has been advised of the situation. Mr. Nardi instructed Mrs. Acerra to contact counsel for guidance on the matter.

Mr. Soltys wished to discuss the K-9 program with the Selectboard to which Mr. Nardi requested that he hold his discussion as this matter was on the agenda for later this evening. Mr. Soltys was agreeable.

CORRESPONDENCE

- The office received notification of the Certificate of Completion for James McKeon for the 2015 Effective Leadership During Crisis Conference that was recently held at the DCU Center in Worcester.-**Noted**
- The office received an Open Meeting Law Complaint involving Selectboard Chairman Dario Nardi and Selectboard Clerk, James Gagner. The complaint was filed by Vice-Chairman Lavash requesting to “nullify all actions resulting from the vote to realign the Board, and return the Board to its original position”. – **Mr. Nardi stated that the office did receive an Open Meeting Law complaint which was filed by Mr. Lavash. A response was mailed certified/return receipt requested to Mr. Lavash on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 as well as a copy to the Attorney General’s Office. The response was provided within the 14 business day timeframe allowed by law.**
- Notification from the Quaboag Regional School Committee that they voted to authorize the borrowing of \$49,275.00 for the Warren Community Elementary School energy saving lighting project. – **Mr. Nardi stated that this is a cost saving measure for the school overall.**
- Notification from the Sewer Department that they will be accepting applications for its Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator/Mechanic position. A job description and applications are available at the Wastewater Treatment Plant at 2527 Main Street in West Warren and on the town’s website at www.warren-ma.gov- **Noted**
- The Town Clerk’s Office has announced the Holiday for Hero’s program beginning Monday November 30th thru Thursday, December 10th. The office will be collecting items to fill “holiday boxes” for those who are in the military in the states and overseas. Please contact the Clerk’s Office for more details. - **Noted**

WCAT 12 – Cable Rate Regulation - Tabled

Proclamation – Town of Warren – Purple Heart Community

Prior to his resignation, Veteran’s Agent, Patrick Swain lobbied that the Town of Warren be proclaimed a Purple Heart Community. Mr. Gagner read the Proclamation aloud and with great pleasure and honor, the following motion was made: Motion to Proclaim the Town of Warren as a Purple Heart Town made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous. Mr. Nardi requested that Mrs. Acerra look into getting signs that can be placed signify the new designation.

Right of Entry – MassDOT Project #606686 – Rte 67 Improvements

Motion to allow the Chairman to sign the Right of Entry for the temporary easement as presented made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

PVPC – FY2015 CDFP

- Motion to allow the chairman to sign the agreement by and between the Town of Warren and PVPC to undertake the FY2015 CDFP Program made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.
- Motion to allow the Chairman to sign the agreement by and between the Town of Warren and PVPC to undertake the FY2015 DHCD – CDFP program made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

State 911 Department

Motion to allow the Chairman to sign the State 911 Support and Incentive Grant Application in the amount of \$18,231.00 made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

PVPC – MASS DISCHARGE OF LIEN ON REAL ESTATE

Motion to ratify the discharge of lien on Real Estate in the amounts of \$35,000.00 for the Town of Ware and \$17,000.00 for the Town of Hardwick made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

STANTON FOUNDATION – GRANT AGREEMENT, K-9 PROGRAM

Mr. Nardi stated that this agenda item would be tabled this evening. He did speak with Chief Spiewakowski earlier today and advised him that he would like to review the agreement fully prior to signing. Mr. & Mrs. Soltys stated that there is more to this endeavor than meets the eye. Mr. Soltys offered the following points to consider prior to the board signing:

- Nice to have but do we need it
- Ware, Palmer and Sturbridge all have K-9 Units, which are all within 8 miles of town
- If approved, this would tie up a vehicle so does that mean we need another vehicle to replace it
- Has the board really looked at the cost after the grant dries up with regard to care including but not limited to food, vet bills, training, etc.

Mr. Soltys provided a handout for the board to review along with questions that he requested a written response to. Mary Bellerose stated that the town averages 5 calls a year for this type of service, which is nice to have, but does the town really need it? Mr. Gagner stated that with his experience working on the ambulance, this town has a tremendous drug problem and feels that a K-9 Unit would be a deterrent and that this is necessity.

Mr. Nardi stated that moving forward the budget would certainly need to be reviewed.

TREASURY WARRANTS AND DRAW DOWNS

- Motion to approve and sign warrant number 69 and 71 dated November 23, 2015 in the amounts of \$34,375.84 and \$38,325.61 respectively made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.
- Motion to approve and sign warrant number 70 dated November 23, 2015 in the amount of \$248.20 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Lavash

NEW BUSINESS

PVPC has requested an extension of time for completion of a grant. With no further discussion and in order not to lose monies that have been allocated for the town, the following motion was made: Motion to sign the Agreement to extend time for completion of FY14 CDBG Grant as requested made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

Mr. Nardi wanted to wish all residents a very Happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Next Meeting Date: December 1, 2015 at 7PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous at 7:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Selectmen’s Assistant

James A. Gagner, Jr. , Clerk

