

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2015  
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

PRESENT: David A. Delanski, Chairman, Robert E. Lavash, Sr. Vice-Chairman, 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.**

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. Audience member Michael Baril acknowledged he was both video/audio recording.

**MINUTES**

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 24, 2015; March 25, 2015 and March 31, 2015 as so written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Delanski responded to prior meeting questions regarding bids and cost of auction for two police vehicles. The recent auction netted the Town \$1,350.00; there was no cost to the Town for performing the auction so entire proceeds would go into free cash. Additionally, Delanski responded to Ms. Bellerose' concern over her letter of Feb 4<sup>th</sup> to the Chief. He spoke with Chief who acknowledged receipt; it was agreed the matter would be reviewed by Town Accountant. Town Accountant reviewed material [analysis prepared by Ms. Bellerose] who offered an assurance that everything is correct; in terms of accounting. A request will be made to have explanation prepared. Ms. Bellerose was in agreement.

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Ms. Mary Bellerose inquired as to nature of the auction; stating she attempted to register for the auction but was unsuccessful citing her challenges. Delanski stated he could not answer to her statements as it was his understanding it was open to all who wanted to bid. Secondly, Bellerose mentioned that Copart would not disclose winning bid information. There were additional comments and questions raised from others in the audience. Delanski remarked- what the Board can do is find out what may have happened and seek answers to questions raised. Delanski offered a brief synopsis of an email received from the Police Chief – which outlines the challenges with 1) trading in the vehicles 2) scraping the vehicles which led to the decision to offer the vehicles at auction.

Mr. Michael Baril inquired as to any updates on candidate's night. Mr. Nardi offered that no submissions for Moderator had been received; only questions to be posed. Baril asked to confirm the date and time – Nardi confirmed Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

Baril remarked that his non-profit company purchased the Town's 2006 Crown Victoria through a sealed bid process some time ago and felt it was a good method. He recounts attendance at a recent Capital Planning meeting wherein it was discussed by the Chief that the vehicles [old police cruisers] would be scrapped; he [Baril] is confused as to what he believes is a sudden change to proceed with an auction after he states he expressed to the Chief his interest in the vehicle at that meeting. Delanski remarked that his [Baril's] statement was incorrect; in that the Chief had left the meeting during his [Baril's] request to purchase the vehicle(s) and that such matter was not an action Capital

Planning could entertain. Baril charged that Delanski “stopped” him from speaking; Delanski remarked he did not “stop” him, and rather he stated he would not participate in the discussion as the Chief was not present. Mr. Gerry Sauer, Chairman of Capital Planning added that it was he, who asked Baril to “stop speaking” on the matter, again as the Chief was not present to counter. Baril conceded. Baril contends that the “Chief lied” and alleged that he has signed correspondence from some time ago wherein Delanski wrote that the Chief was untruthful. Mr. Delanski denies that he wrote such correspondence and requested Baril produce the letter for viewing. Baril noted he did not have with him; the discussion concluded.

Mr. Sean LeBoeuf inquired as to the Highway investigation. Mr. Delanski responded the investigation is ongoing and would expect a written report at the conclusion. Additionally, findings from Mr. Lavash’ earlier investigation would be made part of the final written report.

Ms. Bellerose raised the concerns of a police vehicle operating under the same circumstances [failed inspection] and cited a recent article she read in the local paper. Mr. Delanski noted that all departments have been notified that any town vehicle without a valid inspection or not fit for operation will be operated on town roads. Mr. Nardi offered that the Chief had notified the office that no calls were logged relative to the police vehicle.

Mr. Stanley Soltys requested two dates from the Board members to meet in May regarding the Town Hall tower chimes. The Board will review their schedule and provide 2 dates following the Annual town meeting.

Mr. James McKeon inquired about their [Emergency Management’s] requests for a \$500.00 increase in their budget line and for stipends. Mr. Delanski remarked that the increase to the budget would be reviewed at an upcoming budget meeting. The \$500.00 for two stipends would not be considered at the annual, as the Board is not prepared to add any new paid positions either by salary or stipend at this time given the present fiscal conditions.

Chief Lavoie announced that the ambulance was returned to service, with no major repairs needed. In the near future he will be doing the final inspections on the new ambulance; with an expected delivery date of May 15<sup>th</sup> for the new vehicle. Secondly, the Chief understands the Board’s position with respect to his requests to add a FF/EMT and Call Chaplain positions to this department. He urged the Board to give strong consideration filling the FF/EMT position which has been vacant in his department for about 6 years. Also, the Call Chaplain position would be of great benefit to the department as the need for this service continues to grow. Mr. Delanski understands the need, but again given the fiscal situation it would need to be reviewed in the fall.

Mr. James Kordek asked if there was any follow up to a prior inquiry regarding citations issued for violations relating to the pushing of snow into the roadway. The Board was not aware of any citations; Tom Boudreau Highway Surveyor acknowledged there were instances where violations occurred. Mr. Delanski asked Sergeant LaFlower if he could provide the Board with any information regarding citations and complaints made. Kordek added that enforcement of By-laws should not be discretionary; they are there for the benefit/protection of the Town.

Mr. Igor Kuprycz announced that the Cable Advisory Committee will be accepting letters of interests for two openings on the committee.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board reviewed the following:

- The Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 6:45 PM to consider the adoption of three proposed zoning bylaw amendments. For more information, please contact the Planning Board Office. Noted:
- A letter from the Warren Public Library was received expressing interest in the idea of town ownership of the libraries which was recently discussed at a meeting. They feel that a non-binding referendum at the annual

town meeting could be useful to gauge people's interest in proceeding. There was a consensus of the Board to place such an item on the ATM warrant.

- Grant opportunity under the Baker Administration for the 2015 Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. MassDEP is hold informational sessions across the state during late April and early May. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the BOS office. Noted:

### **HIGHWAY SURVEYOR – MAP 21 Federal Grant (discussion)**

At a prior Selectmen's meeting, Mr. Boudreau had introduced to the Board his intent to research and pursue funding for projects throughout the town. As part of the process; CHA Companies, an engineering firm submitted a proposal to the Town to pursue federal grant monies. There was a discussion between the Board members and Boudreau relative to scope of work and associated costs. Delanski suggested that Boudreau reach out to CMRPC for guidance.

The Board took the opportunity to discuss with Boudreau his article intentions (copy attached hereto). The Board is not in favor of intents involving capital expenditures as this time. They will hold consideration until the fall meeting once they have a better projection of the Town's fiscal condition. They will support addressing \$6394.22 for line painting and an offset on the snow & ice account.

### **ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION**

Mr. Nardi read the proclamation and declared April 29, 2015 as Arbor Day. Motion to sign the declaration by Mr. Nardi; second Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

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

Motion to accept warrant # 82 (payroll) and #83 (vendor) dated April 6, 2015 in the amounts of \$36,510.37 and \$179,374.80 respectively was made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous

### **FY2016 BUDGET**

Delanski announced there is a scheduled meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> to review budget.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Temporary Occupancy Agreement – Rte 67 @ West Warren Resurfacing & Related Work Mass DOT Project No. 606686 – Chairman to Sign**

Motion to have Chairman sign, made by Mr. Nardi; second Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Next scheduled meeting: April 11, 2015 at 9:00 AM – work meeting with Fincom  
April 14, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Lavash; Second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop  
Administrative Secretary

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Dario F. Nardi, Clerk