

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 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 from recess 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.

Mr. Lavash announced the following items on the agenda were tabled.
WCAT Channel 12 – Discussions on expansion of services re: meetings Tabled
Highway Surveyor – Discussion on department vehicle Tabled

MINUTES

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of August 11, 2015 as so written made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Nardi announced that the contract for the preparation of street light energy audit, discussed at prior meetings, was before the Board for signature. Following a brief discussion, a motion to approve and sign the contract was made by Mr. Nardi, second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the following:

- CMMPO - Requesting that the Board of Selectmen send a member to attend a CMMPO Informational & Member Selection meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd at 5:30 PM. Our representative will be among other Selectboard members from surrounding communities to vote for one person to represent the sub-regions communities. *Mr. Lavash stated he would be attending.*
- Correspondence from Magdalen Bish requesting consideration for appointment to the Warren Cultural Council.
Request was made to seek the recommendation of Cultural Council prior to appointment.
- Email correspondence from resident Steve Cristol advising the Board of several unregistered vehicles on a property located in West Warren. *Request made to have Police Chief follow up on matter.*
- Correspondence from resident Roger Hebert requesting the disposition of his complaints/concerns regarding the Highway Department. *Mr. Lavash stated he had visited property and then spoke to Mr. Hebert by phone regarding following receipt of the initial complaint. Request was made to send Mr. Hebert a letter of no findings, per property visit and discussions with both resident and Highway.*
- Invitation to attend the Quaboag Regional School Committee meeting on September 21, 2015 at 6:30 PM as part of the District's Improvement Plan to improve collaboration and communication. *Both Mr. Nardi and Mr. Lavash expressed they would attend. Request made to post accordingly.*

CHAPTER 90- REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST – APPROVE & SIGN

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

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – VOTE TO SET DATE

Mr. Nardi confirmed all parties in agreement for the fall STM. A motion to hold the STM on Thursday, November 5, 2015 @ 7:00 PM at the QRSD High School Auditorium, made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous. The deadline for Article submissions is set for Thursday, September 17th.

7:10 PM– CONSERVATION RESTRICTION BY RENEWABLES LAND HOLDINGS II, LLC TO THE TOWN – vote to accept and approve – Conservation Commission accepted.

Conservation Commission Chair, Joyce Eichacker provided some background information. Involving the larger solar farm on the former golf course. Project was formally Mass PV3 then First Wind. There are three sections, on section A there is some area around the riverfront, in negotiations, ConCom asked for a conservation restriction, wherein they were agreeing they would no longer be able to build, in perpetuity on this area of land. This document is three year effort by the parties and Town Council, paid for by First Wind – it express the details of the agreement. Following a brief discussion, motion to sign the document made by Mr. Gagner; second Mr. Nard- unanimous.

TREASURY WARRANT(S) AND INVOICES

Motion to accept warrant # 18 (payroll) and #20 (vendor) dated August 17, 2015 in the amounts of \$36,204.20 and \$37,828.39 respectively was made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi– unanimous

Motion to accept warrant # 19 (ambulance payroll) dated August 17, 2015 in the amount of \$740.00 made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Lavash – 1 abstention

Motion to accept warrant # 21 (payroll) and #23 (vendor) dated August 24, 2015 in the amounts of \$35,363.78 and \$21,061.30 respectively was made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi– unanimous

Motion to accept warrant # 22 (payroll) dated August 24, 2015 in the amount of \$229.59 made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi – 1 abstention

Motion to accept FY14 Invoice #7 for Community Assist. Programs, to PVPC for \$8,265.67; FY14 Invoice #8 for Community Assist. Programs, to PVPC for \$11,010.01 and Invoice # 64965 for Project #12-704.1 (Pleasant/Highland St. bidding/construction) to Lenard Engineering for \$977.20, made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

7:15 PM – CHRISTOPHER DUNPHY, PVPC – PERFORMANCE HEARING & COMM. DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Mr. Dunphy spoke as to the part of the obligation of receiving grant funds is to have 2 formal hearings, wherein the general public is provided with updates. Before continuing, he asked the Board to consider additional appointments to the CDAC – Community Development Advisory Committee, a current member has resigned, leaving the committee with 3 members and himself in advisory member. He will be meeting with the current members to discuss Community Development Strategy document, and will report to the Board any revisions for approval. He anticipates this to happen next month.

Mr. Dunphy gave a summary of ongoing CDBG issues and progress. The FY13 grant with Ware is in the process of being closed out. The FY14 Program was reported as well under way, with some monies still available for Housing Rehab he encouraged anyone in need of assistance to contact him at 413-781-6045. FY 14 was a joint –community application with Ware River Valley

- Housing Rehabilitation
Financial Assistance will be made available to eligible homeowners for the rehabilitation of approximately 9 or more households throughout the towns of Warren, Ware and Hardwick. Up to \$35,000 will be made available for housing units with special considerations (Ex. Lead paint) and up to \$30,000 for all other units. Investor-owners can also take advantage of the program, but property owners will be required to provide a 25% match of the project cost or enter into a 0% loan for 50% of the total project cost payable over 15 years.
- Adult Learning and Basic Education at the Ware Adult Learning Center -
This is a social service project intended to provide adult literacy and basic education services to Ware, Hardwick and Warren residents. The primary location will be at the Ware Adult Learning Center, Main Street, Ware, MA. The project is to be carried out by staff of The Literacy Project and Ware Adult Learning Center.
- Pleasant Street Improvement Project, West Warren
Public works improvements to Pleasant Street including street and sidewalk restoration, drainage improvements, installation of approximately 300 l.f. of water main (fire protection), and associated project area accoutrements.
- Administrative support and services
Overall grant management including technical and administrative support, committee development and support, planning, travel, advertising, training and education, file maintenance, printing, accounting, communications, supplies and material, payments, etc.

The FY 15 Joint –Community Application, recently awarded to Warren in conjunction with the towns of Brookfield and North Brookfield. It is intended that Warren serve as the lead community projects will include funding for housing rehabilitation, domestic violence services and for the comprehensive improvement of Highland Street in West Warren.

Lastly, he anticipates that the CDAC will meet in September to discuss strategy and begin preparations for a possible grant application for FY16. The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Dunphy for all of his efforts on behalf of the Town of Warren.

~~**WCAT CHANNEL 12 – DISCUSSIONS ON EXPANSION OF SERVICES RE: MEETINGS**~~ Tabled

Although tabled earlier in the meeting, Mr. Lavash recognized Igor Kuprycz in the audience. The Selectmen have inquired if WCAT Channel 12 is able to provide televised coverage of other Department Board Meetings. Mr. Kuprycz made note that his current budget, not funded by appropriation, handles the current programming requests/level; he would have to do an analysis or cost projection to estimate costs associated with the request. Once he has the information, he will present to the Board.

7:45 – FIJOL DOG HEARING

Present: ACO, Sara Prideaux, Francis Moran, John Fijol;

Mr. Lavash opened the hearing and asked that Complainant, Francis Moran to move to the front seats and state that under oath that the testimony he would present would be the truth. Mr. Moran affirmed yes.

Mr. Moran offered testimony that he was in the course of delivering to Mr. Fijol’s place of work, exited his vehicle; was approached by the “dog” and subsequently was bitten on the forearm. His company routinely delivers to this location with other drivers; he is unaware of any other reported incidents. He is requesting that the “dog” be restrained/ tethered when at the shop.

ACO, Sara Prideaux was sworn in by Mr. Lavash. She gave testimony that she had received and filed an incident report some time ago, relative to the “dog” biting another individual. She did provide the Board with her incident report relative to Mr. Moran and this incident. She concurs with the request to have the dog restrained during business hours.

Mr. John Fijol, gave testimony that he was not present when Mr. Moran was bitten. He has requested that consideration be given to possibly muzzling the dog vs. restraint/tethering as he believes this could be harmful to both the “dog” and individuals as the lead could get entangled. He would be agreeable to muzzling the “dog”.

ACO Prideaux is open to muzzle, provided it was an approved one wherein the animal would not be restricted from eating/drinking. Mr. Moran also remarked he had no objection to the dog being muzzled. There was a brief discussion between the Selectboard, following which a motion to have the “dog – Pete” muzzled at all times while on Mr. Fijol’s work premises; made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous. Mr. Nardi asked ACO Prideaux to perform period checks to assure compliance. She agreed.

The hearing closed at 7:55 PM all parties involved left the meeting room.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gagner remarked he had attended the recent Planning Board meeting regarding the cell tower by-law. At this time, he is recommending that the vendor he has been working with, not be called in to participate in a future meeting; until the proposed project has a clearer direction. His hope is to avoid being thrown off track.

Mr. Nardi and Mr. Lavash had nothing further.

Ms. Beverly Soltys asked the Board about the discussion with Highway Surveyor noted on the Agenda, Mr. Lavash noted the item had been tabled. Lastly, Ms. Soltys asked if Comments/Concerns has been reconsidered by the Board. Mr. Lavash maintained his position; Mr. Nardi and Mr. Gagner would give consideration; however they acknowledged it is the Chairman’s discretion when setting the Agenda.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next scheduled meeting: September 8, 2015 @ 7:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop
Administrative Secretary

James A. Gagner Jr., Clerk