

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2015  
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

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

ATTENDEES: See list (attached)

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**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.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 as so written, made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – 1 abstention.

Motion to approve the minutes of May 12<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 as so written, made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi - unanimous.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Nardi stated he has met with ACO and is evaluating submitted pricing proposals for interim sheltering received from Brookfield, Wickaboag (WB) and Palmer. Wickaboag proposal would be for about 7 month, whereas Palmer's calls for 3 years. The Town is looking for more of a long term solution. He anticipates further discussions and review of options to evaluate the best course of action. Updates will be provided.

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Resident Stanley Soltys inquired as to whether or when Department Heads evaluations would be done. Mr. Nardi responded that none have been done. As he previously mentioned, one staff member in the office has been done, one is pending. He has been contacted by at least two DH's asking the Board to perform their evaluations and is aware some departments are doing their own. He further stated that although the by-law calls for them to be completed in December, he believes end of the fiscal year is more appropriate. Again, the thought is to plan for them during the summer and divide the process among each Selectboard member.

Resident Brian Corriveau addressed the Board, citing that in his opinion two things missing in the Town are accountability and honesty. He went on to state that the Town is being watched by the ACLU for providing untruthful information relative to a matter from last year, involving the removal of his campaign signs. A question was directed to Mr. Lavash as to an incident last year involving both of them. Mr. Lavash responded. In closing, Mr. Corriveau remarked he would continue to disprove lies.

Resident Sue Como inquired as to whether the street sweeper parked on Main St/RTE67 was the Town's. Mr. Nardi replied that Highway had notified him the machine has a broken axle; parts have been ordered and permission has been granted by the property owner to station the machine there.

Fire Chief Lavoie announced the new Town ambulance has arrived; it is in the parking lot. Humorously, he stated he would be giving tours.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- MIA has issued the Town a Participation Credit of \$13,052.00 - Noted
- Copy of correspondence from Veteran's Council to Lamoureux Greenhouses, thanking them for their donations of flowers for the base of the Veteran's Honor Role in Warren Center. - Noted
- Reminder from Warren Water District to have water meter calibrated. – Noted – asked Ms. Prokop to follow up.
- Correspondence from Cemetery Commissioners. They have filled a seasonal position in the department and as requested, there is no conflict of interest and there are sufficient funds to cover salary. - Noted
- Email from Police Chief, a staff member in dispatch has tendered their resignation effective June 20, 2015 but has requested to remain a per-diem dispatcher. - Noted
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY15 Ambulance Abatements submitted by Fire Chief –
  - Motion to accept and approve write off for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Fire Department Ambulance Abatements made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous
  - Fire Chief added that there should also be 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Abatements - Motion to accept and approve write off for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Fire Department Ambulance Abatements made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous

## **LEASE AGREEMENT WITH Borrego solar systems, inc. for Warren Landfill Solar Project as per 2/19/15 Town Meeting Approval**

Motion to approve and sign the Lease Agreement between Borrego and the Town made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous. Following the signing, Mr. Gagner read a summary of the Lease Agreement and key elements such as payments and terms.

## **7:15 POLE HEARING – NATIONAL GRID – TOWN FARM DRIVE – 1 Petition**

**Present: National Grid – Mandy Tree Warden: Ken Lacey**

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

National Grid Representative Mandy spoke briefly as to the location of the pole intended to be removed and replaced within the diagram provided. There was a brief discussion between abutters Monica and Bert Clark, Mandy and Tree Warden Lacey. Copy of diagram outlining pole placement provided to the Clark's. Tree Warden Ken Lacey has inspected the location, finds no disturbance of trees in the area therefore is in favor of granting the petition.

There was no further discussion or comments from the Board members and no other person(s) in the audience commented on the requests. Mr. Lavash called the hearing to a close. Motion to close the hearing at 7:21PM, by Mr. Nardi; second Mr. Gagner – unanimous. A motion to allow the petition by National Grid was made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

## **VACANCIES ON BOARD OF HEALTH & BOARD OF ASSESSORS – *discussion, roll call votes to be taken*** **Board of Health:** Present – Ken Lacey, Robert Downing

Mr. Lacey briefly discussed the opening on his Board; following which he remarked that a letter of interest from Nathan Stewart was received and the BOH recommends him for appointment. There was discussion by the Board (Selectmen) over concerns that notice of vacancy may have been too short (notice made by posting on website for a week). Mr.

Nardi noted he had been approached by other residents interested in the position. Mr. Gagner expressed concerns that a large portion of residents may not have been reached and given the opportunity to submit for the position. He suggests that a notice be done in local newspapers (Telegram/Republican) and other media's to afford all interested the opportunity to apply, therefore extending the search for 2 additional weeks. There was further discussion between members of both Boards (BOS/BOH) on extending the time to seek applicants. A motion to extend time to give notice of vacancy by two weeks before making an appointment was made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi. Mr. Downing was highly disappointed in the course of discussion and was of the opinion that the BOS was not adhering to the statute regarding vacancies; reading the statute out loud. He [Downing] continued to voice his disapproval of the handling on the matter. Mr. Nardi responded that the Board [Selectmen] was acting within the statute based on Town Counsel opinion. Mr. Nardi asked some questions of candidate Nathan Stewart; then restated his concern with the posting/notice being inappropriate – following which he reminded all of the “Motion” on the table. Motion to extend time to give notice of vacancy by two weeks before making an appointment - roll call vote: (Gagner – yes; Nardi-yes; Lavash-yes; Lacey-no; Downing-no) No appointment made. Mr. Lacey asked for a copy of Town Counsel's opinion.

**Board of Health:** Present – George Shields, Nathan Stewart  
 Assessor Nathan Stewart informed the Board members of the vacancy on the Board [Assessors] due to the resignation of member Seth Blackwell. He along with his fellow board member, George Shields provided notice of vacancy by posting on the website; cable blue screen and Quaboag Current for 30 days. (20 days active w/May 20<sup>th</sup> deadline/10 days for Board to review and make selection) They received a letter of interest from Ken Lacey to fill the vacancy on May 28<sup>th</sup> and recommend he be appointed. Mr. Gagner had concerns with notice not reaching residents on the outer part of town, and the need to “spread a wider net”. There was further discussion between both Board [Selectboard/Assessors] members. Mr. Nardi remarked that in his opinion only, vacancy posting was out there for an appropriate time. Following some additional discussion the Selectboard accepted the recommendation of the Board of Assessors to appoint Ken Lacey to the Board of Assessors. Board of Selectmen along with sitting Board of Assessors members George M. Shields, Jr. and Nathan Stewart by roll call vote, (Shields – yes; Stewart-yes; Nardi-yes; Gagner-yes; Lavash-no) appointed Mr. Ken Lacey to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Assessors due to the resignation of Seth Blackwell.

**YEAR END TRANSFERS**

Police	\$ 1,500.00	Communication Wages	Dispatch Training	Motion to approve Gagner; second: Nardi - unanimous
COA	\$ 700.00	General Helper Salary	COA Director Salary	
	\$ 300.00	Custodian Salary	COA Director Salary	
	\$ 100.00	Elder bus	COA Director Salary	Motion to approve Gagner; second: Nardi - unanimous
Fire	\$ 1,500.00	Health & Wellness	ALS	
	\$ 1,000.00	Fire & Training	ALS	(To account changed to Fire Expense)
	\$ 1,500.00	Vehicle Maintenance	ALS	Motion to approve Nardi; second: Lavash - 1 abstention
Selectmen	\$ 5,000.00	Insurance W/Comp	Street Lighting	
	\$ 5,000.00	Shepard (SMB) Expense	Legal Expense	Motion to approve Gagner; second: Nardi - unanimous
Treasury	\$ 3,553.12	Empl. Health Ins. Acct	Retiree Med. Ins. Acct.	Motion to approve Gagner; second: Nardi - unanimous

**APPOINTMENTS TO CAPITAL PLANNING & COUNCIL ON AGEING.**

Motion to appoint Robert E. Lavash Sr. to Capital Planning mad by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – 1 abstention.  
 Motion to appoint both Gail Winders and Jean Lavash to Council of Ageing for a three year term made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – Mr. Lavash abstained.

**TREASURY WARRANT(S) AND INVOICES**

Motion to accept warrant #105 (payroll) dated June 4, 2015 in the amount of \$355.47 made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous

Motion to accept warrant # 103 (payroll) and #104 (vendor) dated June 8, 2015 in the amounts of \$39,349.70 and \$105,026.35 respectively was made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi– unanimous

Motion to accept warrant #106 (ambulance payroll) dated June 8, 2015 in the amount of \$720.00 made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Lavash – 1 abstention

Motion to accept warrant # 107 (payroll) and #108 (vendor) dated June 15, 2015 in the amounts of \$39,326.58 and \$147,773.80 respectively was made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous

Motion to accept warrant #109 (ambulance payroll) dated June 15, 2015 in the amount of \$1430.00 made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Lavash – 1 abstention

Motion to accept invoice #6 for PVPC for FY14 Comm. Asst. programs in April 2015 in the amount of \$6,454.86 made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi - unanimous

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Gagner announced he is exploring the possibility of a cell tower in Town and is having a conversation with the company that is currently building a cell tower in the Town of Palmer.

Mr. Nardi proposes that the Board look into reviewing upcoming contract renewals for Police/Accountant /Admin. Secretary by January and look into aligning Fire Chief contract to the fiscal year as well. Additionally, recently amended Personnel By-Law – copies will be distributed to departments by end of month.

Mr. Lavash spoke to the recent Town Wide Tag Sale event held the 13<sup>th</sup>. He noted that 44 households (homes) participated in the event by adding their location on Maps that were prepared and sold by event coordinators. The event raised about \$600.00 which has been donated to the Park & Rec. department for a Town summer concert. He asked that the Board prepare a brief letter to the coordinators of the event Ms. Downing, Ms. Lavash, Ms. Stockley and Ms. Boucher thanking them for their work and donation. His colleagues agreed.

Mr. Lavash announced that the barriers in front of Town Hall have been removed following the completion of repairs to the portico and reminded all he would have office hours Wednesday from 5-7 PM.

Mr. Nardi spoke briefly that the participants at the Palmer race track are bringing revenues to the Town by visiting our local businesses, noting the venture is not all negative. On the topic of the race track, Fire Chief Lavoie remarked he along with other area Chiefs’ [Police & Fire] have been up to the site and are in talks to work out the details of an Emergency Response plan in the event of a large scale event. The facility does have contracted ambulance service and has safety controls in place under the Town of Palmer’s jurisdiction.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Next scheduled meeting: June 30, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous at 8:025 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop  
Administrative Secretary

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James A. Gagner Jr., Clerk