

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 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 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. Audience member Michael Baril remarked he was recording

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of June 16th as written, made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Continued discussion on Sheltering – Regionalization

Proposal for interim sheltering – Josh Garcia PVPC –

Mr. Nardi spoke of this at an earlier meeting and introduced Mr. Josh Garcia of PVPC to speak on the matter further. Mr. Garcia introduced himself and gave some background information on the proposal for Regionalized Sheltering. He passed out copies of the draft Interim Inter-Municipal Agreement and Animal Cross-Border Shelter Service analysis and implementation plan. The analysis provides for two schemes of service 1st is for sheltering only the second for Sheltering & ACO services. There was discussion between the Selectboard, Mr. Garcia and members of the audience as to benefits for the Town. Mr. Nardi is in favor of regionalizing citing the Town is not prepared to build its own facility. He will review the drafts presented and noted that no formal action would be taken without bringing the options before Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Garcia noted that he would be meeting with the other communities involved and would like to see commitment to from Towns that they are on board with the project. Mr. Nardi stated the Board would take under advisement and render its decision at its next meeting.

Highway complaint

Mr. Lavash noted the Board has previously met in executive session relating to a complaint received. As the matter is still pending, there will be no further action until the Board meets again in executive session.

Mr. Lavash cleared up confusion raised by Beverly Soltys, the matter is not related to complaint/concerns raised this past winter with inspection stickers and the highway department.

Resident snow removal complaint

Mr. Lavash stated the office had received a complaint from a resident regarding snow plowed onto their property. Mr. Lavash visited the property and homeowner and followed up with a discussion with the Highway Surveyor. A change in direction of the plow route will be taken into consideration in an attempt to resolve the concerns of the resident.

Net Metering – Synergy Energy

Mr. Nardi mentioned that the Board had explored net metering options with Synergy Energy last year, as well as proposals from other vendors such as Borrego Solar and Housatonic Solar, both vendors currently building sites in Town. Synergy is still interested in pursuing an agreement with the Town. At present, Mr. Nardi along with

the Town Planner opine that the better option is to partner with Borrego Solar. Mr. Nardi will contact Mr. Graham Knoll of Synergy Energy of the Town's pursuit with Borrego. Mr. Nardi spoke briefly on what net metering credits are and how it relates to reduce electrical costs for the town.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Brian Corriveau – Addressed the Board again citing his ACLU claim regarding his campaign signs being removed and thrown in a dumpster- he directed a question to both Mr. Lavash and Ms. Prokop “did the Chief ask you if you knew anything about it?” Mr. Lavash, “don’t think so”, Ms. Prokop “not to my recollection”.

Louise Mundell – Addressed the Board asking for a response to correspondence sent by Warren Action Committee to the Board in January. Mr. Lavash asked her resend for the Board's review. Ms. Mundell is seeking a listing of Town owned properties; vs the listing they were provided which referenced Tax Title properties. There was discussion as to the listing which referenced properties with unknown landowners; and delinquencies dating back many years. Mr. James Fountain inquired as to what could be done to get rid of the “unknowns” on the list. Mr. James Gagner stated he would take this as an action item and research it further.

Michael Baril – Addressed the Board as a follow-up with regards to his political post cards and his concerns over a letter written by Mr. Fountain which was distributed throughout Town. Mr. Baril contends the Board made the letter available to the public and such letter contains untruths. There was discussion between Mr. Baril and Mr. Fountain, which the Chairman asked both to discontinue and address the Board not each other. Mr. Baril continued to ask the Board members about allowing the letter to be put in the office. Mr. Nardi responded whether it is true or not is your [Baril] opinion; the letter was left in the office on the table as is all incoming correspondence for the Board to read. In closing Mr. Lavash stated the Board did not write it, just received it. No further comment from the Board.

Mary Bellerose – Addressed the Board as a follow up to a letter she sent to the Police Chief. She has concerns over activities she considers as “retaliation and hassarsment” against individual's in town that go against Town departments/officials. She asserts that much effort is being made on her residency status; when efforts should be directed on other matters such as checking on the Town's elderly.

Beverly Soltys – Asked the Board about “surplus equipment” that could be used for an auction. There is an event coming up on the 25th [Duck Race] and the Library is having vendors on the common, it would be a good opportunity, as there will be a large number of people in the area. The Board will reach out to all Town departments to get a listing of possible items. Mr. Nardi would like to see a good quantity of items before proceeding, but agrees it would be beneficial. There was some discussion of possible surplus items at the front foyer of the Town Hall. Mr. Gagner made note that the front area of the Town hall has been cleared out and is an area for PD for safety equipment (i.e. barrier; cones) that the department may need quickly. There was some additional discussions on auctioning town own items such as old bicycles at the Town Hall- which unfortunately cannot be auctioned off due to mold contamination.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Correspondence from MMA asking Selectboard to complete survey on Municipal programs and practices to address the opioid crisis. Noted – Mr. Gagner will complete the survey
- Copies of correspondence from the Veteran's Council to various Town department heads, thanking them for their efforts and contributions to the annual Memorial Day remembrances. Noted
- Reports from Animal Control officer on two recent incidents involving dogs in Town. Noted

- Resident concern with large truck on corner of South and Pulaski Streets in West Warren, can anything be done to remove? On private property, can take no action.
- Warren Water District 2014 Water quality report. Copies available in the office
- Correspondence from Mass Council on Compulsive Gambling with information for Mass residents who may have questions or be interested in voluntary self-exclusion. Contact Mass. Gaming Commission at 617-533-9737 Noted
- Memorandum from Conservation Commissioners asking for three (3) keys to be made for their department office for members Trombly, Lynch and Demetrius. Board approved.
- Request from Jason Douglas and Jon Burke, Warren/West Brookfield Youth Football to hold monthly group meetings in the Baseball room on the 1st Wed. of every month from 6-7:30 PM. Board approved.
- Copy of correspondence from resident Mary Bellerose to Chief Spiewakowski with concerns for the Chief. Noted
- Request from resident on Reed Street seeking information on obtaining a Town easement for proposed drainage work on or around his property. Board requested further review by Town Council on matter.
- Fire Chief Report – May 2015 Noted

SOLAR PROJECTS – DISCUSSION ON PROCEEDING WITH PILOT AGREEMENTS

A brief update was made on the two pending projects with the Town. 1st is the Spring St/Ware Rd project f/k/a Housatonic, now Altus Power and the 2nd on the landfill. Recent communication from Town Council is asking for the Assessors to participate in preparing of PILOT’s by making sure their office needs are met in terms of billing, project valuations etc. The Board will take under advisement.

YEAR END TRANSFERS

The Board reviewed a notice from the Police Chief as to a deficit in the department salary line item. Chief will request a line item transfer once final salary figures for FY15 are complete. Mr. Nardi stressed the importance of departments keeping an accounting of their budgets and bringing forth potential shortfalls before a town meeting special or annual for further appropriations vs. coming at the end of the year for transfers.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion to appoint the following made by Mr. Gagner, second: M. Nardi - unanimous

ONE-YEAR TERM

Expires:

ADA Officer	Madeline Witaszek	6/30/2016
Administrative Secretary	Lorena I. Prokop	6/30/2016
Animal Control Officer	Sara M. Prideaux	6/30/2016
Alt. Animal Control Officer	Leah Chadwick	6/30/2016
Census supervisor	Nancy J. Lowell	6/30/2016
CMRPC Delegate	Peter H. Krawczyk	6/30/2016
Conservation Secretary	Rachael Carney	6/30/2016
Emergency Management Interim Co-Deputy Director	Timothy J. O'Brien	6/30/2016

Emergency Management Interim-Co-Deputy Director	James A. McKeon	6/30/2016
Environmental Certifying Officer	Rebecca Acerra	6/30/2016
Hearings Officer	Nancy J. Talbot	6/30/2016
Parking Clerk	Mildred Gushue	6/30/2016
Procurement Officer	Madeline Witaszek	6/30/2016
Quaboag Hills Tourism Council	Sylvia G. Buck	6/30/2016
SCM Elder Bus – Delegate	Sharon L. Meli	6/30/2016
Senior Center Director	Sharon L. Meli	6/30/2016
Senior Center Meals Coordinator	Charlene M. Disley	6/30/2016
Senior Center General Helper	Cheryl E. Gagnon	6/30/2016
Sexual Harassment Officer	Kerry Ann Schmidt	6/30/2016
Sexual Harassment Officer	Robert E Lavash, Sr.	6/30/2016
Town Counsel	Kopelman & Paige	6/30/2016
Town Planner	William V. Scanlan	6/30/2016
Veterans' Service Director/Grave Officer/Agent	S. Patrick Swain	4/1/2016
Wiring Inspector	Scot A. Mansfield	6/30/2016
Alternate Wiring Inspector	Paul Shepardson	6/30/2016

THREE-YEAR TERMS

Warren Cultural Council	Robert D. Kelleher	6/29/2018
	Julie D. Vadnais	6/29/2018
Mobile Home Rent Control Board	Steven S. Skowrya	6/29/2018

Mr. Gagner read Planning Board memorandum in support of Town Planner contract extension. Motion to approve and sign the contract extension for the Town Planner for one year, made by Mr. Gagner: second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous

TREASURY WARRANT(S) AND INVOICES

Motion to accept warrant # 110 (payroll) and #111 (vendor) dated June 22, 2015 in the amounts of \$37,421.98 and \$239,033.86 respectively was made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi– unanimous

Motion to accept warrant # 112 (payroll) and #113 (vendor) dated June 29, 2015 in the amounts of \$36,317.00 and \$189,979.99 respectively was made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi– unanimous

Motion to accept warrant # 114 (ambulance payroll) dated June 14, 2015 in the amount of \$1,450.00 made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Lavash – 1 abstention

OTHER BUSINESS

Fire Chief Lavoie addressed the Board with his request to expend all monies in the fire fighter call salary line item. The Board agreed to the request last year and had requested that a correction/amendment be made to the document which outlines the call salaries breakdown. Following a brief discussion, a motion to accept the request to expend the line item was made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – 1 abstention (Gagner) Copies of the amended call salaries breakdown document was provided to the Board by the Chief.

Mr. Gagner stated he is meeting with and a cell tower representative and Ed Kretkiewicz of the Planning Board regarding ongoing discussions on a tower in town. This representative is not exclusive to one carrier, thus opening up to multiple cell service vendors. He took some time to drive through town, he found some site that would be good for the town. In his [Gagner] opinion, it is essential for the town and a much needed service not only for residents but for existing and new business. He will report to residents as this progresses and is

working with Planning Board as and agenda item at upcoming meeting on the 7th. At present, locations considered are on privately owned parcels. Another positive note, all municipalities would be able to add repeaters, thus enhancing current services for fire and police already in place.

Mr. Gagner addressed concerns with the “brown water” in Town, resulting from the school flushing its sprinkler system. He would like to see a method of communicating these sort of events to residents to give them a heads up; something along the lines of a robo call. Ms. Louise Mundell suggested something along the lines of a reverse 911. Chief Spiwakowski acknowledged that this was a resource that could be utilized by the Board and/or other departments to get information out to the community, timely and to specialized areas if needed. Mr. Gagner requested notice of this be provided to Town departments.

Mr. Nardi has had a 1st meeting/discussion on exploring the options available with Google for Town wide email service. He estimates the need for 50-100 email accounts via a web based service. He anticipates further meeting/discussion with a goal to have a plan in place by the end of August that will facilitate email and document sharing.

Mr. Nardi shared with the residents the “summer meals” program through the school department would run at the Warren elementary school. This would permit any student under the age of 18 to receive a no cost breakfast and lunch starting July 6th and running through August 14th. The program is endorsed by both Principal Duff and Superintendent. This is a wonderful program for the community.

Mr. Baril addressed the Board, in conclusion to his prior discussion earlier in the meeting, he has an email from Turley Publications regarding the matter and asked that it be included with the minutes. The Board agreed.

In closing, Mr. Lavash made note of a recent resignation in Police dispatch, following which a current dispatch member has requested to fill the position. With the recommendation of the Police Chief, a motion to appoint Karen Francis to the position of FT Dispatch made by Mr. Nardi; second Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next scheduled meeting: July 14, 2015 @ 7:00 PM – Mr. Barry Mongeon of Finance Committee announced FinCom would also attend and post for this meeting date/time to clean up any final matters before his Committee.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Gagner; Second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop
Administrative Secretary

James A. Gagner Jr., Clerk