

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MARCH 31, 2015
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

PRESENT: David A. Delanski, Chairman, Robert E. Lavash, Sr. Vice-Chairman, Dario F. Nardi, Clerk
ATTENDEES: See list (attached)

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.

MINUTES

Motion to accept the meeting minutes of March 17, 2015 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

None:

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Mary Bellerose inquired had the Town not voted at the last meeting to change the date for the Annual Town Meeting – Mr. Delanski remarked that it had not, and the matter although discussed at a Selectmen's meeting was never introduced at a Town Meeting. He mentioned that West Brookfield had voted to change their meeting date to June.

Bellerose additionally inquired as to change in date for submission of Articles; she has been told conflicting information. Delanski stated that the Board had called for an early date (April 2nd) to permit time for the Board to consider non petitioner Articles for placing on the Warrant and for allowing sufficient time to have the information available to FinCom for their publication.

Bellerose asked a final question pertaining to a certified letter she sent to Police Chief (with a copy to the BOS) making inquiry about an officer's time sheet – time off; to date she has not received a response from the Chief. Delanski stated he would request the office copy be pulled and he would make inquiry.

Ms. Beverly Soltys inquired about the auction of two police vehicles; the present bid for one vehicle is \$150.00 she is curious if that is profitable for the Town. Delanski responded that the transaction was handled primarily by the Police Chief; a Board member will make note to call the Chief upon his return to the office and seek a response to Soltys' inquiry.

Mr. Stanley Soltys was concerned there was not a collective auction done to include other Town vehicles. There was a brief discussion on the disposal of Town property; the Board will make further inquiry to the concerns raised.

Soltys inquired about Mr. Lavash' investigation into the vehicle inspection matter – what is status. Delanski responded that the matter is under investigation not only by Lavash but another entity; once findings are made they will be shared.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the following:

- Email from Timothy J. O'Brien, Warren Emergency Management requesting a response from the Board of Selectmen regarding the questions raised in the letter of March 9, 2015. This information is needed to make a submission for the May Special/Annual Town Meeting deadline of April 2, 2015. Board will review request at its article and budget meetings.
- Letter from Stephen M. Coleman Jr., Chief, Auburn MA Fire District 7, inviting Elected and Appointed Officials to attend a technical rescue drill in Charlton, MA on April 14, 2015. Delanski asked to be reminded of event.

Chairman Delanski announce that he had received a call from Fire Chief Lavoie informing the Board that he took the ambulance off the road due to a service issue; possibly involving the engine. Chief Lavoie has made alternate plans for an ambulance and assured the Board his department would and could respond to calls.

MASS DOT WINTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WRAP) AWARD CONTRACT \$43,623.00 (REVIEW/VOTE/SIGNATURE OF CHAIRMAN)

Following a brief discussion a motion to approve and have Chairman sign state contract was made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION - Tabled

KERRY SCHMIDT – TAX COLLECTOR Re: FY16 Budget

Ms. Schmidt came before the Board to speak to her request to change her budget regarding salary structure. At present, she collects a base salary and is permitted to take as pay fees associated with her department. In the omnibus budget it is reflected as "Salary + Fees". Her intent is to avoid some of the confusion that occurred during the last fiscal budget cycle and is asking the Board to consider adding the fee portion of her pay (\$15,600.00) to her base salary (\$26,412.00) to reflect her true salary of \$42,012.00. She noted the figures collected in fees over the last 4 fiscal cycles: 2011 \$16,280. 2012 \$17,495. 2013 \$15,915. 2014 \$16,205. – historically the Tax Collector has never taken all the fees; once changed all fees would be returned to the general fund. Schmidt recapped her intent is 1- to make it clear and understandable for taxpayers when reviewing her budget lines; 2- avoid having to explain year after year the pay/fee structure and lastly 3 – should she eventually retire from the Town; she would like her retirement to accurately reflect her true salary.

There was some discussion between the Selectboard and Tax Collector Schmidt. There was a consensus of the Board that all positions needed to be reviewed for an adjustment in salaries to reflect current times. Delanski noted he would not be opposed to Schmidt's request provided that the following conditions were on record - first that she or future Tax Collector(s) could not come back and request payment of fees; secondly the omnibus budget would strike "+ fees" from the budget line; lastly, if Schmidt would consider rounding the salary figure to \$42,000.00. She was not opposed to any of the three conditions. With no further discussion a motion to prepare a letter to Finance Committee citing the Board's recommendation to change Tax Collector's Salary budget line to \$42,000.00 with no fees was made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

TREASURY WARRANT(S) AND INVOICES

Motion to accept warrant #79 (vendor) dated March 25, 2015 in the amount of \$800.00 was made by Mr. Nardi;
Second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous

Motion to accept warrant # 80 (payroll) and #81 (vendor) dated March 30, 2015 in the amounts of \$40,858.93 and \$624,001.41 respectively was made by Mr. Nardi; Second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous

FY2016 BUDGET

Delanski announced there is a scheduled meeting on the 11th to review budget.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Nardi commented new chairs should arrive in about a week.

Ms. Soltys inquired as to any submissions for Moderator for the candidate night event. Nardi replied no submissions for Moderator but question submissions had been made.

Ms. Sue Como commented on the QRSD budget; noting they had reverted to their prior proposed budget which excludes the new positions; thus a decrease of about \$242,000.00. The Board was taking the school budget under advisement and would see the outcome of the upcoming meeting between the School District and Finance Committee this coming Thursday evening.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

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

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Lavash; Second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop
Administrative Secretary

Dario F. Nardi, Clerk