

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016**

PRESENT: Mr. Dario F. Nardi, Chairman, Mr. Robert E. Lavash, Sr., Vice-Chairman and Mr. James A. Gagner, Clerk
ATTENDEES: Stanley Soltys, Chief Adam Lavoie, Mike Starsiak, Mary Bellerose, Barry Mongeon and Colleen Montague
Chairman Nardi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance at this time. Mr. Nardi announced that this evening's meeting was being both video and audio taped. Ms. Montague from the Quaboag Current is also audio taping.

MINUTES

Motion to accept and approve the Minutes of February 2, 2016 as written made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

K-9 Gift Account – Chief Spiewakowski contacted the Board to see what steps are necessary in creating a gift account for the K-9 Unit. Residents have contacted the Police Department wishing to donate money towards the dog and its needs. According to the Town Accountant, a vote by the Board of Selectmen is all that is necessary. After a discussion and in order to clarify the use of funds, the following motion was made: Motion to approve the creation of a Gift Account for the K-9 Unit for the Police Department for the sole purpose of the needs of the canine only made by Mr. Lavash; second; Mr. Gagner – unanimous. The Town Accountant and Town Treasurer will be sent a memo advising both offices.

Unregistered Vehicles – Mr. Gagner discussed ongoing concerns that he is receiving from citizens regarding unregistered vehicles. Some time ago, Mr. Gagner reached out to the Police Department and provided several addresses in which potential violations were ongoing. According to recent reports, he (Mr. Gagner) was advised that the vehicles are still there. The Board requested that Mrs. Acerra contact the Chief of Police and request that his department follow up and begin to enforce the bylaw.

General By-Law Change – Recent events surrounding a property in town have led to warnings being issued to property owners/tenants regarding rubbish removal. Currently, Article X, Section 14 of the General By-laws dictate that the Board of Selectmen is the enforcement authority. After discussions with the Board of Health, all are in agreement that the by-law should be changed to allow the town's Health Agent to issue citations as well. This is anticipated to be on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in May.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Soltys posed a question several meetings ago regarding the amount of funds in the trust fund for unwed mothers. He stated that at a meeting on April 14, 2015, then Chairman Delanski stated that there was approximately \$40,000.00 in the account. This is a trust fund account and cannot be reallocated at Town Meeting as in the case with other accounts. Mrs. Acerra will request a print-out of the account including any expenditures from the Town Accountant.

Mary Bellerose stated that at a previous meeting she questioned the Board if Town Counsel was contacted regarding conflict of interest and is now questioning if the Board of Selectmen, specifically Chairman Nardi had been honest with Counsel. Ms. Bellerose cited Docket No. 1569RO (H0291), which was recently heard in the East Brookfield District Court. She went on to say that according to her records the witness statements do not match up with the police reports. Based on the documents that she has in her possession, she requested that Mr. Gagner resign from his seat on the Select Board and would request that both Chief Spiewakowski and Sgt. LaFlower be suspended for their alleged wrong doings (according to Ms. Bellerose). In addition, she feels that Officer LaFlower be suspended as well based on conflicting testimony and payroll submissions. She (Ms. Bellerose) feels that Mr. Nardi, as Chairman needs to

investigate. Mr. Nardi requested copies of the documents that she kept referring to so he could review them. Reluctant at first, she stated that she would allow copies to be made after the meeting adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE

- The office received notice from the Board of Health with information regarding landowners on and down gradient of Reed Street that are not connected to the public water supply system. Their office was notified by the DEP that 1,4-Dioxane was detected in residential water wells on Reed Street at levels that are above current drinking water standards. If anyone has any additional questions, they can contact the Board of Health office. – ***Noted – Mrs. Acerra will provide a link on the town's website as to where property owners can have their water tested.***
- Emergency Management/CERT submitted their monthly report as of January 2016.- ***Noted***
- The office received notice from Senator Gobi's Office that the State House is currently reviewing the Governor's budget proposal for FY17. Senator Gobi wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to the town to inform us of the budget schedule and to solicit any budget requests the town has. Further information on the proposed FY17 Budget can be found online at www.mass.gov - ***Noted***
- A notice was received from Baystate Health Systems regarding the consolidation of the services at Mary Lane in Ware. Subject to appropriate regulatory approvals, the Emergency Room will continue to operate as a satellite facility. As part of the planned consolidation of services, the intent is to close all inpatient medical/surgical/pediatric services in Ware effective on or after June 1, 2016. At the Ware satellite location, BWH will continue to provide outpatient surgical procedures, chemotherapy and other cancer care, laboratory and imaging services, women's health services, pediatric care and limited observation care. – ***Mr. Gagner advised all that there are continued discussions on the services that will continue to be provided thru the Ware facility.***

Michael Starsiak-87 Spring Street

Mr. Starsiak spoke with the Board this evening to discuss the possibility of an Article being placed on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. In response to a recent survey of his property, it was discovered that a portion of what was originally thought to be his driveway is in fact town property. He would like the last 100' of Spring Street to be discontinued. He stated that the town has never maintained the last 100' of dirt driveway (town road). Mr. Nardi stated that a solid surveyors plan would need to be presented to not only the Board of Selectmen but the Planning Board as well. Mrs. Acerra advised all in attendance that the Planning Board does not have the authority to make a property non-conforming, which would happen by discontinuing the last 100' feet. That portion serves as frontage for his house which is located at 87 Spring Street. Mr. Starsiak was willing to have a survey done prior to going any further on the matter. Also, while in attendance, Mr. Starsiak did question the Board as to the duel poles that Verizon has left behind. Mr. Nardi stated that he just recently received notification that the Baker Administration is putting forth new efforts statewide in order to mandate them to remove the duel pole.

PVPC/CDBG – City/Town-Owner Agreement

As the lead community for the CDBG Block Grant, the following motion was made to provide funding: Motion to allow the Chairman to sign the City/Town-Owner Agreement in the amount of \$10,000.00 as presented by PVPC made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

WCC – EXTENSION PERMIT FOR LUCY STONE PARK – DEP FILE #318-214

The Warren Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town of Warren have requested a three (3) year extension to the Orders of Condition on Lucy Stone Park as presented made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

FY17 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chief Lavoie briefly discussed his proposed increase in the Ambulance Salary Line Item. He is currently working on his budget and in the very near future will be meeting with his liaison from Finance. He is looking to increase the line by an additional \$5,000.00 which would restore it back to the FY13 appropriation.

Mr. Nardi asked Mr. Mongeon if FinCom has made a recommendation on the request from Mr. McKeon regarding a stipend. Mr. Mongeon stated that it would be discussed at their next meeting as well as a discussion regarding the merging of the FinCom and Capital Planning Committee. The Finance Committee will meet on February 25th. Mr. Nardi stated that he would attend.

Mr. Nardi requested that Mrs. Acerra contact Johanna Barry from West Brookfield and set up a joint meeting with her board as well as the Advisory Committee in order to discuss the QRMHS Budget. Mr. Nardi also reminded everyone that all Articles must be into the Selectmen's Office by March 31st. A working meeting is tentatively scheduled with FinCom for Saturday, April 9th.

TREASURY WARRANTS AND DRAW DOWNS

- Motion to approve and sign warrant number 108 and 111 dated February 8, 2016 in the amounts of \$38,111.34 and \$825,479.24 respectively made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.
- Motion to approve and sign warrant number 109 dated February 8, 2016 in the amount of \$297.84 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Lavash
- Motion to approve and sign warrant number 110 dated February 8, 2016 in the amount of \$1,450.00 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Gagner
- Motion to approve and sign warrant number 113 and 115 dated February 15, 2016 in the amounts of \$33,648.21 and \$28,190.55 made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous
- Motion to approve and sign warrant number 112 dated February 15, 2016 in the amount of \$335.07 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Lavash
- Motion to approve and sign warrant number 114 dated February 15, 2016 in the amount of \$610.00 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Gagner
- Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 14 for FY14 for Services administered for the FY14 Community Assistance Program Grant #00741 in the amount of \$13,526.93 made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.
- Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 1 for FY15 for Services administered for the FY15 Community Assistance Program Grant #00762 in the amount of \$4,880.33 made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

The office received a request from the Tax Collector to allow the Chief of Police and Board of Health to include informational fliers with the Motor Vehicle Excise bills. This provision is allowed under MGL 60, c3A (d) with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, therefore the following motion was made: Motion to allow the inserts from the Chief of Police and Board of Health as presented made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

Mr. Gagner would like to thank Jeffrey Broudeur and Josh Richards for shoveling the hydrants out in the downtown area after a recent snow event. Mr. Gagner would also like to have the office send out a citation to Doris Rose Dumas, lifelong resident who will be turning 100 years old on March 7th of this year.

Mr. Lavash wanted to advise all that the handicap door opener at the MOB will be installed sometime next week.

Next Meeting Date: February 23rd at 7PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous at 8:02PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Selectmen's Assistant

James A. Gagner, Jr., Clerk

