

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2016  
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

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

---

**Chairman Nardi called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led in the Pledge of Allegiance in the Selectmen's Meeting Room in the Shepard Municipal Building.**

**Minutes**

None

**Old Business**

FY15 CDBG – Highland Street Improvements

Mr. Gagner read the following information from Mr. Chris Dunphy of PVPC:

Construction improvements will soon be underway for Highland Street in West Warren. Advertising for construction will occur in late March 2016 and work is tentatively scheduled to start by late May or June 2016. The project will result in the full reconstruction of road surfaces, new storm water drainage systems, an extension of the water line to the end of the street, one new hydrant, tree removal and rehabilitation of sidewalk surfaces. The project is being funded through the FY 2015 Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development Block grant program (CDBG) with the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and Lenard Engineering. Please call Chris Dunphy at the PVPC with any questions, [413-781-6045](tel:413-781-6045).

Mr. Lavash stated that drain pipe repair at the Town Hall was completed as well as the installation of the automatic door at the Shepard Building.

**Comments & Concerns**

Mr. Nardi made a statement as to Comments & Concerns – (synopsis) “..remind everyone of the purpose of C/C which is reserved for residents to bring forth to the Board issues that are currently relevant – not an avenue to express displeasure with anyone individual. If there is a concern about an individual within the local government, contact should first be made with the immediate supervisor and request to be heard. If at any time you feel your request has not be adequately resolved, it should be put in writing and submitted to the Selectboard. Comments are reserved to five minutes in length ...I will do my part to recognize individuals. ....with that said if I as the chairman have allowed for discussion to continue about any one individual within our government not present, I apologize, admit and take ownership of the mistake and do best to not allow in the future...”

Mr. Stanley Soltys inquired whether evaluations and contracts are complete. Mr. Nardi affirmed evaluations were complete. Two employment agreements are complete and will be ratified this evening, two are still in progress. Requests for copies of the emp. Agreements can be made to the office, after they have been ratified in an open meeting.

**Correspondence**

The Board reviewed the following:

1. The office received a letter of support from Senator Gobi and State Rep Todd Smola and Donald Berthiaume requesting funding by the PVPC for the Town of Warren, Hardwick and Ware. The application seeks grant funding in the amount of \$855,000.00. the requested funds will go toward

housing rehabilitation in all three towns, a domestic violence prevention program and will help support the Ware River Valley Adult Learning Program and Planned Approach to Community Health Program which also serves all three communities. *Noted.*

2. Resident Don Nickerson provided a copy of a news article from the Telegram & Gazette in where the City of Worcester gave a green light on its first marijuana dispensary. Mr. Nickerson suggest that the town of Warren be mindful if and when negotiations begin for a host agreement with the town if a proposal is before us. *Noted*

**Drainage Easement – Approval by Selectmen**

There was a brief discussion on the proposed easement, Tom Boudreau, Highway Surveyor spoke on the problem between two private properties and gave brief explanation of map that accompanies the easement. A motion to have the Chairman sign the easement before a notary, made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

**Appointments: Cable Advisory Committee; Police Janitorial**

Separate motions were made for the following appointments,

**Warren Cable Advisory Committee**

Igor Kuprycz	3 years	06-30-2019
Lisa Mundell	3 years	06-30-2019
Erica Schlosstein	1 year	06-30-2017
Conor McCarthy	1 year	06-30-2017

Motion by Mr. Lavash, second: Mr. Gagner - unanimous

**Warren Police Department -Janitorial**

Rachel Begley	3 Months	06-30-2016
---------------	----------	------------

Motion by Mr. Lavash, second: Mr. Gagner - unanimous

**Mason’s Grille - Application for Common Victualer License**

Raymond and Rebecca Mason were present

Brief discussion on the grand opening dates and times of operation followed by a Motion to approve and issue a Common Victualer license, made by Mr. Lavash, second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous. Selectboard welcomed them to Town and wished them much success.

**Ratify Employment Agreements for Town Accountant and Fire Chief**

Motion to ratify the approved three year employment agreements for both the Town Accountant and Fire Chief, made by Mr. Lavash, second: Mr. Nardi – 1 abstention (Gagner). Mr. Nardi stated that the Fire Chief executed a statement to come out of his current agreement, in an effort to negotiate the new agreement with terms that align with the July/June fiscal year.

**FY 2017 Budget Discussion(s)**

There was discussion by the Board and Finance Committee Chairman, Barry Mongeon as to some departmental budgets. There was discussion on the School committee budget which calls for \$490K over minimum contribution. Mr. Nardi stated his opinion only that the SC needs to find some way to work on a budget that works not only for Warren but West Brookfield. Both Mr. Lavash and Mr. Gagner cited the

importance of residents attending the Annual Town meeting in hopes of having their votes count when it comes to the budget.

Mr. Mongeon stated that FinCom would be meeting shortly to vote on the entire budget and suggested the Select board’s participation. Departments he finds will need additional review and discussion; (Assessors) Assistant Assessor wages; (Highway) Maintenance line; request for increase due to shifting expenditures from the Snow Ice account. Mr. Boudreau was asked to elaborate on the expenditures that come out of the Maintenance line previously and going forward.

There was some discussion on the Resurfacing line and request for increase. Mr. Gary Odeon inquired about the use of Chapter 90 funds and work to be performed vs. increase to Resurfacing, to which Mr. Nardi responded that prior meeting discussions identified projects for which Ch 90 funds were earmarked. Mr. Boudreau added some insight into new technologies and processes which can be accomplished through Resurfacing. Mr. Mongeon voiced concern over the request to decrease the Sidewalk line; Mr. Boudreau noted his focus is on the roads. Without the proper equipment, there is not much that can be done with sidewalks. Ms. Mary Bellerose inquired as to how roads are selected for fixing; citing Parkview by her residence is hazardous with the amount of traffic, limited sidewalks and bumps in pavement. Mr. Boudreau agrees, however the problem with the road is it is too narrow, he would like to address at some point. Mr. Boudreau concluded he is working to rebuild roads that are difficult to plow and applying rejuvenation technics to preserve the ones in better / good condition. Lastly, there was some discussion on the clerical position for Highway and the need to increase the position to 9 hours weekly.

**Treasury Warrants and Invoices**

Motion to approve the following warrants made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous

Date: 3/4/2016	Date: 3/21/2016
<u>Warrant #</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Warrant #</u> <u>Amount</u>
<b>128</b> <b>34184.962</b>	<b>131</b> <b>35184.31</b>
<b>130</b> <b>57895.80</b>	<b>133</b> <b>38778.80</b>

Motion to approve the following warrants made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Gagner – 1 abstention (Lavash)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Warrant #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Warrant #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/4/2016	<b>129</b>	<b>273.02</b>	03/21/2016	<b>132</b>	<b>910.97</b>

Motion to approve the following warrants made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – 1 abstention (Gagner)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Warrant #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
03/21/2016	<b>134</b>	<b>970.00</b>

Motion to approve the following invoices made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous

FY14	#15	Services to administer FY 2014 Comm. Assistance Program	PVPC	14,355.21
		Grant # 00741		
FY15	Pmt 94	Draw-Down CDBG Grant 15 CDF I # 0762	PVPC	17,000.00
FY14	Pmt 95	Draw-Down CDBG Grant 14 CDF I # 0741	PVPC	10,000.00

**New Business**

Mr. Gagner announced that he reviewed and email regarding the Fire Prevention Grant, which benefits the SAFE Program. It involves developing a curriculum to apply to the program; he will find a candidate to administer and apply for the grant next year. Additionally, he continues to attend meetings regarding the Mary Lane. Also, he wished to acknowledge and thank the Mellen family for hosting a foreign exchange student, but is concerned that they are being asked to contribute \$12K for the student to attend Quaboag HS, he will look into the matter. Lastly, he sends out a congratulations to the Varsity Basketball, he is very proud for their efforts put forth.

Mr. Nardi discussed the option to hold a Candidate' night for contested races on April 26<sup>th</sup>, foregoing the Selectmen's meeting. There was a consensus to have the 26<sup>th</sup> open for the candidates. More information will follow.

**Next Meeting Date: March 29, 2016 @ 7:00 PM**

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Lavash; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop  
Administrative Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Gagner, Clerk