

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Dario F. Nardi; Chairman, Mr. James A. Gagner; Vice-Chairman and Mr. Marc W. Richard; Clerk

**ATTENDEES:** Chief Spiwakowski, Stanley & Bev Soltys, Brian Corriveau, Mary Bellerose, Armand Dimo, James Banfield, Anne Banville, John Nason, Gary Odiorne, Bonnie Richard, Cheryl Gagnon, Vernon Keith, David & Patty Gancorz, Peggy Robideaux, Jim McKeon, Jean & Bob Lavash, Brian Lees, Roxanne Nowak, Leona Wrobel, Tom Boudreau, Bill Ramsey, Jim Kordek, Chief Lavoie, Peter Krawczyk, Chris Dunphy, Cory Brodeur and Colleen Montague

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Mr. Nardi called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nardi requested that if anyone in the audience is either video/audio recording this evening's meeting to please disclose to the Chair. Ms. Colleen Montague from Turley Publications acknowledged her taping the meeting. Mary Bellerose is also video recording the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

As a follow up to an earlier meeting in which Mr. Daniel Plourde came before the Board to discuss a concern over traffic on the Ware Road, Mr. Nardi advised all that the matter has been resolved to Mr. Plourde's satisfaction.

**COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Mr. James Kordek questioned as to why tonight's meeting was not going out live. Mr. Kruprycz from WCAT TV12 advised him that the system has not been tested in about 2 years and not sure if working properly. The meeting is being taped and will air at a later date. Mr. Nardi added that he will get together with Mr. Kruprycz and possibly Comcast to ensure that the system is up and running for the STM at the end of October. Mr. Lavash offered the Park & Rec sound system for them to use.

Ms. Mary Bellerose addressed the Board this evening and accused the Board of "grandstanding". She referred to the town's legal bills and further accused Mr. Nardi of telling "lies" and "fabrications". She stated that she came before the Selectboard on February 16, 2016 in where she requested Mr. Nardi to resign. She also accused Mr. Gagner of taking out a false police report on an individual and feels that he (Mr. Gagner) needs to be fully investigated.

Mr. Vernon Keith of 97 Quaboag Street addressed the Board this evening regarding the handicap parking associated with the Downtown Project. Mrs. Acerra advised the Board that she met with MassDOT earlier that morning for their regular meeting and discussed this very issue. Mrs. Acerra stated that the Resident Engineer is aware that on the handicap spaces, the required footage will be provided with the hatch marks to the right of the space for van accessibility. Mr. Keith was satisfied and thanked the Board for their time.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The office received notification from the state that MassDEP has awarded the Town of Warren Recycling Dividends funds and Small-Scale Initiative funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. The Town has earned 11 point and will receive \$2,200.00. (Chairman to sign) *Mr. Nardi as Chairman signed.*
2. The office received a letter from the Sewer Commissioners looking for clarification on the hourly rate schedule for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators. Under the new rate schedule that was approved at the ATM in May, it appears that the Chief Operator is unable to reach a higher step level, though he may remain employed for several more years. *Mr. Nardi will contact the Sewer Department directly.*
3. The Baker-Polito Administration has announced that the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation has approved a new drought loan fund to help Massachusetts small businesses. The financial support will assist farm related businesses regain financial stability and recover from lost revenue due to the drought. Additional information can be obtained in the Selectmen's Office. - *Noted*
4. MassDOT has announced that as of September 12<sup>th</sup> they have officially gone live with the application process for the Municipal Small Bridge Program. The Program will provide reimbursable assistance to cities and towns of up to \$500,000 per year to aid in the replacement and preservation of Municipally-owned bridges with spans between 10' and 20' feet. – *Noted. A copy will be provided to the Highway Surveyor as well.*
5. The office received the monthly reports from both the Fire Chief and Emergency Mgmt & CERT. for the month ending August 2016. - *Noted*

## **DEBILITATING MEDICAL CONDITION TREATMENT CENTERS, INC.**

Mr. Brian Lees briefly addressed the Board this evening. Previously, the Board of Selectmen had signed a letter of non-opposition. This proposal would be for a cultivation center only. Mr. Lee's stated that this is a preliminary step in the process to open a facility at the former Hardwick Knitted Fabrics building. He estimates that it would generate approximately 15-30 employees. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to sign the letter of non-opposition as presented made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

## **WARREN CDBG PERFORMANCE HEARING**

Mr. Dunphy addressed the Board and residents in order to provide an update to the program. Currently, under the FY 15 Block Grant which is a regional grant which includes W. Brookfield and North Brookfield. Funding is available to qualified applicants for code enforcement projects up to \$35,000.00 (repairs in roofing, septic, etc.). Mr. Dunphy also provided an update to the Highland Street Improvement Project. The project is currently at 80% complete with new water & sewer lines, fire protection, drainage and roadway improvements. The top course is expected to be down within a few weeks.

FY16 Grant was awarded to the sum of \$150,000.00 to do design plans for Quaboag, Lombard Streets and Moore Avenue. When complete, the design plans can be used to apply for construction funding. Warren is also the lead community along with Ware and Hardwick for regional funding. Mr. Dunphy also said that he is always looking for interested individuals to serve on the CDAC Committee. He

thanked the members, both past & present for their time and efforts. The Board thanked Mr. Dunphy for his continued help and support for the Town of Warren.

#### **APPOINTMENT**

Motion to appoint Scott Trombly to the Conservation Commission until June 30, 2017 made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

#### **CONTRACTS**

Motion to ratify the FY16 Community Development Fund Program -Community Assistance Program made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous

Motion to ratify the FY16 Community Development Fund Program – Warren Domestic Violence Prevention Services Program made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous

Motion to approve and sign the No. 2 Heating Oil/Diesel Contract for Fountain & Sons Fuel for FY17 & FY18 made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the Contract for Transportation & Transfer of Liquid WWTP Sludge-Town of Warren Sewer Department & Tighe & Bond made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

#### **BRIAN CORRIVEAU**

Mr. Corriveau requested to speak to the Board this evening regarding Tax Rates/Property Values/Town Hall. With regard to the town hall, Mr. Corriveau stated that it should either be “blown up” or “fixed up”. He feels that it should be fixed up for all to enjoy. Mr. Nardi agreed that it should be as well, however the town would need to secure funding which will take a significant amount of money. Mr. Corriveau disagreed on this point and felt that the repairs could be done with approximately \$30,000.00. Mr. Gagner thanked Mr. Corriveau for his insight on this matter and also feels that something should be done to repair the building. Mr. Lavash reminded all that seeing it is a town owned building, prevailing wage is a factor which drives up costs.

#### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed Articles that have been submitted for the STM. Mr. Nardi stated for the record that he is not in favor of any Articles that require money without having free cash certified. Department Heads were in attendance to discuss their Article submissions:

**Planning Board** – request to change the frontage requirement for Wireless Communication Facilities in all zoning districts to 75'. There was a fair amount of discussion on the matter. Mr. Ramsey stated that due to an oversight on the developer's part, the proposed lot that was projected for development is short approximately 15 feet. In discussions with Mr. Gagner, who originally spearheaded this venture, felt that this was going to be the quickest and easiest way to keep the project moving. Mr. Richard felt that this is a reactive decision to the developer's mistake. Mr. Lavash questioned if we are going to continue to keep changing the by-law to accommodate a developer. Mr. Gagner said if that is what it takes. Resident Cheryl Gagnon who retired from Verizon stated that even with the construction of a tower on the property (Southbridge Road), the downtown will never get service. Mrs. Wrobel suggested to let the people decide. – **Motion to approve and place on the Warrant made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.**

**Citizen Petition** – Mr. McKeon spoke on behalf of his Citizen Petition that he put forward. He is currently the Interim Deputy Director for Emergency Management and is requesting that the town adopt a job description along with providing funding for a \$500.00 yearly stipend. The stipend would be

funded through the Emergency Management Account. – **Motion to place on the Warrant as presented made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous**

**Highway Department** – Mr. Boudreau spoke on behalf of his two Articles: The first being a request for a combination truck/plow/spreader in the range of \$210,000.00. He cited the aging fleet that he currently has. The City of Worcester recently purchased a similar vehicle and in speaking with their DPW Officials, Mr. Boudreau feels that this type of vehicle could save the town money in the long run. He previously discussed this, however was passed over in the spring. Mr. Nason from the Finance Committee understands his request, however cited the many questions that he has regarding current & future plans for maintenance. – **Motion to pass over made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner - unanimous.**

Mr. Boudreau is also seeking to increase his machine maintenance line item by \$5,000.00. Mr. Nardi stated that he would like to see that request wait until spring citing he (Mr. Boudreau) has only used 7% of that line item to date. – **Motion to place on the Warrant made by Mr. Gagner – (not seconded) Motion to pass over made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – 2 Yes, Mr. Gagner opposed.**

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Lavoie presented two Articles to the Board for consideration. The first being an Article in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the purpose of testing existing hose to NFPA federal standards & purchasing several lengths of new hose. Chief Lavoie stated that the \$6,000.00 is to ensure safety & efficiency in addition to it being a federal mandate. In the event, there was a personal injury or to someone's property due to faulty hoses, the town could potentially be liable. **Motion to place on the Warrant made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – 2 Yes, Mr. Gagner abstained.**

The second request is to see if the town would appropriate \$4,000.00 for the purpose of replacing an older power unit used to run and send power to extrication equipment (Jaws of Life). Chief Lavoie has an opportunity to purchase a demo unit which would come with a limited warranted however with the proper maintenance, doesn't feel it would be an issue. – **Passed Over**

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Spiewakowski requested an increase of \$16,000.00 in his dispatch wage line. He is running into a shortfall due to a lack of staffing. Mr. Gagner & Mr. Nardi would rather see him spend down the line and address it in the spring if necessary. **Motion to reduce the amount to \$10,000.00 and place on Warrant made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.**

The Chief's second request was to request a new patrol car. If approved, his plan would be to give his current vehicle (Ford 500) to the Detective and he would take possession of the new car. **Motion to wait until the spring for reconsideration made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous**

The third request was for a mobile traffic trailer unit. **Passed Over.**

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

The Board is placing an Article on to cover a shortfall for FY16 in the legal expense line item. **Motion to place Article on the Warrant made by Mr. Richard – second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.**

Mr. Nardi would also like to sponsor and Article to transfer an amount of money (TBD) from Free Cash towards Capital Stabilization Account. All were in agreement. Motion to sponsor as requested made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

#### **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER – PASSED OVER**

**All department heads would like for the Board to understand that many of the requests were and have been on Capital Planning’s radar, however have fallen by the wayside. The Board fully understands their position and are working towards revitalizing that endeavor.**

#### **TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES**

Motion to approve and sign Warrant Number 22 & 23 dated September 12, 2016 in the amounts of \$43,222.65 & \$55,828.25 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant Number 24 & 25 dated September 19, 2016 in the amounts of \$37,817.87 & \$109,290.37 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous

Motion to approve and sign Warrant Number 26 dated September 21, 2016 in the amount of \$104,000.00 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant Number 27 & 28 in the amounts of \$37,106.97 & \$333,069.91 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign FY15 Invoice No. 20 for PVPC Grant #00762 in the amount of \$12,671.77 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 1 to Jack Goncalves & Sons in the amount of \$98,273.70 for the Highland Street Improvement Project made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 2 to Jack Goncalves & Sons for the Highland Street Improvement Project in the amount of \$90,827.03 made by Mr. Richard; second: MR. Gagner – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 66028 to Lenard Engineering, Inc. for the Highland Street Improvement Project in the amount of \$14,366.36 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gagner requested that the Board consider inviting the Police Wives that are associated with the “Blue Lives Matter” campaign. All were in agreement. Mr. Gagner will reach out to them.

Mr. Gagner also advised all in attendance that Heal, Inc. has received their provisional license for Medical Marijuana from DPH.

Mr. Gagner also requested that the Board allow the woodworking shop at QRMHS design and build a sign for the proposed parking lot at 980 Main Street. Mr. Richard reminded him that the project still need to go before the Planning Board to which Mr. Gagner acknowledge that fact.

Mr. Boudreau addressed the Board this evening regarding the removal of Pole #5 on Spring Street. This is necessary in order to continue with the replacement culvert project through the MassWorks Grant. Mr. Nardi and the Board members are ok with the request providing he show documentation that he has National Grid approval. Mr. Boudreau will supply to the office.

Mrs. Soltys asked if and when the meetings will be going back to a weekly schedule. Mr. Nardi stated not at this time and set the next meeting for October 11, 2016 at 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Gagner: second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra  
Administrative Secretary

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Date Approved