

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2017 6 PM & 7 PM**

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

**ATTENDEES:** John Nason, Anne Banville and Sara Prideaux

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Opened the Meeting at 6:03 PM

Mr. Nardi took the lead in this evening's discussion regarding Animal Control and the IMA with Regionalization. With the impending return of Ms. Prideaux from maternity leave, on June 17, 2017, our IMA with Palmer expires on June 30, 2017. We (the town) currently pay the Palmer ACO a fee when her services are needed in Warren. Our Alternate ACO, Sydney Plante also receives a pay according to her call base. The fee structure is \$1.00/resident for sheltering services and \$2.00/resident for ACO and Sheltering.

Mr. Nardi has a meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2017 with Palmer, Monson and Ware to discuss this topic further. Preliminary discussions are looking at building a facility in Palmer, however in light of recent developments, could now possibly be in Warren. The cost is estimated at \$250,000.00 which would be split among the towns. There are still many issues that need to be resolved aside from the building location, such as staffing, cost and future maintenance. A total of \$56,000.00 per town currently goes into the IMA. It was stated at a previous meeting that in order to be able to track the calls and be uniform, all calls would be placed to the host community. This brings up an additional discussion of regionalizing dispatch. Both Selectman Gagner and Richard are in favor of an IMA, however the unanswered questions need to be discussed further.

Mr. Nason questioned the Town's liability, which the cost would be shared. Mr. Nardi stated that the IMA would be a five (5) year commitment with a one (1) year sunset clause. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to allow Mr. Nardi to continue discussions with Palmer regarding the IMA made by Mr. Richard; second; Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

Motion to recess until 7 PM regular meeting made by Mr. Richard; second; Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

**7PM – BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

Chairman Gagner reconvened the meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gagner advised all, that this meeting is being both video and audio taped. Ms. Collen Montague and Mrs. Beverly Soltys are recording.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of May 23, 2017 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The office received the monthly report of the Police Chief for months ending April and May 2017. The office also received the monthly report from EM/CERT for month ending May 2017. - Noted
2. The Chief of Police advised the Board that a total of \$9,702.50 in forfeited funds have been deposited in the law enforcement trust account. This figure represents half of the total funds seized as a result of the collaborative efforts of several members of the police department. – The Board extended their congratulations to the Department. A memo will be sent to the Officers.
3. The Park & Rec Department would like to invite all to attend the Fireworks Display in order to celebrate the town's 275<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The event will be held on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> with music beginning at 6:30 PM at Quaboag Regional Middle/High School. -Noted
4. The Park & Rec Department would also like to invite all to attend a series of Concerts in the Park. Beginning Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> and every Friday in July concerts will be held at Dean Park in West Warren. All concerts begin at 6 PM. Information on upcoming events can be found on the town's website at [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov). - Noted

## **YEAR END TRANSFERS**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Motion to approve the FY17 Year End Transfers as requested by the Fire Chief as attached in the amount of \$4,000.00 for Ambulance Payroll made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes - 1 Abstention (Mr. Gagner).

**VETERANS SERVICES OFFICER:** Motion to approve the FY 17 Year End Transfer as requested by the Veterans Services Officer from Veterans Benefits to Veterans Supplies in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

## **SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY**

Selectman Nardi presented a draft of a Social Networking Policy that he asked the Board to consider adopting. Mr. Richard stated that this was a good place to start and felt that it was needed. This policy will apply to all employees and elected officials. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to approve the Social Networking Policy as provided effective June 6, 2017 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

## **EMPLOYEES EVALUATIONS**

As outlined in our by-laws, employees are to receive annual evaluations by their Department Head/Supervisor. In the past, the Board has elected one member to administer said evaluations. Mr. Nardi is hoping to have them completed by the end of the Fiscal Year. Mr. Richard would like all three board members to have input. Mr. Nardi suggested that the evaluations be split between the three members. All were in agreement. Mr. Nardi will take the Town Accountant and Fire Chief, Mr. Gagner will administer the Police Chief's and Mr. Richard will perform Mrs. Acerra's.

## **RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA**

Mr. Gagner brought up the discussion once again regarding recreational marijuana. With the State's passage of the bill legalizing marijuana, he has requested that the Board consider a direction for the

town to go in. Do we want to limit the number of retailers or be a dry town? Both the pros and cons of the matter will have to be considered and let the voters decided. Both Mr. Richard and Mr. Nardi stated that they are not in favor of it. The Town Accountant, Madeline Witaszek reminded the Board that it is still against federal law. This will be a continuing discussion as we move forward, therefore, the following motion was made: ***Motion to place a non-binding question regarding the sale of recreational marijuana on the next Special Town Meeting made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.***

## **PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY – TABLED TO NEXT MEETING**

### **FRIENDS OF THE TOWN HALL-The FOTTH were in attendance this evening to discuss several matters:**

**First Floor Windows:** They are requesting guidance on what the next steps are in moving forward since the funding for the replacement of the first floor windows at the Town Hall was approved in the ATM in May. Madeline Witaszek, who serves as the Town’s Procurement Officer stated that in light of the scope/cost of the project, it would be and IFB (Invitation for bid), which would require an engineer or architect. In addition, it would need to be placed in the newspaper and central registrar. It was strongly suggested that they first contact the Building Commissioner in writing for guidance.

**Bell Tower Screens** – Mr. Gagner will contact the Building Commissioner for his thoughts.

**Cleaning of the Auditorium** – Mr. Nardi suggested that they contact the Board of Health as to the scope of cleaning that will be permissible. The office will request that the Parks Department move the cardboard castle to another location.

**Repurposing of the Building** – Mrs. Kuprycz stated that in order to eligible for grant monies, the building would need to be re-purposed. She suggested as a “community center” and “police department” Mrs. Witaszek questioned as to when we lost the current designation on the building. **Inspection** – Mrs. Soltys requested that the Fire Chief do an inspection of the building, to which he agreed.

**Handicap Door** – The Board has instructed the Police Chief to fix the broken door as a temporary measure until such time the Historical Commission can work with the Chief to come up with a plan acceptable to all.

## **TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES**

Motion to sign and approve Warrant Numbers 103 and 104 dated May 29, 2017 in the amounts of \$38,103.61 and \$130,502.89 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to sign and approve Warrant Number 105 dated May 29, 2017 in the amount of \$580.00 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Gagner)

Motion to sign and approve Warrant Numbers 106 and 107 dated June 5, 2017 in the amount of \$40,000.57 and \$830,072.25 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to sign and approve Invoice No. 5 for FY 15 to PVPC for the FY 15 Domestic Violence Prevention Project in the amount of \$2,354.56 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to sign and approve Invoice No. 16 for FY 15 to PVPC for the FY 16 Community Assistance Program (Grant # 00762) in the amount of \$4,722.87 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to sign and approve Invoice No. 7 for FY 16 to PVPC for the FY 16 Community Assistance Program (Grant # 00783) in the amount of \$11,756.94 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Richard discussed a dead tree on privately owned property at the Warren Post Office. Mrs. Acerra discussed the matter with the Tree Warden and provided him with the owners contact information. Mr. Lacey will send the owner a letter. A copy of the letter was requested to be provided to the Board. Mr. Richard extended his praise and thanks to all that have worked so diligently on reviving Lucy Stone Park. It has become a highlight in town.

Mr. Gagner extended his thanks to all who participated in the recent 5K Road Race and wished the graduating class of 2017 the best of luck in the future.

Also, he advised all that Industrial Wireless and Tower, LLC will be closing on the property on June 15<sup>th</sup> and construction should start soon.

#### **COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Mr. Mooney wanted to acknowledge the 5 Eagle Scouts that recently received their pins. It was quite an accomplishment.

Mr. Nason questioned if temporary crosswalks can be painted even though Ludlow Construction is not done with the project. The paint that was in place has already worn and there is no clear definition for pedestrian crossings. The office will contact DOT/Highway to see what can be done.

Mr. Nason also requested that someone take a look at the handrail on the ramp in front of the stores downtown, which seems to be loose. The office will contact Highway to take a look and rectify the situation.

Mr. Soltys asked why Chairman Gagner did not recognize him at the last meeting. Mr. Gagner apologized for his oversight.

Mr. Mongeon, Chairman of the Finance Committee advised the Board that they will be holding their last meeting for Year End Transfers on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> and suggested that we also post in order to discuss any last minute issues. All were in agreement.

**Next Meeting Date: June 20, 2017 at 7 PM.**

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra  
Administrative Secretary

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Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

