

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2017**

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

ATTENDEES: See Attached List

Opened the Meeting at 7:00 PM

Chairman Gagner Opened the Meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. He notified all in attendance that this evening's meeting was being both video and audio recorded. Ms. Colleen Montague from the Ware River News was audiotaping as well.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of June 20, 2017 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received a letter from the Town of Brimfield, Highway Department thanking the crew for the support and assistance provided by the members of the Warren Highway Department. Ray Blais, Jeremy Olsen and Ed Williams were instrumental in completing a Chapter 90 project in their town. Brimfield Highway Surveyor, Zack Lemieux said that without their help these vital projects would not have been able to be completed. - ***Noted and thanks to all that helped our neighboring community.***
2. The office received notice that Scott Trombly and Maureen Grissom are not seeking re-appointment to the Conservation Commission. – ***Noted and both were praised for their time.***
3. The office received the monthly report of the Police Chief for month ending June 2017. - ***Noted***
4. The office received notice that Dispatcher Krystle Rafferty has resigned effective July 7, 2017 to pursue a career with the Mass. State Police. – ***Noted. Mr. Gagner requested that a thank you letter be sent to Ms. Rafferty.***
5. The office receive the monthly report of EM/CERT for month ending June 2017. - ***Noted***
6. The office received a copy of a letter from the Conservation Commission thanking Will Rogers of Rogers Farm for his donation towards Lucy Stone Park. – ***Noted. The Board thanked Mr. Rogers for his contribution.***
7. The office received notice from DCR that within the next few weeks who will conducting a survey at our trees for Asian Longhorn Beetles. At this time, this is strictly a proactive measure to ensure that they have not migrated this way. The inspectors will notify the Police Department when they are in town and will have proper identification on their person. This inspection should be within the next few weeks. - ***Noted***

NEW ENGLAND HBPA – PAUL UMBRELLO

Selectman Gagner introduced Mr. Paul Umbrello this evening, who is from the New England HBPA (Horseman's Benevolent & Protective Association). The NEHBPA is currently looking at various tracks of land in which to build a state of the art equine center. Selectman Gagner contacted Mr. Umbrello and discussed a track of land (privately owned) in town that may be ideal for their project. The projected horse park economic impact is approximately \$53.7 million per year in new spending from out-of-state sources, approximately \$5 million in local/state taxes per year in addition to the creation of approximately 957 new full-time, blue collar jobs.

While this project is in its infancy, Warren is one of the finalist for a location. Spencer and several other locations are still being considered. In addition to a racing complex, the project also calls for inspirational facilities, and an agri-tourism village. Mr. Gagner and Mr. Umbrello have meet with the property owner and support this venture. Mr. Umbrello provided a hand-out to the Board and more information can be found at www.mahorsepark.com. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to sign a letter of non-opposition as presented made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

LED STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE POLICY

Mr. Nardi advised all that the street light project is near completion. A shipment of the remainder of lights arrived yesterday and the Board will need to consider adopting a policy on maintenance. Mr. Nardi provided a boiler plate agreement that Tanko Lighting has used, quite successfully with other communities, both here in Massachusetts and other New England states. With approximately 500 lights now owned by the town, the cost is anticipated to be \$1.00/light. Money was allocated at the recent Annual Town Meeting for this line item. National Grid will still need to provide pre-authorization before a light is to be installed, as they (Nat Grid) still own the poles. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to send the maintenance policy (contract) to counsel for review made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

CEMETERY COMMISSION – BID AWARD FOR SHED – TABLED PER PROCUREMENT OFFICER

FY 18 CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR TOWN PLANNER

At the Annual Town Meeting in May, the salary line for this position was reduced to \$20,000.00. This was discussed with the Planning Board and Selectboard as well as the Town Planner. Mr. Scanlan is continuing on in the position on a per diem basis. He is anticipated to retire at the end of this fiscal year. He is currently working on the Reed Street water issue and will be a vital asset with this regard. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to approve and sign the contract extension for the Town Planner for FY 18 as presented made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

QUABOAG REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT – WINDOW/DOOR PROJECT FOR WCES

In light of the school committee vote on June 26, 2017, both Dr. Kustigian and Ms. Lamica are in attendance to discuss the next steps for the project. The town was officially notified of the vote taken on June 26, 2017 therefore, the town has 60 days to hold a Special Town Meeting for voters to act on the matter. The MSBA approved the project to which 71.1% of the total project cost is reimbursable to the town. The total cost is \$1,048,662.00. The town's share (borrowing) would be \$302,000.00. Ms. Lamica stated that if a project can be done in where the state pays just over 71% of the cost, then it is a good idea to move on it. The Selectboard agreed. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to tentatively hold a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, August 10th at QRMHS at 7 PM made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous. (This vote is pending confirmation of the date with the Moderator)

CERT/STANDARD CONTRACT

The Board signed the proposal contract in May. This is an annual contract and there is no cost to the town. The grant is for \$1,200.00. With no issues and no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to sign the Standard Contract Form as requested by CERT made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

YEAR END TRANSFERS (Finance Committee is in attendance this evening to discuss and vote on the following)*

1. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT -APPROVED

Highway Secretary to Highway Overtime to cover a shortfall - \$29.75

2. POLICE DEPARTMENT-APPROVED

Chief Spiewakowski requested to amend his original request dated June 14, 2017 (approved by BOS on 6/20/17) in the amount of \$3,000.00 to a total of \$5,500.00.

*Motion to approve the year end transfers as discussed this evening made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

*Motion to approve the year end transfers as discussed this evening made by Mr. Delanski; second: Mr. Sauer – unanimous. (Finance Committee Chair Barry Mongeon invoked the Rule of Necessity in order to vote)

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES & DRAW DOWNS

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 113 & 114 dated June 26, 2017 in the amounts of \$42,120.35 and \$173,489.26 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 115 dated June 26, 2017 in the amount of \$920.00 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Gagner)

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 116, 117 & 118 dated June 30, 2017 in the amounts of \$48,034.13, \$53,648.12 & \$43,172.62 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 1 & 2 dated July 1, 2017 in the amount of \$330,813.00 and \$13,166.68 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 3 & 4 dated July 10, 2017 in the amount of \$40,982.00 and \$20,329.52 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant NO. 5 dated July 11, 2017 in the amount of \$800.00 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the FY 15 Invoice No. 17 for PVPC for Grant #00762 in the amount of \$6,688.13 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the FY 16 Invoice No. 8 for PVPC for Grant #00783 in the amount of \$8,372.63 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Richard wanted to extend his thanks to all that have volunteered at Lucy Stone Park. Mr. Richard is also hoping to have additional information regarding the door at the Police Department by the end of the week.

Mr. Nardi advised all that the Sewer Commissioners will be holding a hearing tomorrow, July 12, 2017 at 8 AM to discuss a rate increase.

The Board briefly discussed the Reed Street Water issue. Rural Development have sent a request to the West Warren Water District seeking additional information. Rural Development is committed to a 50% match on pre-development funding for engineering. They have requested the other 50% (\$25,000.00) from the WWWD. Mr. Nardi would like to put an Article on the STM warrant slated for August for that amount in case the District does not have the funds. All members were in agreement. The Board asked that a letter be sent to the District requesting that the wheels stay in motion on this. The office will send an email to both Lt. Gov. Polito and Senator Gobi as to the status of Reed Street.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS - None

Next Meeting Date: July 25, 2017 at 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

