

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2017**

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

**ATTENDEES:** See Attached List

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**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. Both Ms. Colleen Montague from the Ware River News and Mr. Brian Corriveau were audiotaping as well.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the Minutes of July 11, 2017 and July 18, 2017 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The office received the monthly report of the Fire Chief for month ending June 2017. - **Noted**
2. The office received notice from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that Bill No. S1420 was signed by Governor Baker on Thursday, July 27, 2017 and is now known officially as Chapter 48 of the Acts of 2017; an Act authorizing the Town of Warren to continue the employment of Dennis Desrosiers to which he may serve in the capacity of a Firefighter until August 26, 2019. – **The Board presented Firefighter Desrosiers with a plaque and signed copy of the Act. Chief Lavoie was presented a copy as well. Chief Lavoie thanked Mrs. Acerra for her diligence in keeping this matter on track.**
3. The office received notice that Part-time Police Officer Tony Karamanakis resigned from his position effective yesterday, July 24, 2017. – **A letter of thanks will be sent to Officer Karamanakis for his service to town.**
4. The office was contacted by the Historical Commission seeking permission to order and erect plaques on the Shepard Municipal Building. **The Historical Commission has encumbered funds for such. – The Board was agreeable to allow them to purchase and display as requested. They will be notified in writing.**
5. CMRPC Annual Appointment as Alternate for FY18 – (Mr. Nardi is currently our Alternate) - **Motion to reappoint Mr. Nardi as Alternate Delegate for CMRPC for FY18 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.**
6. Quaboag Community Summer Theatre presents Disney's Beauty and the Beast. There will be three showings: Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM and 7 PM. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. Additional information is available on the town's website at [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov). – **Noted.**
7. The Veterans Council will be hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Purple Heart Appreciation Day Breakfast on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at 10 AM at the Senior Center. Five town residents have been awarded this honor and all are invited to attend. Additional information is available on the town's website at [www.warren-ma.gov](http://www.warren-ma.gov).- **Noted.**

8. The office received a letter of thanks from the Quaboag Youth Soccer Club thanking the Board and the town for their continued support. The monies that were allocated at the Town Meeting have been put towards the purchase of equipment, trophies, uniforms, on-going field maintenance and tournament registration fees. - **Noted.**

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT – DISCUSSION REGARDING DISPATCH, SERGEANT’S POSITION AND FULL-TIME OFFICER**

The Chief was in this evening to address several issues that he’d like the Board to consider.

1. Dispatch – He is requesting that the Board consider reinstating the 32 hour/week Full-time position that the department had previously. He feels that reinstating the 32 hour position would eliminate 4 of the 6 part time slots which are open every week. According to his information in his email that was sent to the Board, based on the current rates, it would net a savings of approximately \$26,000.00 per year in part time dispatcher pay. Mr. Nardi is not sure on how a 32 hour position would fit into a seven day cycle. He also expressed concern over the overtime line for the department which has grown exponentially over the last few years. As an update for the regional dispatch, should the town move forward, our current dispatchers would need to re-apply and be hired to retain their position.
2. Sergeant’s Position – Sgt. LaFlower is facing mandatory retirement as of April 2018. Chief Spiewakowski would like to replace his position as soon as possible. Should he fill the vacancy with an internal candidate, he will then need to fill the Full-time position with a new individual. Mr. Nardi is in favor of a Lieutenant’s position versus a Sergeants as well as providing an individual contract. He is also in favor of advertising externally. The current Sergeant’s position is only funded thru his departure date. The Chief is also in the process of revamping the job descriptions for his department. The Chief reminded all that a Lieutenant’s position is a much higher paying position. The full-time position may also require academy training which the Board would need to consider.

With this said, the Board will consider this evening’s discussion and will discuss further at an upcoming meeting.

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT – BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WARREN AND HEAL, INC.**

After a review by Counsel and slight modification to which will benefit the Town, the Board made the following motion:

Motion to sign the Community Benefit Agreement as presented by and between the Town of Warren and Heal, Inc. made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous. (Note: This Agreement will provide a \$50,000.00 annual payment to the Town as well as an additional \$5,000.00 per year to a charity of Heal, Inc.’s choice).

#### **LED STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT – TABLED DUE TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PENDING**

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

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 119 dated June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$71,411.59\* made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous. \*Last vendor warrant for FY17.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 8 & 9 dated July 24, 2017 in the amounts of \$38,363.92 and \$42,343.08 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gagner would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Timothy Czub who recently retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the town. The office will send out a letter of thanks.

#### **COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Mrs. Soltys requested an update from Chairman Gagner as to his progress with the Building Inspector with regard to the screens at the bell tower. Mr. Gagner apologized for dropping the ball however will follow up with the Inspector on Wednesday.

Mr. Nickerson requested an update as to the status of the Downtown Project. The additional work under the underpass has been denied on the federal level and is currently under review by the State. The added cost is approximately \$104,000.00 which the town would be responsible for. At this time, it is clear that without the support on the federal level, it doesn’t seem likely that the State will fund the added work. The Board was in full agreement to contact MassDOT and Ludlow Construction to schedule the remaining work to be done according to the approved plans.

Mr. Nickerson also questioned the status of the cell tower that was approved some time ago. All permits are in place, however the Building Inspector has a hold on the permit until the roll back taxes are paid. Mr. Gagner said he'd reach out to the developer. He also said that the land clearing is out for bid to which additional information can be found on his Facebook page.

Officer Joseph A. LaFlower addressed the Board this evening regarding a program that the Police Department would like to implement. It is known as Operation Safe Streets. It is a neighborhood watch program in where "Block Captains" would meet and report to members of the Police Department. There are specific guidelines that all parties would need to acknowledge and accept such as absolutely no vigilante type action on the part of a citizen. The Chief is in full support of this program. Mrs. Gancorz commended Officer LaFlower for his recent efforts with an ongoing issue in her neighborhood.

Mrs. Soltys questioned the practice of filling the PD's Humvee with gasoline. Chairman Gagner advised her that this is not a Selectmen issue and she could address the matter directly with the Chief.

Mrs. Soltys requested an update as to the status of the door at the Town Hall. Mr. Richard provided an update including the most recently meeting with the Chair of the Historical Commission. There was a difference of opinion between the Selectmen on how it should be handled. Mr. Nardi remained silent on the matter.

**Next Meeting Date: Special Town Meeting on August 3, 2017 at 6:30 PM and next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 7 PM.**

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra  
Administrative Secretary

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Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

