

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2017**

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

ATTENDEES: See Attached List

Mr. Nardi called to order at 7:00 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 and Mrs. Beverly Soltys acknowledged their audio taping the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Nardi advised all that the streetlights were delivered on Tuesday, December 27, 2016. New bid packets are out again and are due January 19, 2017.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of December 20, 2016 as written made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received the monthly report of the Chief of Police for December 2016- **Noted**
2. The office received two memos from the Sewer Department regarding the Downtown Project. In both memo's they confirmed their vote NOT to pay for the invoice from Ludlow Construction in the amount of \$10,721.51 for the sewer backup at 958 Main Street. – **Request the Commissioners attendance at the January 17th meeting.**
3. The office received notice from the QRMHS School District that the Revised Fiscal Year 2017 Quaboag budget is \$17,297,375.00. Changes in anticipated state aid and changes in spending requirements may necessitate a change to the assessment of each community. - **Noted**
4. The office is in receipt of notification from the Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical High School seeking an individual to serve as the Warren resident on the Pathfinder Vocational Technical School Committee. – **The Board of Selectmen will advertise accordingly.**

SCHOOL CHOICE PROCLAMATION

Mr. Nardi received a request from Mr. Andrew Campanella, President, National School Choice Week, who requested that the Town of Warren consider proclaiming January 22-28, 2017 as the Town of Warren School Choice Week. With the Board's approval, Mr. Nardi read aloud the Proclamation. With no further discussion,

the following motion was made: Motion to issue an official proclamation commemorating January 22-28, 2017 as Town of Warren School Choice Week made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous. Dr. Kustigian and the QRMH/S School District will be advised.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS/ASSISTANT ASSESSOR

The office received a memo from the Board of Assessor’s advising them the they (BOA) voted to increase the Assistant Assessors’ hours by 1 hour per week to 36 hours. The Selectmen have invited them in this evening to discuss the matter.

The Assistant Assessor currently is budgeted for 35 hours per week. Mr. Lavash stated that based on the work associated with the solar projects and the potential abatements for the Reed Street properties, additional time is needed. Mr. Nardi has a concern over knowingly deficit spending. Mr. Lavash stated that they could either request a line item transfer, propose an Article at the STM or allow unpaid time off at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Mongeon, Chairman of the Finance Committee stated that they (FinCom) voted to approve a 35-hour work week. This position just received an annual \$1,000.00 educational stipend. Mr. Nardi stated that he would not approve a line item transfer or Article at the STM. Mr. Mongeon agreed. Mr. Richard concurred with Mr. Nardi and stated that he would need to get a Citizen’s Petition. Mr. Nardi does not have a problem with supporting this for FY18. Mr. Mongeon stated that the Finance Committee sent a letter to the Board of Assessors initially approving a 39-hour work week, however Ms. Coache declined. Mr. Mongeon went on further to say that he is concerned over the precedent on discretionary spending this could cause with all departments.

Mr. Nardi felt that an unpaid leave would need to go to the Personnel Board to be approved in addition to the employee exhausting all vacation, sick, etc. Mr. Lavash stated that they are elected and the Board of Selectmen have no say over their actions.

HEALTH INSURANCE AUDIT – MIIA

Interim Treasurer, Lorena Prokop addressed the Board this evening. The Municipal Health Care Reform of 2011 legislation included a provision (M.G.L. c. 32B, Section 26) that requires governmental units to conduct an enrollment audit not less than once every 2 years. A third-party reviewer would be contracted by MIIA in order to conduct the review. The Town will not be privy to any personal information. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to sign the Enrollment Audit Participation Agreement as requested by the Interim Treasurer made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner - unanimous.

DISCUSSION ON MEDICAL/RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

Mr. Gagner requested to address the Board this evening regarding recreational marijuana. With the recent legalization of recreational marijuana, Mr. Gagner would like to Board to consider how Warren is going to handle the matter. Are we (the town) going to allow for recreational sales? Are we going to allow it only in certain sections of town by zoning? Or is the town going to be a dry town? Mr. Gagner felt it may be a benefit to the town as we could add a 2% tax on all sales. Mr. Nardi and Mr. Mongeon have concerns that possibly any profit would be spent on the back end with additional police/EMS. Mr. Gagner just requested that the Board think about the possibilities. Additional discussions will be held on the matter.

COMCAST – CURRENT STATUS ON LINE EXTENSION

The office received a notice from Comcast that due to a delay on the part of Verizon/National Grid, the “make ready” portion of the project has been significantly delayed. Comcast has shared their concerns with both

parties and hope to have the expansion project completed shortly. Both Mr. Nardi and Mr. Richard are in agreement to allow Mr. Gagner contact them.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 53 & 54 dated December 26, 2016 in the amounts of \$38,351.12 and \$48,725.08 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 55 & 56 dated January 2, 2017 in the amounts of \$40,555.70 & \$215,298.68 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gagner requested that anyone who may have seen “Arthis”, a service dog that ran from a rollover accident on Southbridge Road to contact Police Dispatch at 413-436-9595.

Mr. Nardi stated that we are now beginning the FY18 Budget season. This will be listed as an agenda item beginning in February. A memo to all departments will be sent out next week. Mr. Nardi will be attending an upcoming Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Mongeon is concerned over the fiscal climate we are in.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Nardi acknowledged Mr. Corriveau, however warned him not to be disrespectful as he has in the past.

Mr. Corriveau addressed the Board once again this evening regarding the figures for the Town Hall. He feels that the monies allocated need to be accounted for. He wants all information. Information has been provided to him previously by both the Finance Committee Chairman, Town Accountant & Selectmen, however he is not satisfied. Mr. Corriveau submitted a Public Records Request to which Mr. Acerra is in the process of drafting a response with a cost estimate.

Mrs. Soltys expressed concern over one particular vehicle monopolizing the 1 handicap parking space in front of the Cash Market for the entire day. The office will check with the Highway Surveyor to see if additional spaces can be made on Bacon Street. Mrs. Soltys also expressed frustration over the meeting notices not being uploaded to the town’s website. Once again, Mrs. Acerra explained that all the departments need to do is to provide a copy of their meeting notice, and it will be uploaded. This goes for any other documents that they would like to have included. As stated before, Mrs. Acerra is not a babysitter.

Next Meeting Date: January 10, 2017 at 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Marc W. Richard, Clerk

