

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 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 acknowledge her audio taping of the meeting.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of July 25, 2017 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Gagner requested that Officer LaFlower attend this evening's meeting to discuss a potential Dog Park. Officer LaFlower stated that monies are available through the Stanton Foundation to which they would provide up to \$225,000.00 for engineering, however a site would need to be identified. The Board was in agreement to look into further and Officer LaFlower will attend the next meeting to discuss potential sites.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received the monthly report of the Fire Chief, Police Chief and CERT for month ending July 2017. - **Noted**
2. The office received notice from Nathan Stewart as to his resignation from the Board of Assessors Office effective August 9th. In light of the resignation, the Board of Assessors is seeking residents interested in serving on the Board. Interested candidates should forward a letter of interest to the Board of Assessors no later than September 7th. – **A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr. Stewart.**
3. The office received a copy of the article published in the Ware River News regarding the ongoing community project at Lucy Stone Park. Currently in its fourth year of all volunteer restoration activities, the project is starting to take shape and will be a place that can be enjoyed by all. Anyone interested in helping out can contact the volunteer Project Manager, Tim O'Brien through the Conservation Commission Office. – **A huge thank you from the Board to all who have volunteered throughout this project.**
4. The office received an inquiry from Trybil Rec. Basketball seeking permission to use the gymnasium at the Shepard Municipal Building. – **With the Street Lighting Project complete, the gym will be open for use again – approved.**
5. The office received an email from the Chief of Police regarding the carbon monoxide in the police SUV's. As soon as the information came out, the Warren Fire Department conducted extensive testing on our cruisers and all SUV's tested were within acceptable limits. - **Noted**
6. The Town received official notice from the Department of Housing and Community Development that Warren has been awarded \$675,320.00 for the FY 2017 Community Development Fund grant.-**Noted**
7. The Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association will be holding their 3rd Annual Paddle Poker Run. Anyone interested in participating can contact the Selectmen's Office for further information.-**Noted**

MASSDOT – RESURFACING PROJECT

It has recently come to light that at the conclusion of the ongoing resurfacing project, bike lanes will be added along Main Street in West Warren. This will with a doubt have a negative economic impact on the few businesses we have. A letter has been drafted and presented to the Board for a vote and signatures requesting that the plan be revised to allow for parking. Both Senator Gobi and Representative Smola are aware of the situation and are working with the town to see if there is an amicable solution. Motion to sign the letter as presented made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

CULTURAL COUNCIL – APPOINTMENT

Motion to appoint Diane Banfield to the Cultural Council for a three year term made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

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

The Chief was in again this evening to address several issues that he had the Board to consider.

1. Sergeant’s Position – As all are aware, 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. The Chief would need to get an Officer into the academy by the end of September with October being the very latest. The Chief stands firm on his position of advertising for a Sergeant rather than a Lieutenant, which was Mr. Nardi’s suggestion.
2. Mr. Nardi reiterated that he is a firm believer in a Lieutenant’s position as that position typically holds a degree and is a quasi-Chief when the Chief of Police is not available. He felt that a position can be created outlining specific duties that encompass both “boots on the ground” and administrative duties. This would cover the Chief’s concerns of an individual making command decisions.
3. Mr. Gagner stated that at this juncture, we should table this portion of the discussion and discuss further with the Chief. Mr. Nardi stated he was ok with taking a vote as he didn’t see how much more discussion there would be in two weeks from now, however no vote taken. Mr. Gagner went on to discuss Dispatch and in light of new alternative options we are going to table this as well. The Chief agreed as all shifts are currently filled at this time. Mr. Gagner will meet with both Chief’s to discuss further. The Chief stated that he would move forward with posting internally to see if anyone would apply and work on filling the Full-Time position

*Mr. Soltys provided a copy of a surrounding town’s MOU regarding the academy. The Chief stated that he is not in opposition to having an individual sign.

LED STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT

The Street Light Maintenance Service Agreement was presented this evening for signature. Motion to approve and sign the agreement to include the prevailing wage figures made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

IMA-PALMER REGIONAL DOG POUND & ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

Mr. Nardi presented to the Board the IMA agreement by and between the Town of Warren and Palmer, Monson & Ware for regional Animal Control Services. It is a three (3) year agreement with a 2 ½% escalator built in. Monies are still being sought through the Community Compact for the building, staffing, etc. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to approve and sign the IMA Palmer Regional Dog Pound & Animal Control Services Contract as presented made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

4TH QUARTER AMBULANCE ABATEMENTS (FINAL FOR FY 17)

Motion to approve the 4th Qtr. Ambulance Abatements as presented by the Fire Chief in the amount of \$86,781.89 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

FOTTH – STATUS UPDATE

The Building Inspector did look at the bell tower. He will allow a fully licensed contractor, along with either himself, the Chief of Police or a member of the Selectboard to enter that portion of the building. Mr. Gagner stated that he spoke with a local contractor who is willing to fix the door on an emergency basis. He stated that he also spoke with the Historical Commission and they are satisfied for now on the repair. On the portico ceiling, the FOTTH will work with the Building Inspector as per the

protocol set forth by the Board. Mr. Gagner stated that he would look into having the AAB in to discuss steps moving forward. The FOTTH also requested an update on the windows seeing that money was allocated at the town meeting in May. Mr. Gagner stated it is the FOTTH's responsibility to get that project moving. Ms. Kuprycz stated that it's the Selectmen's responsibility to take the lead. The office will check with the Procurement Officer for an update.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 12 & 13 dated August 7, 2017 in the amounts of \$45,562.50 and \$97,598.61 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 14 & 15 dated August 14, 2017 in the amounts of \$38,225.51 & \$125,768.39 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 18 for FY 15 CDBG Grant # 00762 payable to PVPC in the amount of \$5,561.59 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 3 for FY 16 CDBG Grant for Domestic Violence Prevention Project payable to PVPC in the amount of \$7,624.61 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 9 for FY 16 CDBG Grant # 00783 payable to PVPC in the amount of \$8,831.28 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign CDBG Draw Down #110 & 111 in the amounts of \$57,355.75 and \$80,813.00 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nardi advised all that the town should start seeing net metering credits on our bill. The credits will be retroactive to May. He also thanked the Veterans Council for hosting another Purple Heart Breakfast that was very well attended and was enjoyed by all. Mr. Richard seconded that sentiment. Mrs. Acerra, Chair of the Council thanked all who attended as well as the Patrolman's Association, Fireman's Association, Ambulance Association, Dunkin Donuts and John Fijol and Family. She especially thanked Mr. Nardi for his donation of such high quality food and with his assistance that day. The Council was proud to have been able to acknowledge our Purple Heart Recipients as well as all of our Veterans.

Mr. Nardi also requested that the Board consider a non-binding question for a Charter Commission. There were no objections from the Board.

Mr. Richard thanked the Highway Surveyor for repairing the guardrail at the corner of Ware Road and Grove Street. It was fixed to the homeowner's satisfaction. He also thanked him for signs that recently went up on Pleasant Street. Finally, he reminded all that this coming weekend was Clear the Shelters weekend and encouraged residents to consider adopting an animal.

Mr. Gagner advised all that sports try-outs will be taking place soon. Murry Day is scheduled for August 19th at St. Stan's. He encouraged all to attend this fun event.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Richard addressed the Board and residents this evening to state that he found the Chairman's behavior at the last meeting unacceptable. He requested that he (Gagner) refrain from using that type of language. Mr. Gagner apologized for his words. Mrs. Soltys stated that she contacted the Attorney General's Office regarding the matter and requested that the Board reorganize.

At Mr. Gagner's request, Mr. Scanlan addressed the Board this evening to discuss the Reed Street Pre-Development Grant Application. Since the \$25,000.00 was approved at Town Meeting, Mr. Scanlan suggested that we name the town as the applicant versus the West Warren Water District. That way, the town will take the lead on the application. All were in agreement.

Ms. Kathy Rugani addressed the Board this evening to advise them that she recently fell outside of the West Warren Post Office. She expressed concern for our elderly residents that could potentially sustain an injury. The office will contact MassDOT in the morning regarding the matter.

Next Meeting Date: August 29, 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

Dario F. Nardi, Clerk