

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 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. Ms. Colleen Montague and Mrs. Beverly Soltys acknowledge their audio taping of the meeting.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the Minutes of August 29, 2017 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The office received the monthly report of the Police Chief and CERT/EM for month ending August 2017.-**Noted**
2. The office received a copy of a letter from Representative Smola urging MassDot to eliminate the bike lanes from the current plans associated with the resurfacing project along Rte. 67.-**Noted. The Board continues to work towards a resolution.**
3. The office received notice that through the efforts of the Highway Department, the town has been awarded, \$49,200.00 for the Walkeen-Koziol Culvert Replacement Grant for design services. The official notice of the grant will be announced this Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM on site. – **Chairman Gagner will attend.**
4. Due to a recent resignation from the Quaboag Regional School Committee, any interested party interested in serving may submit a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen. - **Noted. If any parties are interested in serving, please contact the office.**
5. Chief Spiewakowski along with Chief O'Donnell were at Quaboag Middle/High School last week promoting the partnership between the school district and the police. They spent time interacting with the students and participating in class discussions. - **Noted**

**COMINS POND PUBLIC USE AGREEMENT – AMENDMENT**

It was requested of the Board that they sign an amendment to the Comins Pond Public Use Agreement to include the addition of a shed on the property. With no issues or further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to sign the Amendment to the Comins Pond Public Use Agreement as presented made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

**APPOINTMENTS – Board of Assessors and Historical Commission.**

With the recent resignation of Nathan Stewart from the Board of Assessors, Mr. Richard Pisarski expressed interest in serving until the next election in May of 2018. Mr. Pisarski comes to us with the recommendation of the Board of Assessors. Mr. Gagner requested a roll call vote: Mr. Lavash and Mr. Shields – 2 yes votes. Mr. Richard, Mr. Nardi and himself, Mr. Gagner – 3 yes votes. Motion to appoint Richard Pisarski to the Board of Assessors until the May 2018 election made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to re-appoint Sylvia Buck for a three year term to the Historical Commission and appoint Carla Erickson and Thomas Perkins to the Historical Commission for a three year term made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

**CEMETERY COMMISSION – BID AWARD – UTILITY BUILDING**

Mr. McKeon is in attendance this evening on behalf of the Cemetery Commission. Currently, there is a 15' x 20' shed which is in desperate need of replacing. The new plans that went out to build call for a 20' x 30' storage building. They are anticipating to utilize this for lawnmowers, tools and the plans also call for an area for use as an office. The bid is for \$82,500.00 which

caught the Board by surprise. All members are certainly in favor of replacing the old shed, however the cost seems out of line. They (BOS) are aware that the funds would come from the Perpetual Fund Account and not the taxpayers. Mr. Nardi expressed a concern that if such a great amount will be taken, then will they have ample funds for perpetual care? The Board requested to table this matter until the next meeting and requested that at least one Commissioner attend the next meeting to answer their questions. Motion to table until the next meeting made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

### **MILEAGE OF TOWN OWNED VEHICLES**

Chairman Gagner began the discussion by saying that he felt it was unfair to single out the Police Department with a request for vehicle mileage. Mr. Gagner suggested that all departments that have town owned vehicles provide the mileage in their annual report or if necessary, on a bi-annual basis. Resident Marci Dinenn, reminded all that mileage is usually given at Town Meeting when Department Heads request new vehicles. Mr. Richard feels that some departments should do it more frequently, based on usage, which can act as a Capital Planning tool. Chief Spiewakowski stated that maybe the more appropriate time would be at the time of inspection, which mileage is required on the inspection report. Fire Chief Lavoie stated that he doesn't necessarily have a problem with providing mileage, however did ask for clarification as to what it is going to accomplish. In his case, the mileage, which is low by most standards on fire apparatus, may be misleading to the general public. A low mileage fire truck may be 25 years old. Fire trucks vary greatly from other types of vehicles due to the nature of their use.

Mr. Nason, speaking as a member of the Finance Committee suggested that perhaps when fueled, however maybe not the most practical. Vehicle mileage does, as Mr. Richard stated, provide information as a tool in fiscal planning. Mr. Lavash suggested bi-annual basis. Mr. Nardi clarified for all the reason that this is being discussed. He stated that numerous requests came into the Records Access Officer for the mileage. After months of residents requests not being filled (due to technicality), the Board gave the Chief of Police a directive to include them in his monthly report to avoid any issues. In the July 2017 report, the mileage was in no discernable manner, however beginning with his August 2017 report, was much clearer and acceptable.

### **DISPATCH – 32 HOUR POSITION**

Chief Spiewakowski is here this evening to discuss further. He (Chief) previously had this position in 2007, however opted then to fill with part-time positions. His first request to fill this (32 Hr.) position was in 2009. He reiterated his stance on this as it costs approximately \$4,500.00 to train and has seen 15 dispatcher come and go in 8 years. By having a 32 hour position, it would eliminate all but 2 shifts per week. He added that by having a benefited position, would hopefully entice an individual to stay. He did acknowledge that he did not budget for benefits. Mr. Richard felt that if it were a cost savings to the town, then he would be agreeable. The Chief stated that cost savings would be seen over the long term. Mr. Nardi is currently not in favor due to the benefits package. He stated that this is something that needs to be discussed during budget season and presented to the voters at the Annual Town Meeting in May. Mr. Gagner requested that the Chief pull together the numbers for the Board to review and this can be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

### **TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES**

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 20 & 21 dated September 4, 2017 in the amounts of \$45,107.72 and \$186,548.70 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 22 & 23 dated September 11, 2017 in the amounts of \$40,833.73 & \$128,897.06 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 19 for FY15 to PVPC for the Community Assistance Program Grant # 00762 in the amount of \$1,754.86 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 10 for FY16 to PVPC for the Community Assistance Program Grant # 00783 in the amount of \$12,340.24 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Nardi reminded all that with the newly adopted Social Media Policy, town employees are still bound by adhere to it even if they haven't returned their acknowledgement. He stated that in today's environment, this is no joke and employees can be disciplined if not adhered to.

Mr. Nardi requested an update as to where we were with employee evaluations. Mr. Nardi completed the Town Accountants and Fire Chief. Mr. Richard completed the evaluation for Mrs. Acerra as Administrative Secretary. Mr. Gagner has yet to do the Chief of Police.

A call will be made to National Grid. There is a tree growing out of the transformer box in front of the building. They have come out before to remove the branches. The double poles that belong to Verizon are located throughout the town and statewide. Verizon is aware of them and are working to remove the extra poles.

Mr. Gagner thanked all who attended the 911 Observance Ceremony. A special thank you went out to the members of the Warren Fire/EMS personnel as well as Chief Lavoie and former Fire Chief James Dolan for hosting the event.

Mr. Gagner reminded all that it is imperative to keep the designated fire lanes open by the football field at Quaboag.

#### **COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Mrs. Soltys questioned the Chairman as to why her second written request to be placed on the agenda (reorganization of the Board) was omitted once again from this evening's agenda. She further stated that she contacted the Attorney General's Office and they suggested that she keep trying. Mr. Gagner stated that he is not willing to entertain the question as it sets a precedent. Mrs. Soltys stated that her request is due to his unwillingness to recognize her, his language and unprofessionalism. Mr. Nardi stated that when asked by Mr. Gagner, he said the he didn't care, put it on. He stated that he received a call from the AGO and was advised that even though not on the agenda, the matter could be acted upon if brought forth by a resident.

Mr. Richard feels that it is time the matter is addressed. Mr. Richard motioned to instruct Mrs. Acerra to place the matter on the next agenda and was seconded by Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes, 1 NO – Mr. Gagner.

Mr. Shields who resides on Gilbert Road asked if anything could be done to fill in some of the pot holes. The road is in deplorable condition. The office will contact the Highway Department in the morning.

Ms. Michelle Pavini read from a prepared statement requesting the Mr. Nardi step aside from the matter that is currently before the Board with regard to the Local 195 Shift Differential. Mr. Nardi said that the office received questions from the Chief on how to properly calculate the officer's payroll which were promptly sent to counsel for review. The office is awaiting an answer. The Local 195 and the Chief is fully aware we are awaiting a response.

Mr. Lavash stated that he spoke with Mr. Boudreau regarding a catch basin by the gymnasium door that is falling in. He has requested that it be repaired before the Park & Rec hosts the Haunted House.

Mr. Soltys questioned the Board on the Executive Session Minutes that were made available in where the Chief of Police requested the Board to consider extending his employment agreement out to 5 years. Mr. Soltys said it was illegal to do so and not sure why the Board allowed him (Chief) to speak to it. Mr. Richard stated that it was just part of the conversation and up for discussion and from his standpoint was not in favor so feels it is a mute issue. Mr. Soltys suggested that the members read the Massachusetts Handbook for Selectmen.

Mr. James McKeon reminded all residents that September is emergency preparedness month. All residents should be ready should a weather event occur in our area.

In closing, Mr. Gagner wanted to be on record as to despite what may happen to him he will continue to have the same resolve to do the best he can for the residents of Warren.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra  
Administrative Secretary

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Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

