

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 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, Mrs. Beverly Soltys and Mr. Brian Corriveau acknowledge their audio taping of the meeting.

Mr. Richard addressed the Board with a prepared statement regarding the request to re-organize the Board. In essence, he is not in favor of re-organizing however urged both fellow members to focus on the work ahead and move on. Mr. Nardi had no comment and Mr. Gagner as Chairman said that this issue is done and time to move on.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes (Open and Executive) of September 12, 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 August 2017.-**Noted**
2. The office received a request from the Park & Rec Department requesting use of the gym from now until Halloween in order to setup the Haunted House.-**Noted**
3. The office received a copy of a thank you that the Conservation Commission recently sent to Jim Fountain for his recent donation of 30 yards of loam for the Lucy Stone Restoration Project. -**Noted**
4. The office received a letter from the residents in the Washington Street neighborhood requesting that speed limit signs be erected. They have also contacted the Chief regarding this matter and he suggested that a letter be sent to the Selectmen for consideration. The Chief is in support of their request.-**Chief Spiewakowski and the Highway Surveyor will work together to erect a sign.**
5. The office received a request from the Warren Fire Department seeking permission to set up a department website. This would NOT be a public forum and would be only for informational purposes only. Access credentials would be limited and overseen by the Fire Chief.- **Approved by the Board. Mr. Nardi thanked Chief Lavoie for requesting permission to do so in light of the newly adopted Social Media Policy**
6. The office received notice from the E2E fall course offerings at Ware's Education to Employment center. Courses are open to all residents of the Quaboag Hills region. More information can be obtained by contacting the Selectmen's Office. -**Noted**

WEST WARREN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION-1 DAY LIQUOR LICENSE

Motion to grant and sign the 1-Day Liquor License for the West Warren Library Association for their Team Trivia Night on Saturday, October 28th from 5 PM to 9 PM at the Warren Senior Center made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

BID AWARD – CEMETERY UTILITY BUILDING

This matter was tabled from a previous meeting as the cost caught the Select members by surprise. Commissioner William Brunk and Larry Tuttle were in attendance. Mr. Tuttle is the Architect to oversee the project. Perpetual funds in the amount of \$82,500.00 will pay for the building. Electrical service could potentially be in the future. The purpose will be for storage of equipment and files along with a work space. Motion to award the contract to Larochelle Construction, Inc. to construct the

Cemetery Utility Building in the amount of \$82,500.00 as per the plans and specs submitted made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

APPOINTMENT – CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Motion to appoint Otto Shillieto to the Conservation Commission for a three (3) year term made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

CITIZENS ACTION COMMITTEE – TABLED AT THEIR REQUEST

CHIEF OF POLICE – DECISION ON DISPATCH POSITION AND SERGEANTS POSITIONS

The Chief has requested that the Board make a decision on his request to hire a dispatcher. He and the Board have had several discussions surrounding this issue. He presented to them the possibility of hiring a part-time dispatcher, a 32 hour dispatch position (with benefits) and a dispatch supervisor role. He stated this evening that he is looking to move forward with a part-time dispatcher. By having an extra person available, this would reduce his overtime budget which has since risen somewhat due to the retirement of one individual and the resignation of another. Mr. Richard stated that he spoke with the Chief earlier in the day and understands his position on the part-time position. He however it not in favor of the dispatch supervisor. Mr. Nardi also requested that the Chief state what he is looking for as of this evening he is unclear. The Chief stated that having a dispatch supervisor would relieve the administrative burden from himself and the Sergeant. This is of course if the Local 404 was willing to re-open the current contract and renegotiate that portion.

Mr. Nardi doesn't understand why the department needs a "supervisor" over 6 employees (3 full-time and currently 2 part-time with a pending 3 part-time). The Chief stated that the individual, who could be compensated by a stipend or some other similar payment would serve as a conduit between the dispatchers and himself and the Sergeant.

Sergeants Position – The Chief has a viable internal candidate that he would like the Board to consider. He (Chief) has provided an up to date job description and would ideally like to bring that person forward for appointment in December. Mr. Nardi is in favor of the individual and requested that he along with the Chief and Union Representative be able to meet to review and discuss his employee file. The Chief was agreeable. In his current budget, the Chief has budgeted for the new Sergeant position from January 1, 2018 thru June, the current Sergeant through April when he faces mandatory retirement and for a replacement patrol officer. He has begun the process for filling the patrol officer position and should have a candidate ready to present to the Board by the end of the month.

Motion to support the Chief of Police to move forward with filling a part-time dispatch position and the Sergeants position as requested (not dispatch supervisor) made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to support the Chief of Police to move forward with filling a patrol officer position as requested made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

QRMHS REVISED ASSESSMENT FOR FY 18

Mr. Nardi spoke with Camie Lamica at Quaboag and was informed that due to a shift in the assessment brought on by the current student population and the final state budget, a revised assessment was required. It is a slight increase and there is word that a refund of the transportation funds will be forthcoming. An article will be placed on the upcoming Special Town Meeting to address

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Special Town Meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Warren Community Elementary School. All articles that are to be considered for inclusion on the warrant are to be into the Selectmen's Office by Noon on Monday, October 2, 2017. A memo went out to all departments last week with the notice.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 24 & 25 dated September 18, 2017 in the amounts of \$38,621.46 and \$36,165.86 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 26 & 27 dated September 25, 2017 in the amounts of \$38,275.50 & \$29,175.69 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gagner advised all that the purchase and sale was completed on the property for the cell tower and they should have at least two carriers on board by the end of the year.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Megan Lafko, resident of 1274 Brimfield Road addressed the Board this evening regarding the matter of the patrolman's payroll and overtime pay. She questioned the Board as to how soon they (patrolman) can expect to receive their pay. She further questioned the actions of the person writing the checks. It is her (Lafko) Mr. Gagner stated that they (Board?) have identified the issues. Town Counsel submitted his opinion to submit to the Local 195. Mr. Gagner further stated that as far as the "maliciously" or "knowingly" wrongdoing will be addressed at a later date. His (Gagner) first concern is getting them paid. Mr. Gagner spoke directly to Union President, Jeffrey Von Dauber and asked to sit down Board to Board and hash it out. Mr. Robert Souza questioned if the employees are not getting paid and feels that the taxpayers have a right to know. He (Souza) gave an example of how they (School District) made a mistake paying the para-professionals and they cut a check the next day. Mr. Nardi stated that the Board of Selectmen have responded with Town Counsel's recommendation. Both Mr. Nardi and Mr. Richard strongly advised the Chairman to shut the discussion down immediately.

Beverly Soltys addressed the Board regarding the WEX gas invoices. She has been reviewing them since June of 2015. In 2016, she was required to go through the Records Access Officer. She has noticed that certain information (Officers name and location of fill) have been whited out. Mr. Gagner suggested that she request to be on the next agenda to discuss. Chief Spiewakowski stated that that information is not subject to a Public Records Request as they may be exempt.

Louise Mundell asked why the Police Department doesn't purchase gas at Billy Citgo (local business owner). Mr. Gagner suggested that she bring it to the particular department. She'll email the Chief of Police directly. She feels that local business owners should be supported.

Gary Odiorne asked how the Police Department turns in payroll. Mr. Gagner stated it was a miscalculation.

Marci Dineen confirmed that when the matter is resolved, the residents will be notified. Yes, once the matter is resolved.

Igor Kuprycz wanted to clarify the reason why Warren cannot get Springfield stations. The FCC felt that Warren fell within the Boston market and thus the change.

Beverly Soltys asked if the recent posts on the Warren Patrolman's Facebook page was a violation of the town's social media policy. Mr. Gagner will not discuss the matter.

Palmer Motor Sports Park will be hosting a car show on October 8th from 9 AM to 4 PM. All proceeds will go towards charity.

Beverly Soltys asked if Mr. Gagner if the Chief of Police's evaluation was complete. Mr. Gagner stated it was not.

Gary Odiorne requested an update on the Town Hall door. Mr. Gagner stated that it is ready to be hung, however the local contractor is doing it during his free time. To date, the Chief has yet to hear back from the Historical Commission.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

