

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2017**

PRESENT: Mr. James A. Gagner, Jr., Chairman and Mr. Marc W. Richard, Vice-Chair

ABSENT: 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 acknowledge audio taping of the meeting.

Mr. Gagner requested that the Board and all in attendance observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas shooting and for longtime resident, Laura Lizak who recently passed away.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of September 26, 2017 as written made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received notice from the Town Clerk's Office that voter registration will be held on Monday, October 23 from 9 AM to 8 PM. This will be the last chance to register to vote for the Special Town Meeting which is scheduled for November 2, 2017 and will be held at 6:30 PM at the Warren Community Elementary School. - **Noted**
2. The Warren/West Brookfield Youth Football will be holding their Homecoming game on Sunday, October 8th beginning at 12 Noon. Pee Wee, Junior and senior games will be held against the Ware Indians. A half time show featuring the Cougars Cheerleaders will also be held. More information on times can be found on the town's website at www.warren-ma.gov. - **Noted**
3. Notice was given to the Selectmen's Office that due to a change in his work schedule, Mr. Nardi is resigning from the Regional Animal Control and Dispatch Service, the CMRPC Alternate Delegate position and the CMMPO Delegate West Sub-Regional. - **Noted. The Board extended their thanks for all the time and effort that was put in.**

JAMES FOUNTAIN – NOTIFICATION UNDER C. 61A – TOWN FARM ROAD

Due to a delay in getting the executed documents from the seller, the Board made the following motion: Motion to approve and sign the Right of First Refusal for Town Farm Road as presented once the office receives the fully executed documents from the seller made by Mr. Gagner; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

CITIZENS ACTION COMMITTEE

Ms. Louise Mundell is in attendance this evening to discuss several ongoing issues: 980 Main Street and town owned property. Mr. Gagner stated that 980 Main Street will need to go before the Planning Board of Site Plan Review. Due to the timing with the asphalt plants closing soon, it could be spring before the project is completed.

With regard to town owned property, the CAC has diligently tried to get some of the town owned properties off the tax title list and back onto the tax rolls. With the election of a new Treasurer, it has been slow to move. As previously mentioned, there is a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done prior to auctioning off properties. There also seems to be some confusion surrounding whose responsibility it actually is. The Board of Assessors are responsible for researching the "unknown" properties. Mr. Lavash who was in attendance and is both an Assessor and the Tax Title Custodian said that he would have to speak with the Assistant Assessor when she is back from vacation. The properties that are already in Tax Title are the responsibility of the Town Treasurer. With her being new to the position, additional time to educate herself in the

process may be necessary. Part of the CAC's frustration is that there does not seem to be any protocol in place when addressing tax title properties. They have once again requested clarity on the issue.

Mr. Gagner requested that Mr. Lavash meet with the Treasurer to discuss the properties. Mr. Fountain, who is a member of the CAC stated that if the Board of Assessors are not capable of doing their job, suggested that they be replaced. Mr. Gagner requested that Mr. Lavash provide him with an update so he can relay that information to the CAC. The Selectmen's Office requested that Mr. Lavash provide a written response to a timeline and he stated that he would not. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

BEVERLY SOLTYS – WEX GAS INVOICES

Mrs. Soltys requested to discuss the Wex gas invoices for the Police Department. When viewing the warrants, Mrs. Soltys stated that some of the information has been redacted. She pointed out that the department has 5 credit cards issued to them, however the department is in possession of 6 vehicles. According to Mrs. Soltys, it appears that the credit cards do not match up with the vehicle. She (Soltys) questioned if the officers are providing incorrect mileage counts, then questioned how the numbers be relied upon. Mrs. Soltys stated it is a matter of accountability. Chief Spiewakowski, who was in attendance this evening asked what Mrs. Soltys' actual issue is? The department has gas cards and the officers put gas in. Certain information is redacted due to security issue and stated that the information is exempt under the exemption clause "N". Mr. Gagner requested that the Chief make sure that the officers are hitting all the right buttons.

There was an exchange between Mr. Gagner and Mr. Soltys wherein he (Soltys) was accused of using inappropriate language at the last meeting. Mrs. Mundell, who was seated next to Mr. Soltys at that meeting stated she did not hear a thing. Mr. Lavash suggested if they are not happy with things, then run for office.

MASSDOT – RESURFACING PROJECT – BIKE LANE

The Board briefly discussed the issue of discontinuing a portion of the state highway from the corner of North and Main Streets to Spring Street. By doing so, this would allow vehicles to legally park. The office will send another letter with the Board's intent.

RECYCLING DIVIDENDS PROGRAM GRANT AWARD

The Town of Warren was once again awarded this grant under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). This year's award is in the amount of \$3,500.00 and will be administered through the Board of Health. Motion to sign the grant as presented made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Gagner – unanimous.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Mr. Gagner stated that this is a work in progress and a draft has been provided to the Board for review and discussion. The Finance Committee was also provided a copy. Some of the proposed Articles are for transfers, however there are several capital expenditure that will need further discussion. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 28 & 29 dated October 2, 2017 in the amounts of \$42,073.50 and \$57,861.55 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS – NONE

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Steven Duff, Principal at the WCES announced this evening that the school has partnered with Angels Backpack, Inc. in order to provide a food bank for those in need. For more information, please contact the school at 413-436-5983.

Mr. John Nason questioned the rumors of the underpass closing. The underpass will close beginning on October 10th and will remain closed to both pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Police, Fire, Lizak Bus Company and the Superintendent of Schools was notified of the closure. Ms. Nowak suggested that the office contact CSX to see if the town is liable should there be any damage done to the bridge. Mr. Boudreau stated that there is currently a sub-drain that is 8'-10' below the surface which is rotted. This is to be replaced with like material.

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