

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14, 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. Collen Montague acknowledge audio taping of the meeting. Mr. Gagner Requested a moment of silence for the three Quaboag students tragically lost in a fatal car accident.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the Minutes of October 24, 2017 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – 2 Yes 1 Abstention (Mr. Nardi due to absence)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The office received the monthly report of the Fire Chief and for CERT/Emergency Mgmt. for month ending October 2017. - **Noted**
2. As a reminder, the Winter Parking Ban will take effect beginning tomorrow, November 15<sup>th</sup> and last through April 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no parking allowed on any street from midnight to 6 AM. The parking ban in the downtown Warren area will be from 2 AM to 6 AM. Additionally, in accordance with Article IX (9) of the Town of Warren General By-laws, no other person other than an employee in the service of the Town of Warren or the commonwealth of Massachusetts, shall pile, push or plow snow or ice onto or across a public way, street or roadway. Any violations of this by-law is subject to fines and penalties as set forth in the by-law. - **Noted**
3. Between November 13<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Town Clerk's office will be open to collect items to fill "Holiday Boxes" for those who are in the military in the states and overseas. A list of items that are usually need to fill a gift package can be found on the town's website or by contacting the Clerk's Office during normal business hours.-**Noted**
4. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tree Lighting Festival will take place on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM to 6 PM. Crafters and Direct Sale Vendors are wanted and for more information, please see the town's website for contact information. - **Noted**
5. K-9 Murray and Officer LaFlower successfully tracked a B & E suspect which ultimately led to the individual's arrest. All property stolen was returned to the rightful owner. – **Noted. Job well done.**
6. Det. Von Dauber along with assistance of the Warren Police Department as well as members of the Hardwick and West Brookfield Police and the Ware Police K-9 Sampson were instrumental to arrest of 4 individuals. All four were charged with a number of drug offenses and seized approximately \$2,000.00. - **Noted. Job well done.**

**APPOINTMENTS**

Motion to appoint the individuals as outlined on the attached sheet to the Insurance Analysis Committee made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

**AMBULANCE ABATEMENTS FY 18 – 1<sup>ST</sup>. QTR.**

Motion to approve the FY 18 – 1<sup>st</sup>. Qtr. Ambulance Abatements in the amount of \$98,614.77 as presented by the Fire Chief made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

**WALKEEN-KOZIOL – STANDARD GRANT (MASSWORKS)** Mr. Boudreau presented the Standard Contract for the Walkeen-Koziol Road Culvert Replacement Project. The Town was awarded \$49,200.00 for the project. With no further discussion, the

following motion was made: Motion to allow the Chairman to sign the Standard Grant as presented made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

#### **REQUEST FOR USE OF CH. 90 FUNDS FOR QUABOAG STREET PROJECT**

Mr. Boudreau is requesting to utilize \$20,000.00 of his Chapter 90 funds to go towards the design services on Quaboag Street From Hillside Terrace to Old West Brookfield Road. This is a portion of the 1.5 million dollar CDBG block grant. With no objections, the following motion was made: Motion to allow \$20,000.00 of Chapter 90 funds to go toward the design services as described made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

#### **KIRK'S CREATIONS- COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE**

Motion to ratify the Common Victualler License for David Kirk of Kirk's Creations made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard; second – unanimous.

#### **LETTER OF NON-OPPOSITION (Medical Marijuana)**

Motion to sign a letter of Non-Opposition for Vita-Sphere, Inc. made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

#### **TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES**

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 38 & 39 dated November 6, 2017 in the amounts of \$36,530.73 and \$125,575.39 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

#### **CHAPTER 90 CONTRACTS – BID AWARD**

Motion to approve and sign the contract bid awards to the respective companies as outlined in the attached for FY 18 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

#### **7:15 PM – PUBLIC HEARING PVPC – PERFORMANCE HEARING FOR CDBG BLOCK GRANT.**

Mr. Christopher Dunphy, Principle Planner for PVPC was in attendance this evening to discuss the status of the program. This is a federal program where smaller towns such as Warren need to compete. With the assistance of Mr. Dunphy and his team at PVPC, the Town has been very successful in obtaining grant funds towards infrastructure, housing rehab, social services and domestic violence programs. The town is currently working with three fiscal years; FY 15, FY 16 & FY 17. Fiscal year 2015 is set to close out in December. Warren is the lead community in a regional FY 2016 CDBG with the towns of Ware and Hardwick. Current activities include housing rehabilitation services for qualified residents in all three communities and an engineering design project in Warren involving Quaboag Street, Lombard Street and Moore Avenue. The grant is also providing financial assistance for public social services including the area's domestic Violence Task Force, Adult Learning services through the Ware Adult Learning Center and assistance for the Carson Center's Planned Approach for Community Health.

On the School Street Neighborhood Improvement Project (SSNIP) the issues have been identified which are the streets and sidewalks which are in desperate need of repair. The plan is to marry both the CDBG funds along with a portion of the MassWorks Grant and Chapter 90 Funds, which was done earlier this evening in order to provide a comprehensive plan and design. Mr. Dunphy stressed that the road width will not be reduced, only defined by curbing which will give the appearance of such. FY 18 grant application is due on March 2, 2018, therefore a Community Development Advisory Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the Warren Senior Center. The purpose of the meeting is to identify additional areas of concern, such as the Reed Street Water issue. The Board thanked Mr. Dunphy for his time this evening and his continued efforts on behalf of the town.

#### **7:30 PM – CHIEF OF POLICE – DISCUSSION OF FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER**

Chief Spiewakowski addressed the Board this evening in anticipation of at the next meeting of having the Board appoint a full-time officer. With the impending retirement of our current Sergeant, an internal candidate has been chosen to fill that position in April of 2018. The Chief has budgeted (FY 18) to fill the patrol officer's position for 6 months; January to June 2018. He has discussed this previously with both the Board and the Finance Committee during budget season last year. His (Chief) original thought was to have a candidate in the academy by November 1<sup>st</sup>, however it is too late and has run out of options at this time. He would like to bring forth a candidate to hire as a full-time patrol officer at the Board's next meeting. He can request a waiver (which the town has previously done) for a maximum of 270 days, which would allow the employee to work and begin

the academy in July of 2018, which would put him into the next fiscal year. Mr. Gagner requested that hearing no objections from the other members, Mrs. Acerra is to add the topic to the next meeting. Mr. Richard stated again, as he has done in the past, he doesn't feel that the town should have to spend money in order to hire someone. Chief Spiewakowski stated that there are very few ways around it. He has advertised several times and has a response, however it resulted in no viable candidates. Chief Spiewakowski further stated that Warren is not unique in this situation as the state has not provided a funding mechanism, therefore the costs are absorbed by the town.

Further discussion surrounded around the issue of starting pay. Chief Spiewakowski stated that although the figures in the town report are respectable numbers that number includes ample overtime as the base salary is on the low side. He further stated that he would never advocate for a reduction in staffing as members have suggested. Overtime is a reality in law enforcement. Mr. Nardi stated that in 2011, the Chief went before the Finance Committee, to which Mr. Nardi was on at the time and said that the 7<sup>th</sup> position would drastically reduce the overtime. Mr. Nardi said that since then, it has gone up 78%. Mr. Richard and Mr. Nardi both are in favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> officer, however it is the issue of salary/overtime. Chief Spiewakowski acknowledged the increase in overtime that he has seen in his budget, however reminded all that that was due to several officers being out on IOD (Injured on Duty). That ran up the overtime exponentially, however there is no way to budget for that. Mr. Nardi stated that in the current CBA with the Patrolman's Union, Management Rights are spelled out and were agreed upon by both the Board of Selectmen and the Union. Contained within those rights, is the right to reduce staffing if problems arise.

Officer Morin, who benefited greatly from the waiver, stated that there is a vast difference between the training full time officers received compared to part-time. He feels that it is a huge disservice to the town. Mr. Mongeon, Chair of the Finance Committee questioned the impact to his budget. The Chief stated that he doesn't see an impact to this year's budget, but will no doubt see an increase in next years. Mr. Nason, also a member of Finance stated that although he doesn't favor such overtime cost, does understand how staffing (under in this case) can drive overtime costs up. He also stated that we are currently understaffed for the size of our town. Fire Chief Lavoie stated that he is not in favor of cutting staffing as it not only impacts police calls, it does so on the fire side. The police officers respond on fire and ambulance calls as well. Mr. Richard stated again, that he is in favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> body, however not in favor of educating the individual.

Several comments were taken from the audience, which ended off track on the posted discussion and was not focused on the topic. The discussion ended with no vote, however as requested earlier by the Chair, the anticipated appointment will be scheduled for the next meeting.

#### **TOWN OWNED EQUIPMENT – UNDER \$10,000.00**

Mr. Nardi presented a draft policy to the members that he would like them to consider adopting. The policy is for town owned equipment value under \$10,000.00. With the new changes in Chapter 30 b, a policy would allow the town to sell equipment that it deemed unusable. There are guidelines that would need to be adhered to which are clearly listed in the proposed policy. After a review, all members were in agreement and with no further discussion the following motion was made: Motion to adopt the Town of Warren – Disposal of Surplus Supplies policy as presented made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

#### **TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES**

As a follow up to previous meetings, Mr. Lavash as Tax Title Custodian provided an update of the properties that the Citizens Action Committee (CAC) provided. The list is town owned properties that they (CAC) feel could be auctioned off. After a review by Mr. Lavash, Assessor's Office and the Town Treasure, it was found that out of the 25 parcels outlined, only 3 would be buildable. The remainder is either landlocked, have wetland issues or no frontage. In closing, Mr. Lavash resigned effective immediately from his post as Custodian.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Richard advised all that MassDOT have agreed in principal to eliminating the bike lanes that were originally planned for Main Street in West Warren.

Mr. Gagner advised all that there is a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament to be held in remembrance of the crash victims. More information can be found on his Facebook page.

Michelle Pavini asked if the voters would have the opportunity to vote on a new Police Station and if any grant money was available. Mr. Gagner stated that he is working with PVPC/CMRPC on just that.

John Nason spoke to the Board regarding recent social media posts. He's read them and some are pretty distressing and derogatory to say the least. He reminded the Board that blocks can be placed on town owned equipment. He further feels that social media is not the platform to air dirty laundry.

Kathy Kuprycz, FOTTH feels that the "facts" are distorted and reiterated that the Town Hall is not condemned. She has a letter from the Board of Health confirming that. She also requested that the FOTTH be granted permission to use the portico again at this year's tree lighting ceremony. At this late date, other alternatives will be sought.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra  
Administrative Secretary

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Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

