

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 28, 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. Collen Montague acknowledge audio taping of the meeting.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of November 14, 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 Police Chief for month ending October 2017.- **Noted**
2. The Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Monday, December 4th at 7:30 PM on the application of the Town of Warren seeking Site Plan Approval for the proposed Municipal Parking Lot located at 980 Main Street. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. - **Noted. Mr. Richard will attend.**
3. As a reminder, the Community Development Advisory Committee will host a Community Development Strategy Public Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, November 29th at 6:00 PM at the Warren Senior Center. The purpose of the hearing is for residents to provide input of the town's needs. All residents are highly encouraged to attend. Funding for the program is provided by the CDBG Block Grant Program as administered by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.-**Noted.**

Due to the swift manner in action this evening, the Board took the agenda items out of order.

SENIOR TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM

The Senior Tax Abatement Program for 2018 was discussed. After a review of the current guidelines, the Board was in agreement to move forward with the program again for 2018. Applications will be accepted in the Board of Selectmen's Office through December 31st for consideration. Motion to continue the program for 2018 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 42 & 43 dated November 20, 2017 in the amounts of \$38,335.24 and \$23,571.59 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 44 & 45 dated November 27, 2017 in the amounts of \$44,785.36 and \$152,807.90 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 112 for FY 16 – CDBG Drawn Down payable to PVPC in the amount of \$99,000.00 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gagner advised all that Industrial Communications is on site clearing the area. The developer is hoping to pour cement, weather pending.

7:15 PM – TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING – FY 18

Mr. Gagner opened the hearing and turned the floor over to the Board of Assessors. Mr. Lavash read from a prepared statement and is referenced as Attachment A. According to the handout, the final valuation of all property in Warren for FY18, as approved by the Department of Revenue is \$381,541,426. Not including exempt properties. The estimated tax levy for FY18 is \$6,608,297.50 and if approved by the DOR, will result in a tax rate for all property owners of \$17.32 per thousand (decrease of \$1.24 from last year). According to Ms. Coache, land values decreased approximately 2%, while residential properties rose approximately 6%. Mrs. Soltys asked how the town would fund the cost of building a new Police Station if taxes continue to decrease. She suggested to raise the tax rate \$5-\$7 dollars to fund such a project. Mr. Gagner stated that it would a last ditch effort and would rather exhaust the grant avenue.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to close the Public Hearing for the FY 18 Tax Classification made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve a single-tier tax rate for the Town of Warren made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mrs. Soltys questioned if the Police Department would be conducting an investigation into the tagging of the Town Hall doors. “Danger” “Asbestos” signs were posted on the Town Hall doors at some point before the tree lighting ceremony. Mrs. Soltys stated that the Police Department charged other residents with tree tagging and wondered if the same enforcement of the law would be administered. Photos of the signs were provided to the Board.

Mrs. Soltys also stated that she felt the comments that were made at the last meeting regarding her discussion on the officer in a surrounding town putting himself through school were uncalled for.

Ms. Megan Lafko stated that she replayed the meeting of November 14th and urged residents to speak up and to ask questions if they feel the need.

7:30 PM – POLE HEARING – NATIONAL GRID/VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Diane Clowes from National Grid is in attendance this evening. Ms. Clowes stated that Nat Grid along with Verizon New England have petitioned the town to install a pole which will be known as Pole # 30-50, 80 feet south of Bemis Road. This new pole is in anticipation of the cell tower that Mr. Gagner mentioned earlier this evening. With no opposition and with no abutters in attendance, the following motion was made: Motion to approve the installation of the pole as presented made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Next Meeting Date: December 5, 2017 at 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

