

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Mr. James A. Gagner, Jr., Chairman and Mr. Marc W. Richard; Vice-Chairman 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. Loren Kretkiewicz both advised they were audio taping this evening's meeting.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve the Minutes of February 13, 2018 as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. As a reminder, the Quaboag Regional Middle High School will be holding ongoing budget meetings to discuss the FY 19 Budget. The next scheduled meetings are: February 26<sup>th</sup> – School Committee, March 5<sup>th</sup> – School Committee, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Initial Budget Presentation to full committee, March 19<sup>th</sup> – School Committee adopts FY 19 budget  
**All meetings are held at the Quaboag Regional M/H School Library beginning at 6:30 PM - *Noted***
2. Senator Gobi's along with the State is seeking information on capital project needs. A form is available for the town to complete and send back. No need is too big or small. This form is NOT a guarantee of funding but a tool for their office to be aware of infrastructure needs throughout the 28 communities that Senator Gobi represents. - ***Noted***

**KATHY RUGANI – REED STREET WATER ISSUE**

Mrs. Rugani attended this evening's meeting to advise the Board that she came across a newspaper article that highlighted a town the very same issue (1-4 Dioxane) in Atkinson New Hampshire. In this case, in 2013, the EPA stepped in and provided funding for a new water main to be installed which serviced 18 homes. Currently, our situation on Reed Street is not considered an "emergency" as DEP is providing bottled water to the affected homes. Mrs. Rugani, on behalf of herself and the residents of Reed Street urged the Board to contact Mr. McGrath, Eva Torra at DEP and Rep. Richard Neal's Office. Mr. Richard will contact DEP and Mr. Gagner will contact Mr. Neal's Office. An additional meeting with Tighe & Bond is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Warren Water District Offices.

**ED KRETKIEWICZ – RESIDENT CONCERN OVER PUBLIC RECORDS (E-MAILS)**

Mr. Kretkiewicz addressed the Board this evening, specifically Mr. Nardi regarding a public records request he had submitted. On December 27, 2017, Mr. Kretkiewicz sent an email to the town's Records Access Officer (RAO) requesting emails from [nardi@warren-ma.gov](mailto:nardi@warren-ma.gov) to [spiewakowski@warren-ma.gov](mailto:spiewakowski@warren-ma.gov). Both e-mails addresses are town issued addresses. Mr. Nardi responded to the RAO that he does not have any emails and further stated that he has since deleted his emails. The RAO, in an attempt to comply with the law provided emails from [spiewakowski@warren-ma.gov](mailto:spiewakowski@warren-ma.gov) to Mr. Kretkiewicz at no charge. Mr. Nardi asked if Mrs. Acerra, the town's RAO provided an answer to which Mr. Kretkiewicz did state that he did in fact receive one. Mr. Nardi further stated that if he's not satisfied with the RAO's answer, then he should follow the town's policy and appeal the RAO's response. Mr. Kretkiewicz pushed Mr. Nardi into answering his questions as to why he (Nardi) deleted his emails. Mr. Nardi responded by saying that he is not required to answer questions. Mr. Nardi would not discuss the issue any further.

### **APPOINTMENT – FULL-TIME OFFICER**

In order to formalize the Board's previous vote, the following motion was made: Motion to appoint Officer Alexander Sinni from part-time to full-time police officer effective February 24, 2018 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

### **SOLAR PROJECTS – PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS**

The Chair of the Conservation Commission provided an email to all regarding the recent concerns that came to light with solar panels. This matter will be address at an upcoming Planning Board meeting with Conservation in attendance.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – SURPLUS EQUIPMENT/SIDEWALKS/MACHINERY**

Mr. Boudreau was in attendance this evening to discuss several items. Mr. Boudreau provided a list from an appraiser on several pieces of surplus equipment. The Board reviewed and there is no opposition to moving forward with an auction. The newly adopted policy would need to be adhered to. Mr. Nardi suggested sometime in April, once the weather is better. On the issue of sidewalks, a concern was raised at the last meeting regarding the condition of the sidewalks several days after a snow event. The resident stated that the unmaintained sidewalks created a hazard for pedestrians. Mr. Boudreau stated that they were not purposely done in West Warren due to the fact that after they were done in Warren, they turned into a sheet of ice. Lastly, concerns were raised regarding the new piece of equipment recently purchased being used as a plow for Milton O. Fountain Way. Mr. Boudreau disagreed that the piece of equipment he is talking about is an articulating wheeled loader which is very suitable for the use. Mr. Lavash stated that he feels Mr. Boudreau is doing a good job with what he has.

### **POLE HEARING PROTOCOL**

The office received a call from National Grid requesting that the Board consider allowing Pole Hearings to be held without the presence of one of their designers. The designers will meet with all abutters prior to the hearing and in the event that an abutter shows up at a hearing, then the Board can continue to such a time that one can be present. Historically, over the years, there has been almost no comments from abutters nor any in attendance. The Board was ok, however with the provision that National Grid provide a written statement prior to the hearing as to their success with notification.

### **IT PROPOSALS – SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

In light of the recent issues with our google account (gmail), Mrs. Acerra contacted Northeast IT Systems, (NEIT) Inc. to provide an estimate for upgrades to the technology in the Shepard Building. After an assessment was done by NEIT, a report was issued outlining six (6) critical issues that need to be addressed. Mrs. Acerra presented three of the top items that should be addressed immediately. There is funding available in the FY 18 budget and the remainder will be considered for the FY 19 budget or as an Article at Town Meeting. Mr. Nardi suggested that the town apply for the IT Grant money as part of the Community Compact Agreement. Motion to approve the three IT items as presented this evening made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

### **BUILDING CLOSURE POLICY – DISCUSSION**

Mr. Gagner recently closed the building due to a snow event. The closure went along with the school schedule. Past practice was that the decision was made by the Chairman. After a discussion, it was agreed to keep the policy as is. Again, if employees do not feel safe in traveling in inclement weather, they are allowed to utilize their vacation/personal/sick time should they have it.

### **CAPITAL PLANNING – DISCUSSION**

Mr. Richard, Selectmen's representative on the Committee requested this item for discussion. He is requesting that the Board of Selectmen provide guidance to Capital Planning as to what their (BOS) commitment is for funding capital projects. Mr. Nardi had previously stated that he is in favor of 20% or \$50,000.00 minimum contribution from free cash, however with the school budget as it appears this year will be costly. All were in agreement to fund, however the amount/percentage was not finalized. Mr. Gagner requested that the Committee email the office with a detailed list of requests and current amounts.

### **FY 19 BUDGET**

Mr. Mongeon stated that all FY 19 budgets have been handed out and are due back to Finance by March 7<sup>th</sup>. A work meeting with the Board of Selectmen is set for March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM.

**TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES**

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 68 & 69 dated February 19, 2018 in the amounts of \$38,839.66 and \$66,521.18 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Richard requested that the office invite the Board of Health and Board of Assessors to an upcoming meeting to discuss several outstanding items. He also encouraged all residents to patronize the new Village Bistro and Bakery in West Warren.

Mr. Nardi stated that the last of the rebate checks on the street light project will be in shortly which should net approximately \$8,000.00 to \$9,000.00 thousand dollars back to the town. This portion is from the installation.

**COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Mr. Boudreau advised all residents that this year's winter weather has caused a great amount of potholes and frost heaves and urged all drivers to be aware.

Next Meeting Date: February 27, 2018 at 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra  
Administrative Secretary

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Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

