

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2018**

PRESENT: Mr. Marc W. Richard; Chairman, Mr. Dario F. Nardi; Vice-Chairman and Mr. John Nason, 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. The Ware River News was also in attendance audio taping this evening's meeting.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Chairman Richard congratulated Mr. Nason on his successful election on May 1st and welcomed him to the Board. Mr. Richard also expressed thanks to Mr. Gagner for his willingness to step up and serve the Town for the last three years.

He would also like to thank the Finance Committee, Capital Planning, Clerk's Office, Town Counsel, the Moderator and Mrs. Acerra for all of their assistance in getting the FY 19 Budget and Town Meeting ready for the voters.

He also advised all that moving forward, the Comments & Concerns portion of the meeting will be at the beginning of the meeting and will be kept to generic discussions on community events and simple questions. Other items will not be debated during this portion and will need to be an agenda item. If residents, have a concern with a particular department, the matter needs to be addressed to the department head directly. If the issue is not resolved, then they will need to contact the Selectmen's Office.

Anne Banville looked for direction regarding information on the Paul Stokosa Trust Fund in which he left monies toward baseball/softball. The Board directed her to the Treasurers' Office.

Stanley Soltys asked if last years' employee evaluations were completed and if the Board is going to continue the practice. Evaluations were done last year and it is in the town's personnel by-laws that they be done annually.

Beverly Soltys asked the Board to consider an Article at Town Meeting to require fiscal and operational audits be done on all departments, beginning with the largest budgeted departments first. She also asked if the matter with the Local 195 was completed and if and when the final figures and funding source would be made available to the public. Mr. Richard stated that once the matter is finalized, then the information will be made available to the public.

Mrs. Soltys also reminded the Board that back in October, Western Mass News ran a story about the booking room ceiling falling in. She was disheartened over the fact that there has been no follow up or clarity given to that story. Members of the Local 195 reported claims of asbestos in the building and other issues. Testing by an independent company dispelled this claim. She has requested that the Board consider addressing "fake news" and provide updates to issues that are brought forth. The Board will consider the request.

David Kirk, resident and member of the Finance Committee attended the first Strategic Planning Committee at Quaboag. He attended as a resident, however stated that given the financial situation, he is hoping that a member of the Board of Selectmen attend the meetings in order to represent Warren. Mr. Nason stated that he would be happy to do so.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of April 30, 2018 as written made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention (Mr. Nason)

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of May 2nd and 8th, 2018 as written made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi; - unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received the monthly report of the Fire Chief and CERT/EM for the month of April 2018.-**Noted**
2. This years' Memorial Day Parade will take place on Sunday, May 27th beginning at 1 PM at St. Paul's Cemetery. Veterans, youth sport groups or town organizations are welcome and encouraged to march. Please contact the Board of Selectmen's Office for more information.- **Noted**

INTRODUCTION OF JACOB THOMPSON – FF/EMT

Chief Lavoie addressed the Board this evening in order to formally introduce Jacob Thompson as the department's newest full-time FF/EMT. Jake is taking the position recently vacated by Matthew Bonneau who accepted a full-time FF/Paramedic position in Sturbridge. Jake is a 2012 Quaboag Regional M/H School graduate, who has been with the department as an on-call basis. During his time, he has proven himself to be highly motivated and a self-starter and will only add to the department in a positive way. The Board warmly welcomed FF Thompson to the department and wished him well.

VETERANS COUNCIL – PINNING CEREMONY – FIRST RESPONDERS

The Veterans Council invited the town's First Responders to this evening's meeting in order to acknowledge their time in the armed services. Rebecca Acerra, Chair of the Veterans Council welcomed all in attendance this evening. The Council acknowledged the following:

Officer Rene Cote: Officer Cote, a part-time police officer in Warren. Officer Cote has served in the Mass Army National Guard for 22 years as both a part-time and full-time soldier. He enlisted in 1992 as a Private First Class (E-1). During this time, he was deployed to South West Asia (Iraq) in 2007-2008 and held the following Military Occupational Specialties: Personnel Actions, Military Police Officer, Ordinance Officer and Logistical Officer before retiring as a Commissioned Officer at the Rank of Major (O-4).

Det. Jeffrey Von Dauber: Det. Von Dauber, a full-time officer/Detective in Warren. Det. Von Dauber was not able to attend this evening however as many know, he is a full-time officer of the Warren Police Department. Jeff served in the United States Coast Guard and was on active duty from 1996-2000, gaining a rank of E/Petty Officer 2nd Class. During his time, he was stationed in Boston and also served aboard the US Coast Guard Cutter Polar Sea with a homeport in Seattle Washington and participated in Operation Deep Freeze.

Brian Rodriguez: Brian is a call member of the Warren Fire Department, however he too is unable to be here this evening as he is currently serving in active duty in Texas in the United States Army.

Longtime resident Veteran, Leo Swett who was in the United States Army, serving three tours in Vietnam, proudly pinned Officer Cote. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Mrs. Acerra asked that we also take a moment to recognize members of law enforcement that have lost their lives in the line of duty. In 1962, President Kennedy declared May 15th as National Peace Officer Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as National Police Week. We thank each and every member for their service to our communities and for those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

RUTLAND REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER

Motion to sign the Letter of Interest to the Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center as presented made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

MICHAEL BARIL – CELL TOWER DISCUSSION

Mr. Baril requested to be on this evening's agenda to discuss cell tower(s). Chairman Richard advised him to NOT name names during his presentation. Mr. Baril provided handouts for the Board this evening and began his discussion on the current cell tower project on Southbridge Road. Mr. Baril continued with several statements insinuating misappropriation of funds by and between a former Selectboard member and the developer of the site. Mr. Baril asked that the Board contact Industrial

Wireless and Communication to verify. Mr. Richard stopped the discussion as he had already warned him at the onset of this discussion and would not let him speak any further.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 88 & 89 dated April 30, 2018 in the amounts of \$40,360.74 and \$55,179.76 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 90 & 91 dated May 7, 2018 in the amounts of \$44,632.00 and \$52,309.23 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 92 & 93 dated May 14, 2018 in the amounts of \$36,848.65 and \$404,346.97 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 2 for FY 17 Warren Domestic Violence Prevention Project payable to PVPC in the amount of \$6,609.16 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nardi advised the Board this evening that the final installation of the rebates will be coming through soon which will complete that program. The amount should be just shy of \$9,000.00.

The Board also took a moment to express their condolences to Lisa Mundell at the passing of her Mother recently.

Next Meeting Date: May 22, 2018 at 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason - unanimous at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

John Nason, III, Clerk

