

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2018**

PRESENT: Mr. Marc W. Richard; Chairman and Mr. John Nason, Clerk

ABSENT: Mr. Dario Nardi

ATTENDEES: See Attached List

Opened the Meeting at 7:00 PM

Chairman Richard opened the Meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance at this time. Colleen Montague is in attendance and acknowledged her taping of this evening's meeting.

MINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the minutes of July 24, 2018 as written made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received notice that the Town of Warren, together with the Towns of Ware and Hardwick has received a CDBG Block Grant award of \$729,420.00. Warren will be the lead community and the funds will go towards housing rehab and social services. – **Thank you to PVPC for all of their continued help for Warren.**
2. The Historical Commission has requested permission for someone to access the Town Hall Tower to repair or see what needs to be done to restore the clock to working order. Any fee or expense involved, the Historical Commission will inform the Board before any costs are incurred. They have also requested permission to attach a National Register sign to the building. – **Both Mr. Richard and Mr. Nason are ok with both requests. Mr. Richard did ask Mrs. Buck to keep the Board informed and coordinate any visits with the Chief of Police.**
3. The Board of Sewer Commissioners submitted a letter advising the Board that they have begun advertising for a 4th position at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. DEP recently responded to Tighe & Bond's assessment, however DEP has determined that a total of 5 ½ employees are needed. Typically, DEP would round up the number which would result in staffing of 6 employees. DEP is mindful of the constraints that Warren has and is amenable to accepting a minimum staff of five. Further, DEP is agreeable to revisit the number and possibly reduce, once a number of action items are addressed. Also, the Board of Sewer Commissioners took this opportunity to advise the BOS that the Town of Palmer is currently advertising for a Grade 5 Operator with a starting rate of \$26.00/hr.- **Noted**
4. The Fire Chief contacted the office regarding the possibility of the Board looking at a wage scale review of all positions. The Town continually loses employees to hiring paying neighboring towns and is hoping that having a joint effort with this endeavor could possibly prevent such turnover. – **Both Mr. Richard and Mr. Nason are agreeable to discuss at an upcoming meeting when the full Board is present and to begin a dialog on the matter.**
5. The Fire Chief also submitted his monthly report to the office for month ending July 2018. – **Noted.**
6. Several reminders: First, the Veterans Council will be hosting their 3rd Purple Heart Appreciation Day Breakfast on Sunday, August 12th beginning at 10 AM at the Senior Center. Veterans and their families are invited to attend. Please RSVP to any Veteran Council member or to the Selectman's Office by August 9th. Also, the following weekend, on Saturday, August 18th, the Park & Rec department will sponsor fireworks at Quaboag and Sunday, August 19th will be "Murray Day", hosted by Officer LaFlower and K-9 Murray. - **Noted**

APPOINTMENTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Spiewakowski is in attendance this evening with Mr. Christopher Bouchard who he is requesting be appointed as a Part-Time Officer. Mr. Bouchard has full-time academy training already and has most recently worked for the town of Southbridge

as well as a resident. Mr. Bouchard will need to complete the physical/psychological testing and some field training. With no objections from either member, the following motion was made: Motion to appoint Mr. Bouchard as a part-time police officer pending successful testing made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

CMRPC DELEGATE (ALTERNATE POSITION): TABLED

CULTURAL COUNCIL:

With the recommendation of the Cultural Council, Ms. Sylvia Cummings has submitted her letter of interest to be appointed to the Council. With no further discussion the following motion was made: Motion to appoint Sylvia Cummings to the Cultural Council for a three (3) year term made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE

Motion to approve the Common Victualler/General License to the Quaboag Regional Booster Club for August 18, 2018 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

4th QUARTER AMBULANCE ABATEMENTS

Motion to approve the 4th Quarter Ambulance Abatements as presented by the Fire Chief in the amount of \$88,164.54 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 9 & 10 dated July 30, 2018 in the amounts of \$39,186.82 & \$751,309.05 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 11 & 12 dated August 6, 2018 in the amounts of \$40,893.89 & \$30,075.09 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign invoice no. 121 for FY 16 for the CDBG Draw Down payable to PVPC in the amount of \$14,000.00 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign invoice no. 19 for FY 16 for the Community Assistance Program-Grant # 00783 payable to PVPC in the amount of \$503.49 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign invoice no. 7 for FY 17 Community Assistance Program-Grant # 00813 payable to PVPC in the amount of \$12,445.60 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

BELL TOWER REPAIR

Mr. John Dyjak addressed the Board this evening to discuss possibly repairing and painting the bell tower. Mr. Dyjak stated that with the downtown improvements the peeling paint is the first thing that people see. After a discussion, it was suggested that Mr. Dyjak contact the Building Inspector for advice before any work is done.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Richard stated that with the recent appointments (June), the majority have yet to be sworn in by the Clerk. He urged all to take care of that.

Mrs. Acerra reminded all that on Saturday, August 11th, a joint effort between the Town of Warren and West Brookfield Historical Commission to highlight Lucy Stone Bicentennial this month. All are encouraged and welcomed to attend.

As an update, Mr. Richard stated that the office did contact Town Counsel and it was confirmed that any class action law suit would need to be brought forth by the homeowners. Mr. Richard also checked with the Treasurer on the impact on the tax rate. The Assistant Assessor is out this week for schooling and the Treasurer is out for schooling next week. Additional information will be forth coming once all parties can get together to discuss.

Mr. Soltys asked why the Chairman removed the “Comments & Concerns” portion of the meeting. Mr. Richard stated that since becoming the Chair, has tried to allow residents to come before the Board with concerns. He further stated that it has come to the point that it has turned into a sideshow. The Board is here to conduct business. Everyone is welcome to contact the office and request to be placed on the agenda.

Next Regular Meeting Date: TBD

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

John Nason, III, Clerk