

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 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 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 August 7, 2018 as written made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Nardi

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Emergency Mgmt. /CERT submitted the monthly report to the office for month ending July 2018. The Chief of Police also submitted his reports for the months of June and July. – **Noted**
2. Tim O'Brien provided a historical narrative of the work done on Lucy Stone Park. The information can be found on the town's website and is available in the Selectmen's Office. – **Noted. The Board expressed their thanks for all of everyone's efforts in bringing "Lucy" back to her grandeur.**

REED STREET WATER – DISCUSSION/VOTE

The Board once again discussed the Reed Street water issue and the options that Tighe & Bond have presented. Mr. Nardi first addressed the issue and stated that he, as Selectman, has been involved the longest and is concerned that if the town choose an option, then it becomes a town problem and eliminating the residents' availability in moving forward with a class action law suit. Mr. Nardi estimated that the tax burden to ALL residents would be approximately \$300.00 per year, based on a \$200,000.00 valuation. In addition, he is not confident that it would pass in May at the Annual Town Meeting. There are additional concerns in the fact that there are two water districts.

Mr. Nason stated that he certainly does feels for the residents, however he feels the same way as Mr. Nardi in that he doesn't want to see any doors closed on the residents. He would like to see what the Town Planner comes back with in terms of grants/low interest loans from USDA.

Mr. Richard echoed the concerns of his fellow board members, but feels the town has made an effort by funding the money for the study by Tight & Bond. He feels that a class action suit may be the better way to go.

At this time, the Board declined to vote to move forward on any of the options before them. The residents were clearly disappointed by this evening's results.

HIGHWAY SURVEYOR – CHAPTER 90

This item was passed over as Mr. Boudreau was not in attendance this evening.

QUABOAG STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – CHANGE ORDER

Motion to ratify the vote/signature on the change order as recommended by PVPC and Weston & Sampson made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

FRONT DESK STAFFING:

Chief Spiewakowski is in attendance this evening as a follow up to many conversations and communications with the Selectmen to discuss staffing the front desk. RRECC is looking to possibly switch over as early as November and as stated before, he is looking to increase his Administrative Assistants' hours by an additional 12 hours a week to cover the front desk. This would provide a person available to the public from Monday thru Friday. He has provided a revised job description for that position. Mr. Nardi is ok with staffing but stated that the wage cannot change until May. He also said that he is looking to look at the wage scale once again for all employees.

Chief Spiewakowski stated that he is hoping that the Board make a decision this evening due to mandatory training that Mrs. Guzik would need to go through. Mr. Nason stated that he would like to look at other options, however understands that due to time constraints that the Board needs to act.

Motion to increase the Police Chief's Administrative Assistant hours by an additional 12/week made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention-Mr. Nason.

MAINTENANCE POSITION:

The Chief addressed an issue that continues to plague his office and building. The maintenance (basement, exterior, roof, etc.) is beyond the scope of his abilities. He feels that the issue with the water in the basement needs to be addressed by a qualified individual who can determine the source and truly address the issue. In order to immediately address the issue, the Chief asked that an individual be designated to investigate a dehumidifier capable of doing the job. The Chief stated that he has been addressing the mold issue for the last ten years.

Mr. Richard stated that he strongly supports a custodial position who can take care most if not all of the town owned buildings.

FULL-TIME OFFICER:

The Chief also addressed the Board this evening over his staffing issues. He is in dire straits for staffing. He currently has two full-time officers that are out with another (Officer Sinni) going to the policy academy in October. The Sergeant is struggling to fill shifts with the part-time officers who are continually working 30, 40 plus hours a week. He is looking for the Board to appoint Officer Bouchard to a full-time position. He fully understands that this would be an 8th position, however doesn't see any other way to remedy the situation. Officer Bouchard has full-time academy training however would need to be field trained. Mr. Nardi stated that we cannot fill the two places currently being held with the officers that are out. He asked if the State Police could be contacted in order to fill the gap. The Chief stated that they would come if called, however they would not do a regular patrol. Mr. Nardi would like to see where we stand with our two officers before making a decision. Mr. Nason stated that he hasn't done an analysis of the situation and not prepared to make a decision. Mr. Richard stated that he is reluctant to call for a vote at this time. Chief Spiewakowski said he is out of ideas at this point. Mr. Nardi would like the Chief to go before the Finance Committee first. Barry Mongeon, who is the Chair of Finance was in attendance this evening. He stated that the Finance Committee is not going to come up with any answers. He (Mongeon) would like the Selectmen to make a decision first then the Finance Committee will spring into action. This matter will be discussed again at our next meeting which is tentatively scheduled for September 18th.

CMRPC DELEGATE (ALTERNATE POSITION):

Motion to appoint Mr. Nason as the new alternate to CMRPC made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – 2 Yes, 1 Abstention – Mr. Nason.

CLASS II MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE

Richard Brown applied for a Class II Motor Vehicle Licenses at 101 Dunham Road. With no objections and with a zoning determination from the Enforcement Officer, the following motion was made: Motion to grant the Class II Motor Vehicle License to Richard Brown as requested made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 13 & 14 dated August 13, 2018 in the amounts of \$46,156.59 & \$369,730.32 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 15 & 16 dated August 20, 2018 in the amounts of \$38,380.81 & \$71,325.96 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 17 & 18 dated August 27, 2018 in the amounts of \$37,480.61 & \$318,054.19 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign invoice no. 3 for FY 17 for the CDBG Grant Program for Domestic Violence Prevention Project payable to PVPC in the amount of \$5,008.47 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nardi advised all that he, along with the Accountant, FOTTH, Historical and Town Planner submitted a grant application for additional funds to go towards the window project, which should be awarded within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Mr. Nardi would also like to submit an application for a technology grant which would be due around the first of the New Year. He also requested permission to speak with counsel regarding a town charter. All were in favor.

Mr. Richard stated that both the Tax Collector and Treasurer are working on tax title properties. He further stated that he would be bringing back the Comments & Concerns sections of the meeting agenda, however if it should get out of hand and abused, it will once again be removed.

Mr. Nason said he would be interested in sitting on a wage study committee when one is created.

Mrs. Acerra stated that she, along with the Fire Chief, Highway Surveyor and Dep. Emergency Manager met with CMRPC to revise the town's Hazardous Mitigation Program, which is required in order to receive any funding in the case of a FEMA/MEMA declared disaster.

Next Regular Meeting Date: September 18, 2018 – 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

John Nason, III, Clerk

