

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 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 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.

Chairman Richard began this evening's meeting with an apology to Chief Spiewakowski. He stated that at the last open meeting, comments were made by residents regarding the status of his future employment with the town and he (Richard) feels that they (residents) spoke out of turn as the Chief was not present.

MINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the minutes of October 30, 2018 as written made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received the Fire Chief's monthly report for month ending October 2018 as well as the Police Chief's monthly reports for August, September & October. CERT/Emergency Mgmt. also submitted their monthly report for October 2018. - **Noted**
2. As a reminder, the town-wide parking ban begins tonight and runs through April 1st. There is no parking allowed on any street between midnight and 6 AM. Parking in the downtown Warren area will run from 2 AM to 5 AM. In addition, no other person other than an employee in the service of the Town of Warren or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, shall pile, push or plow snow or ice onto or across a public way, street or roadway and is subject to fines in accordance with Article IX of the Town of Warren General By-Laws. - **Noted**

WEST WARREN PUBLIC LIBRARY – ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE

Motion to grant a one-day liquor license to the West Warren Public Library as requested for December 14, 2018 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

980 MAIN STREET – DOWNTOWN PARKING LOT

Mr. Richard extended his apologies to all regarding he being unable to secure a bid to pave the parking lot at 980 Main Street. Bids came in excess of what was allocated in addition to the timing, the lot will not be done prior to the spring.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

In light of the anticipated vote by the Quaboag School Committee, the Board has set the date of the STM for Thursday, January 17, 2019 (time TBD). Additional information will be provided in coming weeks.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 37 & 38 dated November 5, 2018 in the amounts of \$42,421.78 & \$163,055.57 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 39 & 40 dated November 12, 2018 in the amounts of \$46,653.03 & \$75,468.38 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign FY 17 CDBG Drawn Down for Grant #813 to PVPC in the amount of \$13,000.00 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

7:15 PM – TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

The Board of Assessors are in attendance this evening to discuss the tax classification for FY 2019. Assistant Assessor, Rachael Carney provided a handout to the Board prior to this evening for their review. All properties town wide saw an increase in value and the valuations submitted to DOR have been approved. The BOA are recommending an \$18.00 per one-thousand dollar valuation for a tax rate, which is an increase of .68 from last fiscal year. Mr. Nardi stated that such an increase all goes back to what the voters approve in May are now realized now through their tax bills. After a discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to approve a single tax rate, shown as Option 1A in the handout and not approve Options 1B, 2, 3 or 4 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – STAFFING AUDIT

At a previous meeting, the Board unanimously voted to have a staffing audit done of the Police Department. The Chief is here this evening and fully supports the Board's efforts. He (Spiewakowski) stated that this will allow for an unbiased opinion and is ready to provide whatever information is needed. It was further agreed that seeing the BOS requested this audit, the funds will come from their budget to pay for it. Motion to move forward with the audit as presented by Public Safety Consultants, LLC. Made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

TOM BOUDREAU – DISCUSSION ON LOADER

Mr. Boudreau is in attendance this evening to discuss the ongoing situation with the loader. He (Boudreau) stated that the loader, which is a 1996 has failed and is currently unusable. The machine has over 12 thousand hours on it. Mr. Boudreau proposed two scenarios, the first to purchase one at the best price or rent one for the winter and then put an article on the warrant in May. He originally received a quote of \$2,500/month for a lease, however a long-term lease runs around \$4,400/month. Mr. Mongeon, Chair of Finance stated that at their last meeting the committee voted to approve the \$2,500/month until the STM. A new loader is approximately \$150K. Mr. Nardi stated that he would like to see him stay committed to what he wants and that the BOS and Capital Planning will pledge to get him what he wants. He (Nardi) feels that Tom changes his mind on too many occasions. Mr. Nardi would also like to see us sell our used equipment before it doesn't have any value left. Mr. Boudreau stated that a new loader has been on the Capital Planning list since FY 16 with an anticipated purchase date of 2020.

Mr. Nason stated that he would like to see all of our options in writing before we make a decisions. One option was to sub-contract it out to a vendor to see if that would be more feasible. Mr. Nardi reminded all that Finance voted to give a RAT to fund. He (Boudreau) could use snow & ice or Chapter 90, however the Ch. 90 funds would take away from road projects. Mr. Boudreau will gather further information. Mr. Richard did express his thanks to Mr. Boudreau and all employees at the Highway Department for their work on Sarty Road.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Nason took this opportunity to thank our dispatchers that have worked for the town. As all may know, with the recent regionalization of dispatch to Rutland, four employees were displaced. The Board worked with the members of the Teamsters Local 404 in order to provide a severance package for the employees. Mr. Soltys asked how things were going with Rutland and both Chief's agree that it was and continues to be a seamless transition. Mr. Soltys once again questioned if the Board had any updates with regard to re-appointing the Police Chief. Chairman Richard stated that the subject would not be discussed.

Mr. Nason also requested that the Board discuss at a future meeting the public use of the gym. He has been approached lately. Many issues arose last year with lights and heat being left on and doors being left unlocked. All are in support however there needs to be oversight.

Chief Lavoie contacted the office and requested permission for use of council. Although Mrs. Acerra emailed both Mr. Nardi and Mr. Nason and spoke with Mr. Richard, no answers have been provided to date. Both Mr. Nardi and Mr. Nason apologized for not responding to the email and granted permission for him to contact directly.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nardi stated that the results of the survey on the Town Charter and Town Hall seemed to be split 50/50. A total of 43 residents responded.

Chief Spiewakowski stated that he has concerns over the boiler at the Town Hall. During a recent annual inspection by the state, it was noted that was leaking, which has been temporarily repaired however the technician stated that it is a Band-Aid at best. The office will work on getting quotes for replacement.

Mr. Richard reminded all of the town's upcoming events: Tree lighting, pie sales, DOT hearing and the Ware River News positive article that was recently published.

Next Regular Meeting Date: TBD

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

John Nason, III, Clerk

