

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 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

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 advised she was audio taping this evening's meeting.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of December 19, 2017, as written made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – 2 Yes, Mr. Richard abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received the monthly report of CERT/Emergency Management for month ending November 2017. - **Noted**
2. The office also received the monthly report of the Fire Chief and the Police Chief for month ending December 2017.- **Noted**
3. The Warren Patrolman's Association has requested that the Board recognize Jim McKeon for his efforts, dedication and assistance as a member of the CERT team. Jim's assistance with reducing public safety manpower allows first responders to focus on other more necessary functions during situations where they are needed. – **The Chairman requested a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. McKeon from the Board and both Chiefs.**
4. The office received notification from the Town Clerk that the town will receive a refund from the state in the amount of \$1,726.19. This reimbursement is from the mandated early voting that took place in October of 2016. - **Noted**
5. The Town Clerks Office sent notice that nomination papers will be available on **Wednesday, January 31, 2018**. A full list of positions that are open are available on the town's website, cable TV and in the Clerk's Office. - **Noted**

WOODARD & CURRAN – WALKEEN-KOZIOL ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Motion to ratify contract for Professional Engineering Services for the Walkeen-Koziol Road Culvert Replacement Project as presented made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

CHIEF SPIEWAKOWSKI – GENERAL DISCUSSION

In response to an email that Chief Spiewakowski sent requesting the hiring of Part-Time Officers, he is in attendance this evening to address the Board. He will be seeking up to four (4) part-time officers as out of the four that were hired last year, only two remain. He currently has funds available in the FY 18 budget, therefore would like to use that money for training of PT Officers. Mr. Richard stated that as long as the money is available, he doesn't have any issues. Mr. Nardi did question if a year-end transfer would be necessary. Chief Spiewakowski stated that he currently has approximately \$31,000.00, which is enough to cover the anticipated costs. Mr. Nardi agrees with utilizing part-time officers to reduce overtime costs. Mr. Gagner was agreeable to the Chief's request.

Chief Spiewakowski also requested that the Board amend the appointment date of Officer Sinni from part-time to full-time by one week. In order for the waiver to remain in place, his appointment date would need to be move by one week from February 17, 2018 to February 24, 2018. With no objections, the following motion was made: Motion to amend the original appointment of Officer Sinni from Part-Time to Full-Time Officer from February 17, 2018 to February 24, 2018 as requested by Chief Spiewakowski made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

The Chief also requested that Mr. Nardi explain his email to him (12-21-17) questioning mileage reimbursement for an Officer. Mileage was reimbursed to an Officer in the amount of \$196.47 for using his own personal vehicle which is allowed under the Town's Personnel By-laws. Mr. Nardi questioned if an in-service vehicle was available for his use. The Chief stated that there were no spare vehicles for the Officer to use as his dedicated vehicle as his was out for repair from December 4th through December 21st.

Chairman Gagner requested that the Board discuss the requirement of the Chief of Police to include mileage on his monthly reports. Mr. Gagner stated that he (Spiewakowski) is the only department head that is made to provide mileage. He feels that this issue should be fair and equitable. Mr. Gagner suggested that all department provide monthly mileage or provide on quarterly, or annual basis as taken from the vehicle's inspection reports. Mrs. Soltys questioned why the Chief doesn't want to provide it and what the big deal is in doing so. Chief Spiewakowski stated that only Mr. & Mrs. Soltys and one other resident ever requested the mileage which has become "busy work" for him. Mr. Soltys reminded the Board that not long ago, two out of the three members voted to have the Chief continue to provide the information on his monthly report and wondered if they are going to stand by their word. The Chief stated that Mrs. Soltys has weekly access to the WEX invoices and the mileage is contained within. Mrs. Soltys stated that the mileage is not accurate and does not correspond with the appropriate vehicle. At a stalemate, the Chairman tabled the discussion until the next regular meeting.

TIGHE & BOND-REED STREET WATER STUDY – ENGINEERING STUDY

With the Board's recent vote to allow the \$25,000.00 that was allocated at Town Meeting to go towards Tighe & Bond's engineering study, the following motion was made: Motion to approve and allow the Chairman to sign the contract with Tighe & Bond for the engineering study for the Reed Street Water study project made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

FY 19 BUDGET SEASON

With the New Year, also comes a new budget season. The Board has requested that when the Finance Committee puts out their memo regarding budget submissions that the Selectmen's Office receive a copy as well. Article submissions will be required to be into the Selectmen's Office by March 15, 2018 and are to include a dollar amount if possible. As a reminder, capital expenditures are required to go before the Capital Planning Committee in order to be presented to the Selectmen. Mr. Nardi attended a Capital Planning Committee meeting and he (as one member) is in favor of placing an Article on the Warrant that funds the Capital Planning account (20% or \$50,000.00 minimum). Mrs. Acerra is also sending a memo to all boards/departments of submission deadlines for the annual reports and department inventories.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 52 & 53 dated December 25, 2017 in the amounts of \$34,073.87 and \$67,793.74 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 54 & 55 dated January 1, 2018 in the amounts of \$46,854.65 and \$141,722.23 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 56 & 57 dated January 8, 2018 in the amount of \$41,502.77 and \$617,817.67 respectively made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign FY 15, Invoice No. 22 for the Community Assistance Program – Grant No. 00762 to PVPC in the amount of \$2,247.73 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign FY 15 Final Invoice No. 23 for the Community Assistance Program – Grant No. 00762 to PVPC in the amount of \$5,410.89 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 113 for the CDBG drawdown in the amount of \$140,000.00 made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nardi advised all that information will be posted soon where residents can report streetlights that are out. Mr. Gagner congratulated Sgt. LaFlower on his 30th anniversary of law enforcement. He also attended a lock-down drill at Quaboag which went extremely well. The Rotary Club of the Brookfields will be holding a ham dinner at the Senior Center on January 27th at 5 PM. Lastly, he advised all that he attended a recent Planning Board meeting and discussed anticipated zoning amendments

regarding medical/recreational marijuana. Mr. Nardi expressed caution as to the Federal regulations, which still prohibit marijuana. Mr. Gagner stated that it was not his concern at this point.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Chief Lavoie stated that the boiler replacement projects for both stations are currently on hold due to the cold weather. The projects have been rescheduled for the spring. The Fire Department also took possession of their brush truck. He expressed his thanks to the Board and residents for their support. Burning Season begins January 15th and runs through to the end of April. Burning permits can be obtained from the Fire Department.

Next Meeting Date: January 23, 2018 at 7 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Dario F. Nardi, Clerk