

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2018
Open and Executive Session**

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. Mr. Baril and Mr. Corriveau are also recording the meeting.

MINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the minutes of October 16, 2018 as written made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. As a final reminder, tomorrow, town wide trick or treat will take place from 5 PM to 6:30 PM with the West Warren Fireman's Association annual parade and costume contest immediately following. Line up for the parade will begin at 6:30 PM at the corner of North and Main Streets with the procession to conclude at Station B located on Albany Street. - **Noted**
2. Also a reminder that the Warren Water District will be holding a meeting on November 1st at Quaboag Middle/High School Auditorium for a presentation on a water filtration system, alternative findings and a VOTE to install the system. They are asking that all water district customers attend this very important meeting as their vote does count. - **Noted**

RIVER STREET – ONE-WAY TRAFFIC

Residents have requested that the Board consider making River Street a one-way street. The residents in the immediate neighborhood cite congestion which is compounded by the snow in addition to a number of small children that live in the area. The office contacted the Police and Fire Chiefs as well as the Highway Surveyor. All are in agreement that the request can be accommodated and recommend that the traffic flow be one-way from the entrance nearest the post office with the exit across from the senior center. Motion to change River Street to a one-way street as recommended by town officials made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

APPOINTMENT

Motion to appoint Denise L. Messier as Election Officer (Inspector) until December 31, 2018 as requested by the Town Clerk made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

1st. QTR. AMBULANCE ABATEMENTS

Motion to approve the 1st. Quarter Ambulance Abatements as presented by the Fire Chief in the amount of \$132,771.48 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

TREASURY WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 33 & 34 dated October 22, 2018 in the amounts of \$38,807.53 & \$299,710.32 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant numbers 35 & 36 dated October 29, 2018 in the amounts of \$36,851.11 & \$104,004.00 respectively made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign FY 17 Invoice No. 123 to PVPC for the CDBG draw down for Grant #813 in the amount of \$33,582.50 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign FY 17 Invoice No. 10 to PVPC in the amount of \$8,212.66 made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

SOLAR PROJECT – POSSIBLE MORATORIUM

Local residents addressed the Board this evening about the numerous solar projects that are in the works. The Planning Board has been inundated with applications from developers for commercial projects. Concerns of stripping the landscape, wildlife and quality of life for abutting residents were of top concern. The residents along with members of the Conservation Commission have requested that the Board support a moratorium on solar projects. The residents have expressed their concerns to the members of the Planning Board as well and provided them with additional information. After a discussion, it was agreed that a committee will be formed to discuss the best avenue to take with regard to the matter. Mr. Nardi will sit as a representative of the Board of Selectmen. They are hoping to have something in place for a STM or at the very least, in May.

7:15 PM – DR. KUSTIGIAN – UPDATE ON MOLD-QRMHS & WCES GYM FLOOR

Dr. Kustigian was in attendance this evening at the Board's request to provide an update on the mold issue at Quaboag as well as a discussion on the mold that is under the gym floor at WCES. First, Dr. Kustigian stated that updates are provided daily on the webpage. At the end of August, mold was discovered in the Family & Consumer Science Room and turned out much bigger than they originally thought. The school originally brought in ServiceMaster, however due to differences of opinion, their services have been discontinued (His office is currently disputing the bill from ServiceMaster). Dr. Kustigian then hired Compass Restorations to perform the remediation. All areas have been cleaned and state inspections have been done. The last inspection which was performed on October 25th and that report is due in November. The students have nine (9) days to make up. The students in both elementary schools are not affected by this as they started the new school year on time.

Dr. Kustigian provided a breakdown of the cost to remediate the mold. One cost is \$255,924.33, less \$75,000 from MIIA brings the total cost after insurance to \$175,199.67. This estimate includes the disputed portion. Should the invoice from ServiceMaster be lowered, then the total, minus insurance is \$103,755.95. MIIA was clear in their report that most if not all could have been avoided with proper preventative maintenance. Building Sub-Committee member, David Kirk, echoed MIIA's report and was critical of the administration for not having a proper maintenance plan in place.

With regard to the gym floor at the WCES, there was a mold issue found there as well. According to Dr. Kustigian, the gym floor has been on the Capital Planning list for some time. This issue stems from the improper installation of the floor, specifically the vapor barrier. This project could reach an estimated \$150,000.00. It is clear that by the costs of these two incidents, money will need to come from somewhere to cover the bills. Dr. Kustigian stated that a preliminary thought was to request 1/3 from each town and the remaining 1/3 from the schools budget. Mr. Nardi asked if it would be coming from the E&D Account. No official vote has been taken thus far. With regard to the floor (WCES) he did state that the school committee has received an opinion from their legal counsel regarding a vote by the committee that would spur the necessity for a special town meeting. (copy provided). It would be more advantageous for the town for bidding purposes to schedule a STM. That way, bids may be more competitive with secured funding versus anticipated. Mr. Nason questioned what mechanism, if any, is in place in order to avoid a repeat of these types of events. Dr. Kustigian stated that they have now hired a facilities coordinator who will provide an overview of each building as well as a maintenance schedule with recommendations.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS – NONE

Mr. Soltys requested an update of 980 Main Street. Mr. Richard stated that he will be hand delivering the specs this week and a decision will be made at the next meeting. The project is anticipated to be completed in November. Mr. Soltys also questioned the Police Chief's monthly reports. His concern is that the directive to include mileage is not contained in the reports. And, finally, Mr. Soltys asked about renewing the Chief's contract and if there had been any discussion on not renewing it. Mr. Richard stated that it was a personnel matter and will not be discussed.

Mr. Corriveau posed the same question. He asked the Board if they are planning on renewing his contract. He (Corriveau) feels that he has the right to know as a taxpayer. Mr. Richard again stated, as he did to Mr. Soltys, that personnel matters are

confidential and will not be discussed. Mr. Corriveau again asked and cited his claim of harassment by the Chief over the last seven years. Mr. Nardi stated that this is not an agenda item and will not be discussed without the Chief present. Mr. Nardi stated that typically, employees that have employment agreements with the town are notified approximately six (6) months prior to their expiration. This allows both the employer and employee to have discussions on reappointment or non-reappointment.

Mr. Baril echoed both Mr. Soltys and Mr. Corriveau's comments about not renewing the Chief's contract. Mr. Richard stopped Mr. Baril at that point and stated that he will not allow him to throw "grenades" out with accusations, which to date have yet to be proven. Mr. Richard also stated that he has repeatedly requested copies of Mr. Baril's evidence that he alleges he has and once received, the Board will review and consider. Until such time, there will be no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Lavoie stated that the switch over to Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center (RRECC) is scheduled for November 1st at 9 AM.

Mr. Nardi stated that the town did not received the grant for the windows. He and committee members will be meeting in the near future to see what can be done to try to replace at least the first floor windows.

Mr. Richard thanked all who came out and supported the Warren Fireman's Spaghetti Supper, the Trunk or Treat at the elementary school and the FOTTH Polish Dinner. Thanks to Cornerstone Bank for their assistance at the school and to Park & Rec for the haunted house.

Next Regular Meeting Date: TBD

Motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(2) and (3), to conduct collective bargaining session with the Teamsters Union, Local 404 and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and further:

Motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(2) and (3), to conduct collective bargaining session with the NEBPA, Local 195 (Patrolman's Union) and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and not to return to open session made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous. Roll Call – 3 Yes.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

John Nason, III, Clerk