

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2019**

PRESENT: Mr. Dario F. Nardi; Chairman, Mr. John Nason, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Marc Richard

ATTENDEES: Ofc. Jos. LaFlower, Ofc. Shawn Morin, Sgt. Gerald Millette, Beverly & Stan Soltys, Gerry Sauer, James Kordek

Opened the Meeting at 6:00 PM

Chairman Nardi opened the meeting and dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance at this time. Mr. Nardi proceeded to the open session agenda items until the anticipated 6:15 PM Executive Session.

YEAR END APPOINTMENTS

Motion to approve the Year End Appointments as presented made by Mr. Richard; second; Mr. Nason – unanimous.

TOWN PLANNER CONTRACT RENEWAL

Motion to approve and sign the contract renewal for the Town Planner for FY 2020 made by Mr. Richard; second; Mr. Nason – unanimous.

Motion to appoint Matthew Bonneau to the Zoning Board of Appeals as recommended by the ZBA made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

YEAR END TRANSFERS

Motion to approve the request of the Fire Chief for a year end transfer in the amount of \$3,500.00 from Ambulance Wages to ALS for an anticipated shortfall made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign the Warrant No's 103, 104 & 105 dated June 17, 2019 in the amounts of \$91,229.02, \$37340.34 & \$54,039.67 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second; Mr. Nason – unanimous.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: July 9, 2019 – 7 PM

6:15 PM – Motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c30a, Section 21(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares” (NEBPA, Local 195) made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – Roll Call Vote – 3 Yes.

Officer Morin filed a grievance with the Board of Selectmen/Personnel Board regarding the town's denial to pay him a detective stipend in accordance with Article XVI Section (D) "Detective Stipend". Mr. Nardi explained that Officer Morin has followed the grievance procedure and is before the Board this evening to discuss. Mr. Nardi stated that his argument when this matter was first brought to his attention was that Officer Morin was not officially appointed to the position of Detective. Officer Morin explained that under the CBA, Detective is a designation and not an appointment. Union President LaFlower stated that absent of a dedicated Detective, someone needs to be assigned certain cases. Once that position was officially vacant in late 2018, the now former Chief Spiewakowski stated on a number of occasions that the department is in need of someone who can fulfill the obligations of what that position entails. This is in the way of specific training for matters such as sexual assaults, narcotics investigations and so forth. In light of that, the former Chief had been sending Officer Morin to

school. (West Brookfield assisted with certain investigations in the absence of the town's own detective). A patrol officer cannot perform the same duties. Mr. Nason doesn't want to drag this particular issue out and this should be clarified so to rule out any miscommunication. Despite the former Chief discussion Officer Morin's training on many occasions, Mr. Richard's only comment was that this once again is a prime example of a lack of communication between the Board and Police Department. Mr. Nardi agreed that he too was aware of the additional training. All members fully agree that more officers need to be cross-trained in several areas, to which both Ofc. Morin and LaFlower agree and welcome.

With no further discussion, Mr. Richard motioned to allow Ofc. Morin to be compensated (retro) for his detective work and for any future detective work as assigned by the Chief or Officer in Charge; second: Mr. Nason further added that he'd like to see an official appointment be done as soon as feasibly possible – unanimous.

A memo will be sent to all appropriate parties with the Board's decision.

Motion to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Sgt. Millette met with the Accountant recently and advises that he will be in need of a year-end transfer. He will confirm the numbers and submit all appropriate paperwork accordingly.

He also provided an update with the status of the cruiser (fire). MIIA hired an independent company to look at the vehicle and will be back with MHQ with whom the town purchased the vehicle from originally.

The Board requested that Sgt. Millette meet once again to discuss being appointed Interim Chief. Sgt. Millette stated that he will very interested and looking forward to the opportunity to prove himself. He did say that he met with NEBPA, Local 195 and they are agreeable to allowing him to step outside the CBA and supportive of his decision. Mr. Nardi stated that he feels that Sgt. Millette is the most qualified officer from the current roster. Mr. Nason supports him as well and cautioned him on the anticipated strain on the department. Officer Morin stated that the best option is to look to hire a full-time officer.

Next Meeting Date: Executive Session on Friday, June 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Marc W. Richard, Clerk

