

**Westborough Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2016**

**6:30 p.m. – 8:49 p.m.**

Present: Chairman Barrette, Vice Chairman Drewry, Selectmen Goldblatt and Johnson

Also Present: Jim Malloy, Town Manager, Kristi Williams, Assistant Town Manager/HR Director

**Request to Approve the Minutes of January 12, 2016**

Selectman Drewry's motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2016 was seconded by Selectman Johnson. Vote: 4-0

**Public Hearing for a Site Plan Review for the Renovation and Re-purposing of the Existing Nathan Fisher House, 146 & 148 Oak Street / Linda Townsend**

Selectman Drewry's motion to open the public hearing for the Nathan Fisher House was seconded by Selectman Johnson. Vote: 4-0

Ms. Townsend came before the Board and reviewed the project to renovate and repurpose the Nathan Fisher House and the site. She noted that the new address as of today is 201 and 205 Turnpike Road which includes the 2 acres she is developing and the 1.3 acres being developed by Todd Alexander. Erik Vangsness, Project Manager, and Dan Lewis, Architect, both from Waterman Design came before the Board and reviewed the site plans. Mr. Vangsness noted that they used the parking ratios as recommended by the Building Commissioner and that each use has its own sufficient parking. Each lot will have 60% open space. The Fire Chief, Police Chief and Building Commissioner have no issues with the project.

Selectman Drewry's motion to approve the site plan for 146 & 148 Oak Street as per the attached decision and subject to the conditions recommended by the departments as contained in the decision was seconded by Selectman Goldblatt. Discussion: Selectman Goldblatt asked if the new address should be included in the motion. Mr. Malloy noted that the motion could include "now known as 201 & 205 Turnpike Road" and Selectman Drewry accepted Mr. Malloy's recommendation to amend the motion as such. Vote: 4-0

Selectman Drewry's motion to close the public hearing was seconded by Selectman Goldblatt. Vote: 4-0

**Interviews/Appointments for the Recreation Commission / 1 Voting Member and 1 Non-Voting Member**

Mike Hightower and Bill Clausen came before the Board. Each candidate reviewed their background and qualifications.

Selectman Drewry's motion to appoint Mike Hightower as a voting member and Bill Clausen as a non-voting member to the Recreation Commission for terms to expire June 30, 2016 was seconded by Selectman Johnson. Vote: 4-0

**Request to Appoint Election Officers / Town Clerk**

Ms. Mickel came before the Board and reviewed the list of 10 Election Officers to be appointed: Dorothy Green, Linda Heggerick, Ludwig Stepanian, Mary Burke, Kevin Carroll, Teresa Petrucelli, Donna Rene, Elaine Halford, Leslie Ertel, and Margaret Yankee.

Selectman Goldblatt's motion to approve the recommendation of the Town Clerk with the names as read was seconded by Selectman by Selectman Johnson. Vote: 4-0

**Cumberland Farms / John Martin**

Mr. Martin came before the Board to request a Tax Increment Financing Agreement (TIF) from the Town for the proposed relocation of their corporate headquarters from Framingham to their facility at 165 Flanders Road and to renovate, equip and/or expand that facility. 200 employees will be moved from Framingham to Westborough. They plan to invest \$12 million in the facility without expanding the footprint. Mr. Malloy reviewed the terms of the TIF. The Board is supportive of the TIF which will be on the Town Meeting Warrant.

**FY 2017 Budget / Town Manager**

Mr. Malloy provided the Board with detailed information on the Insurance Budget as outlined in his February 9, 2016 memorandum per the request at the last meeting. He briefly reviewed each part of the budget and their cost history. Mr. Malloy pointed out the numbers in the Transfer to OPEB Trust account which are a result of the actuarial study that is required every three years. It shows the impact of health insurance plan design changes on the overall long term liability on health insurance. The Town is notably funding about 25% of the OPEB liability which has contributed to the Town's AAA bond rating.

Selectman Johnson asked about the recent increase in medical insurance costs and Mr. Malloy noted that many more employees joined the family plan than anticipated which may be due to private business adding incentives for their employees to opt out and the 22% increase in the retiree rate. The Town did increase the opt-out incentive which resulted in a 70% increase in the savings.

**Annual Town Meeting Warrant / Town Manager**

Selectman Barrette noted that the Board is not closing the Warrant tonight. He reviewed all the Articles and the Board held/questioned the following: Articles 5, 6, 7 (School Committee budget), 9, 20, 24, 28, 31, 32, and 38.

Selectman Goldblatt's motion to vote in favor of all the Articles other than Articles 5, 6, 7, 9, 20, 24, 28, 31, 32 and 38 to be held for further discussion was seconded by Selectman Johnson. Vote: 4-0

**Discussions and Votes**

Article 5: Selectman Johnson questioned the proposed additional Fire Captain and whether it is actually an additional position or an existing position that is being moved. Mr. Malloy noted that the position is not funded but is there in case it is needed in the future. There was a discussion of the questions and confusions it might raise at Town Meeting. Captain Purcell spoke in favor of leaving the Article as it is and explained why it benefits the department to do so.

Selectman Johnson's motion to add an additional line in the section "Changes in Number of Personnel in Various Departments" and title it "Fire Fighter" with "27" under "Existing" and "26" under "Proposed" was seconded by Selectman Drewry. Vote: 2-2

The motion failed for a lack of majority. The Board briefly discussed making the change on Town Meeting floor and will ask the Town Moderator then if it can be done.

Selectman Barrette reviewed his discussion with Hazel Nourse, Chair of the Historical Commission, regarding the reduction in the Administrative Assistant's hours as proposed by the Service Level Study. They did not have the opportunity to refute or provide input on their decision. Selectman Barrette requested not to support the reduction in hours from 19 to 4.5 per week until he has spoken further with the other Department Heads who work with the Historical Commission. The Board agreed to hold on this vote.

Article 6: Selectman Barrette questioned the grade change from H-10 to H-2 for the Board Administrative Assistant. Ms. Williams explained what the position is, that it was part of the re-grade of all the non-union positions and Mr. Malloy noted that the change was missed when the re-grade Classification Plan changes were brought to Town Meeting.

Article 7: The Board agreed to postpone voting and invite the School Committee to the next meeting to discuss their budget.

Article 9: The Board agreed to postpone voting and invite the Municipal Building Committee to the next meeting to discuss the funding of the Forbes Municipal Building renovation.

Article 20E: Selectman Drewry expressed his reasons for not supporting the Residency Requirement Charter Change. Selectman Barrette validated Selectman Drewry's concerns and noted that this is the Charter Review Committee's recommendation and it is up to Town Meeting to vote for it or against it.

Selectman Johnson's motion to support all of Article 20 with the exception of part 20E was seconded by Selectman Goldblatt. Vote: 4-0

Selectman Johnson's motion that the Board does not support Section E of Article 20 was seconded by Selectman Drewry. Vote: 3-1 (Goldblatt)

Article 24: Selectman Johnson asked to hold voting on this Article as he would like more information. Mr. Malloy reviewed the background of the Article request. It was agreed to hold the vote until the next meeting.

Article 28: Selectman Johnson asked the Town Clerk to explain the need for dividers at the polls. Ms. Mickel reviewed the reasons for her request which would alleviate some issues at the polls.

Selectman Johnson's motion to approve Article 28 was seconded by Selectman Goldblatt. Vote: 4-0

Article 31: Mr. Malloy reviewed the request for an emergency management action plan for the two Sandra Pond dams in case of a flood, which is also a State requirement.

Selectman Johnson's motion to support Article 31 was seconded by Selectman Drewry.  
Vote: 4-0

Article 32: Selectman Barrette questioned if a Town Meeting vote is necessary for the E. Main Street to Lyman Street Trail construction and easement survey to happen. There have been comments of concern from neighbors if they are not in favor of the trail Mr. Malloy noted that they would vote against the Article. Mr. Robbins provided background on the Article and noted that the concerns he has heard from residents is about how it will be constructed. There was discussion of what part is Town owned.

Selectman Johnson's motion to support Article 32 was seconded by Selectman Goldblatt.  
Vote: 2-2 (Barrette, Drewry)  
The motion failed for lack of a majority.

Article 38: Selectman Johnson expressed his concerns regarding adding a local fuel tax and is not supportive of adding another tax. Selectman Drewry noted that if the Town brings in more funds the State may be less likely to provide additional funding. Mr. Malloy explained that there have been cuts in Chapter 90 funds for road repair and maintenance for several years and the Town could get to the point of having to borrow money to maintain the road system. Selectman Barrette expressed his support of the Article; Selectman Drewry mentioned a State program that includes funds for sidewalks and roads and asked to discuss it at a further date; Selectman Goldblatt asked if the funds from the fuel tax would be spent in its entirety every year and Mr. Malloy explained that it all could be spent or some saved for future larger projects as it is put into a separate account.

Selectman Goldblatt's motion to support Article 38 was seconded by Selectman Johnson.  
Vote: 3-1 (Drewry)

### **Issues and Correspondence of the Selectmen**

Selectman Drewry noted that the Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials voted unanimously to move the Vietnam Memorial to the center of Town with the other memorials. He is waiting for a cost to do so and once he receives it he may want to add it to the Warrant.

Selectman Johnson noted that Northbridge has created an "internet purchase zone" in front of the Police Station as a safe spot for people to meet who have purchased items on the internet and have to meet with someone they do not know to pick it up. Chief Gordon will contact the Northbridge Police Chief for more information and will bring it back to the Board.

Selectman Barrette explained that there is a letter of support to be sent to Secretary Galvin regarding the 2016 Preservation Award for Penta Communications formerly Bergson's 1790 House Restaurant for the renovation of the historical building.

Selectman Johnson's motion to support the letter to Senator Galvin sent by the Chairman for Penta Communications was seconded by Selectman Drewry. Vote: 3-0-1 (Goldblatt)

**Executive Session**

Selectman Drewry moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:49 p.m. under MGL Chapter 30 Section 21 (3) to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining as an Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town. Chairman Barrette declared that Open Session will have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position if not held in Executive Session and that the Board will only come out Executive Session for the purpose of adjournment.

A Roll Call Vote was taken: Selectman Goldblatt – yes; Selectman Barrette – yes; Selectman Drewry – yes; Selectman Johnson – yes

*Submitted by Paula M. Covino*

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Chairman Barrette

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Vice Chairman Drewry

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Selectman Goldblatt

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Selectman Johnson

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Selectman Dodd