

Members present: Kevin M. McCormick Michael J. Kittredge, Jr.  
Christopher A. Rucho Siobhan M. Bohnson  
John W. Hadley

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Read and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Motion Mr. Kittredge to approve the regular session meeting minutes from February 26, 2014, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the regular session meeting minutes from March 5, 2014, seconded by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the regular session meeting minutes from March 11, 2014, seconded by Mr. Kittredge, all in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider accepting the following Summer Concert Series Donations on behalf of the town: Committee to elect Harriette Chandler - \$250.00, American Alarm - \$250.00, Webster First - \$250.00, And Janet Such in Memorial to M. Morazzini - \$50.00

Motion Mr. Rucho to accept the donations, seconded by Mr. Kittredge, all in favor.

2. Consider accepting donations received by the Library Trustees, deposited in their Revolving Fund, from payments for lost or damaged books and other materials, donations for the use of printers and copier and donations to support the general needs of the library in the amount of \$1,900.23; \$443.89 in support of the Adopt-a-Magazine fund drive and donations given in memory of loves ones in the amount of \$100.00 on behalf of the town

Motion Mr. Kittredge to accept the donations, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

3. Acknowledgement of February 2014 Grant Report

Mr. Gaumond explained that more than a few years ago the Board requested updates twice a year on what the town receives for grant funds. The report is included in the Board's agenda package.

4. Acknowledge receipt of PILOT payment from the Department of Conservation & Recreation in the amount of \$642,130.36

Mr. Gaumond reports that the Watershed Management PILOT Program is funded through the MWRA, who is the source of the funds distributed by the Department of Conservation & Recreation. This payment cannot be reduced from the previous year and it can only increase. This year this town will receive \$642,130.36.

5. Acknowledge receipt of Notice from the Department of Housing & Community Development that the Town of West Boylston's Housing Production Plan has been approved

Mr. Gaumond noted that one of our town goals was to finalize the Housing Production Plan, which was drafted and submitted to the Department of Housing & Community Development last year. The Plan has a five-year term and will expire in January of 2019. He thanked the Affordable Housing Trust for their work on this project.

Mr. Rucho asked Mr. Gaumond to announce to the residents some of the grants which are of a

larger value. Mr. Gaumond reports that many of our grants are in public safety. We received an E911 grant for \$23,583, traffic enforcement grant \$4,500, and Commonwealth Connect notification app worth \$15,000. We are in the third year of a three-year program which allows people to download the application to report pot holes, road defects, graffiti or missing/broken signs. This spring Mr. Gaumond intends to begin an aggressive campaign to highlight this program. The town is also involved in a regional stormwater initiative which received a grant in the amount of \$115,000 for all the towns participating in the program. The library received a grant in the amount of \$2,500, we received an ALB reforestation grant in the amount of \$20,000 a year for two years. Our regional health initiative received \$100,000 for a prescription drug program and we also received a MIIA loss control grant in the amount of \$5,000 which will be used by the Parks Commission to purchase a video monitoring system to discourage graffiti and break-ins at our snack shacks. There are also a number of school grants amounting to a couple of hundred thousand dollars.

**Commander Leo David Agnew Presentation of Certificate of Acknowledgement to the town in becoming a Purple Heart Town**

State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Leon Agnew joined the Board with Senator Chandler and Representative O'Day. Senator Chandler presented the Board with an official citation from the State House and congratulated the Town of West Boylston on becoming a Purple Heart Town. Commander Agnew introduced Tom Terrian and Tony Paine. He noted that back in 1782 General George Washington designed a purple heart with white lace around it and in 1932 Douglas McArthur went to Congress and designated that a Purple Heart would be presented to members of the military who are injured or killed during combat. They welcome West Boylston to the Purple Heart Community and presented the Board with a Certificate of Acknowledgement being designated as a town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be known as the Purple Heart community honoring all who made the ultimate sacrifice and shed their blood defending our country in all wars from West Boylston Massachusetts and honoring August 7<sup>th</sup> as Purple Heart Day.

Mr. Gaumond thanked West Boylston's Veterans Services Officer Doug Horka for his work in coordinating the presentation and his service to the town. He asked if the Senator or Representative had any news for the Board. Senator Chandler announced that they heard the town's and have come out with early Cherry Sheets. Rep. O'Day indicated that they would be happy to come back at any time to speak with the Board.

**Introduce New Firefighter/EMT Edward Flanagan**

Fire Chief Tom Welsh joined the Board with his new firefighter/EMT Ted Flanagan. Mr. Flanagan has been with the call department for a number of years, an 11 year resident and will replace a firefighter who moved to Colorado. The Chief noted that we wanted another paramedic to enhance our service. He added that Mr. Flanagan has been working in Lawrence, has a good reputation as a paramedic and firefighter, his wife is a teacher in Leominster and he has children in the school system. Mr. Flanagan thanked Mr. Gaumond and the Board for the opportunity noting that the town really embraced him. They love living in West Boylston and he is ready to be home and looks forward to many years being with the town. Mr. McCormick stated that he has all the confidence in the world in Chief Welsh and he looks forward to seeing Mr. Flanagan around town.

**NEW BUSINESS (cont.)**

6.Update on Regional Dispatch Project

The agenda package contains an update from Chief Minnich. He and Chief Welsh have met with the coordinator of the project Tom Kennedy numerous times. They also met with representatives of Motorola. The Motorola tower is one of the issues and they are working on and having a system built for our interoperability, intelligent transportation systems utilizing computer aided dispatch and public safety land mobile radio communications designed. They are still working on a point to point microwave system design and capacity with reliability that will carry communications from West Boylston to a tower in Princeton to Holden headquarters via microwave dishes. They two chiefs are working on their own technical assessment and will report back on their progress.

7. Consider issuing a Proclamation to officially declare April 8, 2014 Equal Pay Day in West Boylston

We received correspondence from Deborah Bouras, President of Business and Professional Women of Massachusetts requesting communities designate April 8, 2014 as Equal Pay Day and they are asking us to sign a Proclamation.

Motion Mr. Hadley to issue a Proclamation to declare April 8, 2014 Equal Pay Day in West Boylston, seconded by Mr. Bohnson, all in favor.

8. Consider signing Lease with D&S Realty for space at 127 Hartwell Street for the town's Senior Center

Mr. Gaumond reports that we went out to bid for lease of space for the town's senior center and there is a lease agreement in the Board's agenda package similar to the one we signed when we rented the current space. This will commence on July 1, 2014 and go through July 1, 2016 with an addition one-year option for 3,400 square feet of space. Year one our monthly rent is \$2,916 and year two it is \$3,062.50. Most of the other conditions are the same and Mr. Gaumond recommends the Board executive the contract. Mr. Bohnson pointed out that the Council on Aging is getting more space than they currently have and will be able to accommodate more people in the community.

Motion Mr. Hadley to sign the lease, seconded by Mr. Kittredge, all in favor.

9. Consider request from Dartmouth Select Board to support a modification within the state tax classification to expand the small business tax exemption

In the Board's agenda package is a letter from the Selectmen in the Town of Dartmouth asking for the Board's support for a tax credit for new small businesses. The information was forwarded to our Board of Assessors and our Regional Assessor for their recommendation. Currently none of the members of the Board of Assessors or the Regional Assessor feel this would be a value to the Town of West Boylston. West Boylston only has a handful of commercial/industrial properties with assessed values that exceed \$1 million and if implemented in West Boylston a small commercial exemption would result in a significant tax burden shift to the few high valued commercial and industrial properties resulting in three or four properties funding the proposed 20% reduction in other commercial/industrial property owner's taxes.

Mr. McCormick recommends the Board respectfully decline the offer. Mr. Hadley questioned what they were trying to get out of it. Mr. Gaumond explained that it was developed to assist small companies, however, the Town of Dartmouth may have a different demographic than West Boylston.

10. Consider request from the Alzheimer's Association Massachusetts/New Hampshire Chapter to ride through West Boylston during their 18<sup>th</sup> annual Ride to End Alzheimer's event on July 12, 2014

This request was sent to the Police Chief for his review and after discussion with the organization he is agreeable to the plan they laid out and recommends approval.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

**MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Beginning April 1 Republic Services will begin a Sharps Mail Back Program in the Town

Mr. Gaumond stated that he is very excited about this new program, which is something the town has been struggling with. People often have a difficult time disposing of hypodermic needles as you are not allowed to throw them out with the regular trash. This program will give residents a way to dispose of these items at no charge to the town. There will be a telephone number residents will be able to call, you will be able to order a kit to be mailed out to you and you mail it back to be properly disposed of. There will be more information forthcoming on the program, which begins on April 1.

2. Mr. McCormick presented Mr. Gaumond with a Professional Certification from the Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts for his outstanding contributions and service in local government.

3. March 26, 2014, 7:00 – Planning Board public hearing on proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaws to include a Medical Marijuana Overlay District Bylaw for the purpose of providing placement of Registered Marijuana Dispensaries in accordance with the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana Act in Business & Industrial Districts

4. Mr. McCormick thanked Mike Casey, Chairman of the Shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the members of his Committee for an outstanding event this past Sunday. He commended their hard work to put the parade together. We had 300 marchers who walked 200-feet, a fire truck, town officials, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Rep. James O'Day, Leprechauns, Brownies, face painters, nursery school, fife and drum band, and Savvos Fortiodis of The Manor with his Shriners' vehicle. He appreciated all the effort for the event which made it to newspapers in Australia, the LA Times and Dublin. It was covered all over the world and attended by a couple of thousand people. He also thanked Selectman Mike Kittredge who served as the Grand Marshall.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Rucho reports that he attended the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting the other night and over one hundred people were there to ask questions about the 40 Project in Oakdale. He suggested Mr. Gaumond send out a blog with a history of the project, which has been ongoing for the past ten years. The town fought the project in court and he thinks that information would be beneficial to the residents who are unaware of the history on the project.

Mr. Hadley would like an update on intersections and stop signs.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Rucho at 7:42 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: April 2, 2014

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Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

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Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

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Michael J. Kittredge, Jr., Selectman

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Christopher A. Rucho, Vice Chairman

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Siobhan M. Bohnson, Selectman

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John W. Hadley, Clerk