

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

In attendance were Acting Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Dr. Carl F. Kowalski; Member Randolph G. LaMattina; Member Justin R. Evans; and Town Administrator Lincoln D. Heineman. Acting Chairman Salvucci opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Acting Chairman Salvucci read the following into the record:

*In accordance with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, §20, this meeting is being held remotely in an on-line conference mode hosted on Zoom.com and members of the public are not able to physically attend. The meeting is being broadcast live on Comcast channel 12 and can be viewed via live stream at WHCA.tv. It will subsequently be broadcast on YouTube.com.*

Acting Chairman Salvucci asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence.

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED**, **second** by Mr. Bezanson, to approve the Open Session minutes of the following meetings:

- 12/18/20; 12/22/20; 1/5/21; 1/19/21; 1/26/21: Roll call vote: **unanimous**
- 12/22/20; 1/11/21: Roll call vote: **4-0-1** (Mr. Bezanson abstained)

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**Update: COVID-19**

Mr. Heineman advised the Board the Town has seen 1,003 cases since the beginning of the pandemic. Whitman is currently at 52.9 cases per 100,000. Chief Grenno and the Board of Health continue to work on a vaccine plan. Clinics that have already taken place focused on vaccinating first responders. There are also two clinics planned at Harvard Court during the month of February and two additional clinics in March. Mr. Heineman went on to say the key is receiving the vaccine from the state, noting the request for vaccines this past week was not fulfilled. Currently, it is unknown how many vaccines we will get and when we will get them.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Town Administrator Transition Consultant Contract**

Acting Chairman Salvucci announced that during an Executive Session on January 26, 2021, the Board voted unanimously to approve a contract between the Town and former Town Administrator Frank Lynam who is helping with the transition to a new town administrator.

### **Request of COA Director re: the Town's COVID-19 Protocols**

Council on Aging Director Mary Holland was present for this portion of the meeting.

Acting Chairman Salvucci explained that the Town's COVID protocols state that all town buildings are closed to the public until further notice; however, Mrs. Holland is asking to be able to continue with fuel assistance and podiatrist services as these are considered to be essential services. He also noted that Chief Grenno and the health inspector are in favor of this. After a brief discussion Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to approve the request of Council on Aging Director Mary Holland for permission to continue to maintain/offer fuel assistance and podiatrist services by appointment only. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Patrolman Appointment: Christopher Ezepik**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Hanlon to appoint Christopher Ezepik to the position of full-time Patrolman, effective March 1, 2021. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Auxiliary/Special Police Officer Resignation: Todd Engstrom**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to accept the resignation of Todd Engstrom from the position of Auxiliary/Special Police Officer, effective January 25, 2021. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **2021 Election Workers/Annual Town Election Hours**

Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to approve the request of Town Clerk Dawn Varley to appoint election workers for 2021 in accordance with the list provided; and to set the Annual Town Election hours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Second** Dr. Kowalski. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Rescind Appointments of Lisa M. Green**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to rescind the appointment of Lisa M. Green from the following positions, effective February 5, 2021: Affirmative Action Representative, Auction Permit Agent, Assistant Parking Clerk, Claim Agent, Buildings, Facilities & Capital Expenditures Committee (Member), By-law Study Committee (Member), Fair Housing Committee, Fair Housing Officer, Interim Town Administrator and Special Police Officer. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Appointments: Lincoln Heineman**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to appoint Lincoln Heineman to the following positions: Affirmative Action Representative, Auction Permit Agent, By-law Study Committee (Member), Claim Agent, Fair Housing Committee, Fair Housing Officer, Assistant Parking Clerk and Special Police Officer through June 30, 2021; and Buildings, Facilities & Capital Expenditures Committee (Member, indefinite term) in order to fill the existing vacancies. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Rescind Appointment: Michele Hayes**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** (with regret) to rescind the appointment of Michele Hayes from the position of Assistant Treasurer-Collector, effective December 31, 2020. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.** Acting Chairman Salvucci thanked Mrs. Hayes for her many years of service and wished her well in her retirement.

### **Appointment: Sharon LoPiccolo**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to appoint Sharon LoPiccolo to the position of Assistant Treasurer-Collector, through June 30, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.** Acting Chairman Salvucci welcomed Mrs. LoPiccolo and wished her good luck.

### **Annual & Special Town Meeting Warrants**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to open the annual and special Town Meeting warrants and to close same on March 5, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Town Administrator Transition Consultant Contract (revisited)**

Mr. LaMattina reminded Acting Chairman Salvucci that the Board must re-vote the contract in Open Session. Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to approve the Contract of Employment for the Town Administrator Transition Consultant between the Town of Whitman and Francis J. Lynam for the period January 27, 2021, through February 28, 2021. **Second** Dr. Kowalski. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Charlene Conway: Request to Reduce License Fees**

Mr. Heineman advised the Board he spoke with Mrs. Conway earlier today and came up with a possible resolution to her request. He recognized that her business was the only business in town to be entirely closed for 30 weeks during calendar year 2020 due to orders issued by Governor Baker. Pro-rating her fees based on the number of weeks her business was open would reduce her license fees from \$800 to \$240. Mr. Heineman recommended the Board vote to reduce the fees and apply a credit of \$560 to her license fees for 2021.

Mr. Evans asked if the licenses being pro-rated are licenses that are issued only by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Heineman confirmed that they are.

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to pro-rate license fees for licenses issued to Carousel Family Fun Center for calendar year 2020 as follows:

Amusement/Live Entertainment....\$18.24  
Common Victualler.....\$ 9.12  
Sunday Entertainment.....\$27.36  
Automatic Amusement Device.....\$185.28;

and to issue a credit in the amount of \$560.00 to said licensee to be applied to license fees due in calendar year 2021 (this vote was taken as a result of the business only being allowed to operate for a total of 19 weeks during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

**Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

At 7:27 p.m. Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.** Acting Chairman Salvucci declared that having this meeting in open session will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. The meeting will reconvene in open session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

Acting Chairman Salvucci read the following into the record:

*In accordance with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020, Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c.30A, §20, the Executive session portion of the meeting will be held in an on-line conference mode hosted on Zoom.com and members of the public will not be able to physically attend. No broadcast of Executive Session will be made.*

At 7:37 p.m. Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; and Acting Chairman Salvucci – yes. **So voted 5-0.**

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Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk