

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

In attendance were Acting Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member 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 dedicated to Janet Horkey, a Special Needs teacher at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School who passed away recently.

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. 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.**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, February 23, 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 announced that he will now be passing the gavel to Dr. Kowalski who is now ready to return to the role of Chairman of the Board. Dr. Kowalski thanked Mr. Salvucci for assuming the role of Chairman over the past few months.

ANNUAL/SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Presentation on Proposed Debt by SSVT Superintendent Dr. Hickey

Present for this portion of the meeting were Dr. Hickey and Jim Coughlin.

Dr. Hickey provided the Board with a presentation on several projects taking place at the school, including roof and window replacement, an overhaul of the ventilation and electrical infrastructure, ADA code upgrades, fire suppression, flooring upgrades and 40,000 square feet of additional space. The projects will be done in phases over a 6 year period (FY23 – FY28) using both BAN's and bonds. Based on enrollment from FY18 – FY20, Whitman's share of the projects will be 24.75% or \$18.9 million. Future capital expenses would be reclassified as debt

and capital costs would be lower. Both Dr. Hickey and Mr. Coughlin discussed how the requested amount was calculated and outlined the district level borrowing phase. Discussion ensued regarding submitting a Statement of Interest to the MSBA. Dr. Hickey noted if this is invited into the MSBA, the district has the funding for a feasibility study. Mr. LaMattina expressed concern with the impact on Whitman in FY27 as indicated in Dr. Hickey's presentation. Dr. Hickey stated that by doing the projects in phases, the district will need to listen to its communities. He sees the first few years as being manageable, and advised the Board that money has been put into stabilization on a regular basis. Mr. Heineman agreed the school is well run and well maintained. This could cause a disadvantage with the MSBA. Mr. Bezanson thanked Dr. Hickey and Mr. Coughlin for providing a very thorough presentation.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Update: COVID-19

Mr. Heineman advised the Board the Town is going in the right direction and has been in the yellow for the past two weeks. He also advised Mr. Evans that Health Inspector Dan Kelly is looking into whether gray is the same as green. Danielle Clancy continues to work with Chief Grenno and the Board of Health coordinating the vaccination process.

Mr. Heineman noted the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to take place on May 3. He is working toward that date unless there is an uptick in COVID cases or if he hears otherwise from the Board. He is currently looking at holding the meeting at Memorial Field or at the high school.

Mr. Evans advised the Board of an email he received from the director of the Council on Aging stating she is looking to resume the senior volunteer program. Chairman Kowalski stated this issue will be discussed at the next meeting or the meeting after.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Heineman advised the Board he will be presenting a draft warrant at the Board's next meeting.

Sewer Main Project

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that he attended the meeting of the Public Works Commissioners earlier this evening and they are requesting to meet with the Selectmen on March 23rd. Mr. LaMattina advised Mr. Heineman that he would like an update on the Buildings, Facilities and Capital Expenditures Committee's take on this project.

Dog Complaints

Mr. Heineman advised the Board of two complaints regarding dogs. He has directed the Animal Control Officers to prepare a report with recommendations to the Board.

COVID-19 (revisited)

Mr. Bezanson asked if Town Meeting could take place at Town Hall if the Town has been in the green for 3 weeks prior to the meeting. Mr. Heineman stated he has asked Todd DeCouto to determine how many people could fit inside the auditorium with social distancing in place as CDC guidelines must be followed. Mr. Evans asked Mr. Heineman to speak with DPW Superintendent Bruce Martin about possibly using the dump field because it has lights.

NEW BUSINESS

Rescind Appointments of Former Health Inspector

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the appointment of former Health Inspector Alexis Andrews from the position of Board of Health Representative – South Shore Recycling Cooperative; Municipal Coordinator “Right to Know” (Alternate); and Special Police Officer, effective February 25, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Appointments of Health Inspector to Various Positions

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Health Inspector Daniel Kelly to the position of Board of Health Representative – South Shore Recycling Cooperative for a three-year term, through June 30, 2022; Municipal Coordinator “Right to Know” (Alternate, indefinite term); and Special Police Officer for a one-year term, through June 30, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Resignation: Nicholas Foscaldo

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the resignation of Nicholas Foscaldo from the position of Auxiliary/Special Police Officer, effective January 16, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Resignation: Julie Visocchi

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the resignation of Julie Visocchi from the position of Crossing Guard/Special Constable, effective February 23, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Registrar Appointment: Michelle Winnett

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Town Clerk Dawn Varley to reappoint Michelle Winnett to the position of Registrar for the period April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2024. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**

MMHG Designee Appointment

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize Town Administrator Lincoln Heineman as Mayflower Municipal Health Group designee. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Appointment to Sick Leave Bank Committee

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Town Administrator Lincoln Heineman as a member of the Sick Leave Bank Committee for SEIU, Local 888 and OPEIU, Local 6. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Authorization to Apply for Grants/Sign Contracts

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize Town Administrator Lincoln Heineman to apply for grants and to sign contracts on behalf of the Town. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Flood Plain and Watershed Protection Districts

Mr. Heineman advised the Board of proposed amendments to the floodplain map that need to be adopted by the Town in order for residents to obtain flood insurance from national flood insurance programs. A vote of the Board is required to submit the proposal to the Planning Board for consideration. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to submit the proposed Town's Protective Zoning By-Law Section 7-4 *Flood Plain and Watershed Protection Districts* to the Planning Board for consideration. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**

Announce Board/Committee Vacancies

Chairman Kowalski announced Board/Committee vacancies and asked anyone interested in filling a vacancy to contact the Selectmen's office. The list will also be posted on the Town website.

At 8:17 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L. c.30A, §21a (7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.** Dr. Kowalski stated the Board will be reviewing an approving executive session minutes. The meeting will reconvene in open session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

Chairman Kowalski 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 8:54 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski - yes. **So voted 5-0.**