

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2019**

The meeting took place in the Selectmen's Meeting Room located in the upper level of Town Hall. In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Randolph G. LaMattina; and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Member Scott J. Lambiase was absent. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Chairman Kowalski announced the meeting is being recorded and televised by WHCA.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.**

Chairman Kowalski opened public forum and Mr. Lynam announced that WHCA has asked for permission to use the Selectmen's Meeting Room on April 23, 2019, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in order to host a candidate's forum. There was no objection from the Board.

Chairman Kowalski announced that the meeting dates for the month of April have been changed to Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 3-0-1** (Mr. Bezanson abstained).

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Application for a Common Victualler's License: Forever Healthy (Zilma Arroyo)**

Chairman Kowalski opened a public meeting in connection with the application of Forever Healthy (Zilma Arroyo) for a Common Victualler's License on the premises located at 571 Temple Street. Ms. Arroyo stated that her business offers healthy shakes and meal replacements in order to help people change their lifestyle. Chairman Kowalski noted that Ms. Arroyo has submitted a copy of her lease agreement and approval of the license should be subject to receipt of the license fee. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the application of Forever Healthy (Zilma Arroyo) for a Common Victualler's License on the premises located at 571 Temple Street subject to receipt of the license fee. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.**

### **Dollars for Scholars: Request to Declare the Month of April as “Dollars for Scholars Month”**

Chairman Kowalski read into the record a proclamation declaring the month of April as “Dollars for Scholars Month”. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Michael Ganshirt on behalf of Dollars for Scholars to declare the month of April as “Dollars for Scholars Month”. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.**

### **Dollars for Scholars: Request to Place a Fundraising Thermometer on Town Hall Lawn**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Michael Ganshirt on behalf of Dollars for Scholars to erect a fundraising thermometer on the Town Hall lawn from the beginning of April through the end of May. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.**

### **License Renewals: Fuel Storage Licenses, Junk Collector’s Licenses and Junk Dealer’s Licenses**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve license renewals for the following license holders for the period May 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020 subject to the submission of renewal paperwork, renewal fees and current tax status:

#### **1. Fuel Storage Licenses**

- a. Whitman Burial Vault/Watertown Engineering, 1200 Auburn Street
- b. The Stop & Shop Company, LLC #444, 465 Bedford Street
- c. TMC II Realty, dba Carey’s, 672 Bedford Street
- d. Jiffy Lube International #1918, 691 Bedford Street
- e. Whitman Middle School, 100 Corthell Avenue
- f. Department of Public Works, 100 Essex Street
- g. Ceejay Realty Trust (Joseph Saccone), 106 Essex Street
- h. DF OPCO LLC, dba Dari Farms, 210 Essex Street
- i. Conley School, 100 Forest Street
- j. Bullet Realty Co., dba T&K Asphalt Services, 7 Industrial Way
- k. Duval School, 60 Regal Street
- l. Trillium Fuel, dba Whitman Gas, 180 South Avenue
- m. A.L. Prime Energy Consultant, Inc., 79 Temple Street
- n. Cumberland Farms, Inc., 280 Temple Street
- o. MKPM Whitman, LLC, dba New World, 359 Bedford Street

#### **2. Junk Collector’s Licenses**

- a. Conway Scrap Metal, Inc., 36 Vincent Street
- b. Joseph Saccone (J. Saccone & Sons, Inc.), 106 Essex Street
- c. Peter J. Perry (P.J. Perry Trucking), 70 Kendrick Street

#### **3. Junk Dealer’s Licenses**

- a. Joseph Saccone (J. Saccone & Sons, Inc.), 106 Essex Street
- b. JC’s Things (Carl Danforth), 356 South Avenue
- c. Irresistible Treasures (Denise Donahue), 1122 Washington Street

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Board of Selectmen Handbook**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Board of Selectmen Handbook as presented. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.**

## **BUDGET REVIEW**

Mr. Lynam announced that he has been working on a number of different budget scenarios reflecting cuts within the departments. During a meeting with the Finance Committee last Tuesday, they requested the budget be adjusted to reflect 4 percent for the WHRSD. Mr. Lynam asked the town accountant to complete the exercise and, when it was completed, it was sent to the Board of Selectmen at the request of Chairman Kowalski. Earlier today, Mr. Lynam met with the department heads at their request. They also requested that Chairman Kowalski and Mr. Salvucci attend. Mr. Lynam went on to say that at the meeting, the department heads presented a budget that was very close to a budget that he was working on yesterday. He also noted that the department heads feel that placing an override and debt exclusion on the same ballot is unlikely to pass. Mr. Lynam is in agreement with the department heads, and pointed out that their numbers were \$90,000 less than his. He went on to say that there is a small shortfall between the available levy and budget obligations; and suggested free cash could be utilized to fund most of the articles, leaving a balance of \$583,000. The first 29 articles in the warrant can be funded through the levy as well as the ambulance fund, the police fine account, the sewer and water enterprise fund, Title V and Chapter 90. Because articles 30 through 46 would cost an additional \$973,947, Mr. Lynam suggested adjourning Town Meeting and returning after the annual town election. At that time, the outcome of the question regarding the debt exclusion would be known and Town Meeting can vote on whether to appropriate funds for the remaining articles or decide which of them they want to fund. Mr. Lynam noted that if the Board were to adopt the proposed budget and take no other action to increase revenue, the remaining articles could not be funded. He advised that the issue is sustainability. If this budget is adopted, the current bond debt must be approved as a debt exclusion, allowing \$1 million to be freed up. He went on to say that the first draft of a capital plan should be ready by the end of April, with the final draft available by late summer. If the consensus is that placing both an override and a debt exclusion on the ballot will fail, then placing only a debt exclusion on the ballot makes the most sense to get things back on track.

Mr. Salvucci expressed his appreciation to all of the department heads for coming together and deciding where they could cut their budgets, and at the same time keeping their departments intact and not having to lay off employees. Chairman Kowalski agreed with Mr. Salvucci, adding that he was apprehensive at first about attending the meeting, but was surprised to see that the budget presented by the department heads was very close to a budget Mr. Lynam was working on based on an override. He also noted that both he (pro-school) and Mr. Salvucci (pro-town), were invited to the meeting by the department heads. He went on to say the Board will have to decide next week what to place on the ballot. Chairman Kowalski advised that while all other departments are cutting their budgets, the WHRSD is receiving a 4 percent increase over last year, noting it is not what the schools want but it is what the town can afford. He finished by saying this is a way to start to build sustainability.

Shawn Kain addressed the Board and asked about a financial policy. Mr. Lynam advised Mr. Kain that a financial policy is included in the process of developing a capital plan. Mr. Kain then asked if there was a timeline on a strategic plan and Mr. Lynam said no, part of the assessment survey was to collect information. This is an involved process that will take time and support. Mr. Kain stated that all three are critical in the financial process and to implement them sooner rather than later would be helpful to the public, as well as the Board of Selectmen, in deciding whether to move forward with an override or debt exclusion.

Chairman Kowalski stated that he believes the residents need to know the town needs the money in order to continue with the level of services they have become accustomed to and to make the statement that they do not have the information is wrong. Mr. Kain questioned a closed door meeting between the department heads and two members of the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Kowalski advised Mr. Kain that the meeting was a strategy session that was vetted, and details of the meeting were given here in an open meeting. To call it a closed door meeting is insulting.

Mr. Bezanson noted the need for a pre-Town Meeting informational meeting and Mr. Lynam suggested scheduling such a meeting on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Salvucci stated that those attending the pre-Town Meeting must be advised that the town has come up with a budget without cutting staff.

Mr. LaMattina stated that 40 teachers will be laid off. He then advised that although he agrees with most of the budget presented, he has concerns with the risk of sacrificing almost \$1 million in capital items, therefore he does not see it as a great success. He went on to say that he received a budget at 8:30 last evening and now he's been presented with a different budget that the Finance Committee has not seen yet. Mr. LaMattina then told Lisa Green to go and ask Mr. Codero to come into the meeting. When Mr. Codero arrived, Mr. LaMattina asked him if the Finance Committee voted last week to give the schools 4 percent. Mr. Codero said no, a motion was made to discuss it – no vote was taken to recommend it. The numbers were changed by the town accountant and forwarded to the Finance Committee. Mr. Lynam advised that the budget sent to the Board by the Town Accountant reflects 4 percent for the schools as a placeholder with all other figures reverted back to what they were last year, which is what the Finance Committee asked for. After discussion, it was determined that the changes to the budget were the result of the instruction of the Finance Committee to reduce the budget of the WHRSD to a 4 percent increase which was to be used as a placeholder. Mr. LaMattina stated that this is convoluted and unclear, and if he does not know what is going on, how will the public know – there is no transparency. He went on to say that before he votes on a budget, he wants a policy adopted that states that a percentage of free cash will be allocated for capital spending. Mr. Lynam advised that discussion has taken place about allocating a percentage of free cash to capital spending and a percentage to capital stabilization over the last two years. Mr. Salvucci feels a nominal sum should be left as free cash. A brief discussion followed, where Mr. Bezanson agreed with Mr. LaMattina's idea that this would be a way of giving back to the taxpayers. Mr. LaMattina noted that such a policy would also reduce the number of transfer requests.

Hearing nothing further, Chairman Kowalski called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 4-0.**