

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MAY 28, 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; Member Justin R. Evans; and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. 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. Lynam called for reorganization of the Board of Selectmen. He then opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chairman. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to nominate Dr. Kowalski to the position of Chairman. Second Mr. Bezanson. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Lynam called for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor, so voted 4-1 (Mr. Lamattina opposed). Mr. Lynam then turned the meeting over to Chairman Kowalski.

Chairman Kowalski called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Salvucci for the position of Vice Chairman. Second Mr. Evans. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor, so voted 5-0. Chairman Kowalski called for nominations for the position of Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Bezanson for the position of Clerk. Second Mr. Evans. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. So voted 5-0.

At 7:03 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21a (1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual; and (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. **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.** The meeting will reconvene in Open Session.

At 7:42 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Chairman Kowalski opened public forum and John Galvin, 41 High Street, came forward to address the Board. Mr. Galvin congratulated Mr. Evans on being elected to the Board and Mr. Bezanson on being re-elected to the Board. He then asked Mr. Bezanson about the economic development plan he mentioned in his campaign and when it will be presented to the Board of

Selectmen. Mr. Bezanson stated that he has begun working on the plan with the help of Assistant Town Administrator Lisa Green and will be reaching out to the assessor, collector and state officials. More information should be available in three to four months.

Mr. Bezanson thanked the voters and congratulated Mr. Evans on being elected to the Board. He also thanked Mr. Lambiase for all of his work during his time as a member of the Board.

Mr. Salvucci announced that he attended the We Remember Ceremony at the Duval School; and read into the record a note written by Duval School student Jessica Makkos thanking him for attending.

Mr. Evans also thanked all those who came out to vote; and noted it was nice to see all of the enthusiasm. He then congratulated Mr. Bezanson on being re-elected and encouraged people to get involved by applying to fill vacancies on other Town boards and committees.

Mr. Bezanson announced that during the Memorial Day Parade, it was discovered that a plaque was missing from the Civil War monument in the park. The plaque has since been found by DPW employees who hope to be able to repair it.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **Continuance of Annual Town Meeting: Remaining Articles**

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that he has spoken with the Town of Hanson and representatives of the school committee regarding school capital projects that were voted by Hanson. Whitman currently has \$971,546 in free cash and \$154,674 in capital stabilization. \$532,000 will be transferred into capital stabilization due to the passing of the debt exclusion. Mr. Salvucci asked if all of the articles that Hanson approved will be voted on when Town Meeting reconvenes. Mr. Lynam advised Mr. Salvucci that he can't be sure of that. He then outlined the remaining articles pertaining to the school department; and noted Hanson did not vote to repair the cooling units for the performing arts center at the high school. He also advised the Board that the WHRSD School Committee will be meeting with the Finance Committee the week before Town Meeting. Mr. Lynam also advised of additional expenses to the Town because National Grid has not yet acknowledged our purchase of the streetlights; and suggested he be allowed to hold invoices until the situation is corrected. Mr. Lynam stated that of the remaining articles will need to be prioritized because it's not likely that they will all be voted at Town Meeting.

### **Budget Document & Capital Plan**

In an update on the budget document and capital plan being prepared by the Collins Center, Mr. Lynam advised the Board that he received the budget document. However, after reviewing the document and finding several errors, he returned it and asked that corrections be made. He then told the Board that today he received a request for the draft document, and that he is not comfortable releasing it as it typically would not be released until after being presented to the Board. Mr. Lynam stated that he anticipates receiving the corrected document next week, and recommended it not be released at this time.

Mr. LaMattina recommended the Board vote to place money from free cash back into stabilization. Mr. Lynam agreed that this could be an approach to take. Mr. Salvucci asked if the money would be placed into the stabilization account or into capital stabilization. Mr. Lynam advised the Board that there is \$2.6 million in the stabilization account and \$154,600 in the capital stabilization account. Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to reserve an additional \$150,000 from free cash for placement into capital stabilization. **Second** Mr. Salvucci, **so voted 5-0.**

Shawn Kain, 31 Forest Street, advised the Board that he was the person who requested a copy of the draft budget document; and asked if the document is public information. Mr. Lynam explained that when a report is commissioned, it does not become a public document until the Board of Selectmen receives it. Mr. Kain stated that he would like to review the document and be a part of the process. Mr. Lynam advised Mr. Kain that the whole process is interactive and the Collins Center will meet with the Board of Selectmen in a public meeting. Mr. Kain stated that he feels it should be an open process. Mr. Lynam explained to Mr. Kain that the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee are responsible for preparing the information. He then stated that if Mr. Kain wants to view the document, he can do so in the office of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. LaMattina advised Mr. Kain that he is all for transparency; however, there were a number of problems caused by the number of Article 2's that were presented leading up to Town Meeting. Mr. Galvin stated that the various versions of Article 2 gave him a better understanding of Town Meeting. Mr. LaMattina suggested putting a timeline in place and asked for a guideline identifying what the Board of Selectmen will be working on during the summer and fall to be presented at the next meeting.

## **BUDGET REVIEW**

### **See Town Administrator's Report**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Auxiliary/Special Police Officer Appt.: George Vemis**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the recommendation of Chief Benton to appoint George Vemis to the position of Auxiliary/Special Police Officer, through June 30, 2020. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

### **Permission to use Town Hall Auditorium: SPO**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra for permission to use the Town Hall Auditorium to conduct a free concert on April 26, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

### **Disclosure by Non-Elected Municipal Employee: Lisa Green**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the Disclosure by Non-Elected Municipal Employee of Financial Interest and Determination by Appointing Authority as required by G.L. c268A, §19 for Assistant Town Administrator Lisa Green. **Second** Mr. Bezanson. Mr. Lynam advised the Board the reason for the disclosure is because Mrs. Green's son will be working for the Recreation Department over the summer. **So voted 5-0.**

### **Selection for Audit**

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that he has no issue with selecting Melanson Heath as auditor however, if approved by the Board, Mr. Lynam will be asking Melanson Heath for a reduction in price of \$2,000. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept Melanson Heath as auditor for FY19 –FY21, subject to acceptable pricing. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

### **Special Town Meeting**

Mr. Lynam asked the Board to vote to call for a special Town Meeting on June 17, 2019. Mr. Galvin asked if the special Town Meeting warrant was opened up to Whitman Hanson Cable Access. Until recently, quarterly payments were made directly to the cable studio. Payments are now made to the Town and as a member of the WHCA Board, Mr. Galvin expressed concern as to how the money will be made available to the studio. Mr. Lynam advised that he is not adverse to adding an article to the special Town Meeting warrant to appropriate the money, however, the

article must contain an amount of money. Mr. Galvin was advised to speak with the director of the studio and report back to Mr. Lynam tomorrow, as the warrant has to be posted Thursday. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to call for a special Town Meeting on June 17, 2019, subject to a final warrant. **Second Mr. Bezanson. So voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Grenno for a line item transfer in the amount of \$8,600.00 from Line Item #133 (All Other Services) to Line Item #140 (Ambulance Billing) **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Grenno for a line item transfer in the amount of \$10,000.00 from Line Item #133 (All Other Services) to Line Item #135 (Expense). **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

### **June Meeting Schedule**

The Board set their June meeting schedule for Monday, June 17, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Election Day Parking Policy**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve as presented the Policy for Parking During Elections. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

#### **Request to Change Date of Previously Approve Use of Town Hall Auditorium**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Christine Morse to change the date of previously approved use of the Town Hall Auditorium to conduct a beauty pageant to benefit the Miss Whitman Scholarship Organization on October 5, 2019, to the revised date of March 1, 2020. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

At 8:34 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.**

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Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk