

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JULY 6, 2021**

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 Lincoln D. Heineman. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

This portion of the meeting took place in the office of the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Kowalski asked for a motion to move into Executive Session.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21a, (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.

Contract of Employment for Incoming Fire Chief

At 6:10 p.m. the meeting reconvened. Chairman Kowalski announced the Board voted unanimously in Executive Session to approve a three year contract with incoming fire chief Timothy Clancy. He then called for the Board to vote again in Open Session. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Contract of Employment between the Town of Whitman and Timothy J. Clancy, Jr. for the period July 9, 2021, through June 30, 2024. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

At 6:15 p.m. the Board recessed in order to move into the Town Hall Auditorium for the next portion of the meeting.

At 6:20 p.m. the meeting resumed.

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 5-0.**

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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 4-0-1** (Mr. LaMattina abstained).

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 4-0-1** (Chairman Kowalski abstained).

6:30 P.M. – Promotional Ceremony: Whitman Fire Department

Town Clerk Dawn Varley swore in Timothy Clancy, Jr. as Whitman’s newest fire chief. Chief Clancy was then pinned with his badge by his wife Danielle and daughter Kiley. Following the ceremony, Chairman Kowalski announced the Board voted to approve a three-year contract with Chief Clancy, which was signed by the Board and Chief Clancy just prior to the promotional ceremony.

At 6:39 p.m. Chairman Kowalski announced the Board will now enter into a brief recess in order to move into the Selectmen’s Meeting Room for the remaining portion of the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

6:45 P.M. – Joint Meeting With the Five Whitman Members of the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Committee to Interview Candidates for the Purpose of Filling a Vacancy.

School Committee members present were Steven Bois, Dawn Byers, David Forth, Christopher Scriven and Fred Small.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to open the joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the five Whitman members of the WHRSDC. **Second** Mr. Small, **so voted 10-0.**

Chairman Kowalski explained that due to the resignation of Mr. Cullity, there is a vacant seat on the WHRSDC. The reason for this meeting is to interview six candidates who are interested in filling that vacancy. The candidates will be interviewed in alphabetical order, beginning with Heather Clough. The members of the WHRSDC will present their questions first, followed by the members of the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Kowalski then asked all of the candidates with the exception of Ms. Clough to exit from the meeting room until they were called upon to be interviewed.

The candidates interviewed were Heather Clough (6:45 p.m.); Shawn Kain (7:08 p.m.); Sandra Masison (7:38 p.m.); Beth Stafford (8:00 p.m.); Ryan Tressel (8:22 p.m.); and Robert Trotta (9:07 p.m.).

A 5 minute recess took place at 7:55 p.m.

Prior to being interviewed each candidate briefly explained why they would like to serve as a member of the WHRSDC.

Some of the questions asked of the candidates were:

- Tell us why we should chose you, rather than someone else, to fill the vacant seat.
- Can you speak to any experience you have on any other boards or committees?
- Describe your understanding of the budget process and the key events or timeline of the budget process.
- What is your understanding of the charge or responsibility of a school committee member?
- Will you recognize the correction that needs to be made and describe how you will help bring perpetual investment in children's education back in line with the state average (with respect to the regional funding formula).
- Describe a vote the WHRSDC has taken that you supported and why; and describe a vote the WHRSDC has taken that you did not support and why.
- What are some things about yourself that you feel you need to work on?
- What do you feel are the top 3 areas of the strategic plan recently discussed at a WHRSDC meeting?
- If chosen, do you plan to run for the seat?
- Are there any issues that you would have to abstain from voting on due to a conflict of interest?
- What is your opinion on critical race theory?

Following the interview process, all candidates returned to the room. Chairman Kowalski thanked the candidates for their interest in serving. He then asked for a motion to place the names of all six candidates into nomination; and noted if no one candidate receives 6 votes, the person with the lowest number of votes will be removed and a vote will be taken on the remaining candidates. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to place the names of all the candidates into nomination. **Second** Mr. Small. Roll call vote revealed the following:

Mr. Bois = Robert Trotta
Mr. Forth = Heather Clough
Ms. Byers = Heather Clough
Mr. Bezanson = Beth Stafford
Mr. Salvucci = Beth Stafford
Chairman Kowalski = Robert Trotta
Mr. Evans = Beth Stafford
Mr. LaMattina = Beth Stafford
Mr. Small = Beth Stafford
Mr. Scriven = Robert Trotta

The motion did not carry as no one candidate received 6 votes. Mr. Kain, Ms. Masison and Mr. Tressel were removed from the next vote.

A second roll call vote revealed the following:

Mr. Scriven = Robert Trotta
Mr. Small = Beth Stafford
Mr. LaMattina = Beth Stafford
Mr. Evans = Beth Stafford
Chairman Kowalski = Robert Trotta
Mr. Salvucci = Beth Stafford
Mr. Bezanson = Beth Stafford

Ms. Byers = Heather Clough
Mr. Forth = Heather Clough
Mr. Bois = Beth Stafford

So voted 6-2-2 (Stafford, Clough, Trotta) in favor of Beth Stafford.

Chairman Kowalski congratulated Mrs. Stafford; and Mrs. Stafford thanked everyone for their support.

At 9:35 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 10-0.**

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk