

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2022**

In attendance were Chairman F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Randolph G. LaMattina; Member Justin R. Evans; and Town Administrator Lincoln Heineman.

Chairman Kowalski asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence dedicated to Robert McCarthy, former State Representative and member of the East Bridgewater Board of Selectmen who passed away on January 15th.

Chairman Kowalski announced the meeting is being recorded and broadcast live on Comcast channel 12 and via live stream at WHCA.tv.

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, December 7, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 4-0-1** (Mr. Salvucci abstained).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Update: COVID-19

Mr. Heineman advised of a 28.56 percent positivity rate in Whitman with 65 percent of residents vaccinated. The second round of home test kits will be distributed at the Whitman Middle School on Friday, January 21st, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. On Thursday, January 20th, a booster clinic will be held at the Knights of Columbus from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mr. Heineman went on to say all town buildings are fully open as of last Thursday; a special Town Meeting is scheduled on January 31st and both he and the Town Clerk are comfortable with the set-up of the auditorium. If a decision is made to postpone the special Town Meeting, the Town Moderator and the Board of Selectmen will set a new date.

Chief Clancy advised the Board of the possibility of an additional booster clinic on February 9th.

Schools Audit

Mr. Heineman advised the Board of a meeting he had with Hanson Town Administrator Lisa Green and Board of Selectmen member Laura Fitzgerald-Kemmett where he learned the Hanson

Board of Selectmen wishes to proceed with an audit of the schools. The previous Invitation for Bids was reviewed, as well as APRA and circuit breaker funds. The Invitation for Bids is due on February 19th.

Whitman Middle School Project

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that the Whitman Middle School Building Committee has approved Colliers International as Owners Project Manager. Colliers has also been approved by the MSBA. On January 25th, Colliers will meet with the committee to discuss solicitations for designer services. Mr. Salvucci asked who decides whether the existing school gets renovated or if a new school is built. Mr. LaMattina advised Mr. Salvucci that the committee will make the decision after reviewing four options per MSBA guidelines.

Announce New DPW Employee

Mr. Heineman announced the hiring of new DPW employee Thomas Blinn.

NEW BUSINESS

Appoint Checkers for the January 31st Special Town Meeting

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Town Clerk Dawn Varley to appoint checkers for the January 31, 2022, special Town Meeting. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Appoint Election Workers for 2022 and Set the Annual Town Election Hours

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Town Clerk Dawn Varley to appoint election workers for 2022 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** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Policies

Mr. Heineman stated an amendment was made to the Procurement Card Policy to allow for one card per the request of the Board. Shawn Kain, 31 Forest Street, asked how the financial policies will be presented to the public. Mr. Heineman stated there is some nexus to the upcoming special Town Meeting but only indirectly as there is no requested debt. The Plan is to inform the public there is no borrowing but this is in line with the new financial policies. Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to adopt the Town of Whitman Procurement Card Policy as amended. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Establish a Mission Statement for the DPW Building Committee and Consider Appointments to Said Committee

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that Public Works Commissioners chairman, Kevin Cleary, is in agreement with the mission statement. Also, Don Esson, current chairman of the Capital Committee, applied for a position on the DPW Building Committee a few hours ago resulting in six people expressing interest in being appointed to the DPW Building Committee. The Selectmen will need to appoint four of those people and one selectman to serve on the committee.

Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Salvucci to serve as Board of Selectmen representative. **Second** Mr. Lamattina, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heineman announced the names of the six candidates: Richard Anderson; Donald Esson; John Galvin; David Lemay; Francis Lynam; and Donnie Westhaver. He then asked the Board to vote to appoint four candidates to the DPW Building Committee.

Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to appoint Francis Lynam to the DPW Building Committee. **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Evans **MOVED** to appoint John Galvin to the DPW Building Committee. **Second** Mr. LaMattina, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to appoint Donald Esson to the DPW Building Committee. **Second**, Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. LaMattina **MOVED** to appoint Richard Anderson to the DPW Building Committee. Mr. Evans took a moment to clarify the Board is not attempting to exclude any current and former DPW employees. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Bezanson thanked both Mr. Lemay and Mr. Westhaver for their interest in being appointed to the committee and suggested they both consider attending the public meetings.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to establish the following as the mission statement of the DPW Building Committee: "The Department of Public Works Building Committee shall oversee the procurement of a new DPW building at 100 Essex Street." **Second** Mr. Bezanson, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Heineman stated he would like the Board to review the proposed balanced budget on February 1st, during a joint meeting with the Finance Committee. He advised the Board the Finance Committee has already posted the meeting. The Board scheduled meeting dates of January 31, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.; February 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.; and February 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:38 p.m. 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; and (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; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 5-0.** Chairman Kowalski 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.

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk