

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2023**

In attendance were Chairman Randolph G. LaMattina; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Justin R. Evans; Member Shawn M. Kain; Member Dr. Carl F. Kowalski; and interim Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Chairman LaMattina opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and was followed by a moment of silence dedicated to Representative Sullivan's family and School Committee Member Beth Stafford, who recently lost her mother.

Chairman LaMattina announced that the meeting is being recorded and televised.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept bill and payroll warrants. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

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

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Thursday January 12, 2023, **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 4-0-1** (Dr. Kowalski abstained).

Chairman LaMattina opened public forum and no one in attendance came forward to address the Board.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

The Garage II: Request for Increase in Vehicles

Chairman LaMattina opened a public meeting in connection with the application of The Garage II (Eric Schneider) to increase the number of vehicles for sale on the premises located at 849 Temple Street from 30 vehicles to 60 vehicles. Mr. Schneider was present for the meeting; and advised the Board that he received a special permit and site plan approval from the Board of Appeals in conjunction with his request to increase the number of vehicles for sale.

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to approve the application of The Garage II (Eric Schneider) to increase the number of vehicles for sale on the premises located at 849 Temple Street from 30 vehicles to 60 vehicles. **Second** Mr. Salvucci, **so voted 5-0.**

Amanda Cole, dba Mandy's RV Center: Class II License Application

Chairman LaMattina opened a public meeting in connection with the application of Amanda Cole, dba Mandy's RV Center for a Class II Auto Dealer's License on the premises located at 410 Bedford Street. Amanda Cole was present for the meeting. Mr. Lynam expressed his concern with the approval granted by the Board of Appeals as he feels this proposal creates too much density on the lot. It is his recommendation that the Board allow a maximum of 6 vehicles. Ms. Cole stated she believes she can fit up to 15 vehicles on the lot. Mr. Lynam advised Ms. Cole all vehicles shall be required to be parked on pavement, not on grassy areas.

Discussion took place regarding whether access to the rear of the property can accommodate emergency vehicles based on the location of vehicle display spaces located at the rear; the location of the dumpster; and conditions put in place by the Board of Appeals. Following discussion, the Board agreed to allow 7 vehicles, with the possibility of increasing that number upon a favorable recommendation from the fire department and the building inspector. In addition, the Board agreed that all conditions mentioned in the approval granted by the Board of Appeals on December 12, 2022 (Case # 25-2022), must be adhered to. Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to approve the application of Amanda Cole, dba Mandy's RV Center for a Class II Auto Dealer's License with a vehicle limit of seven (7), on the premises located at 410 Bedford Street, subject to receipt of a surety bond; the license fee; and final inspection/approval of the Building Commissioner. Approval also includes all conditions set forth by the Board of Appeals being adhered to and all vehicles being parked on paved areas. **Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Chief Clancy provided a COVID-19 update. There were 29 positive tests out of 343 tests performed resulting in an 8.45% positivity rate. The Covid-19 team continues to monitor CDC updates.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman LaMattina thanked Mr. Kain, Mr. Lynam and Mr. Lytle for their hard work on the budget and he looks forward to the budget presentation at the next meeting; and further stated that he attended the Mass Municipal Conference which had several positive take-aways. Chairman LaMattina reported that the Governors' budget will be available on March 1, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

SelectMA Soccer re: Camp Alice Carlton Land.

Representatives from SelectMA Soccer Club were present to discuss their request to use land located at Camp Alice Carlton in Whitman and Rockland. They propose to create two full sized soccer fields, walking trails and a playground. Chairman LaMattina stated that it is a fantastic opportunity and a great organization. Mr. Evans inquired about hours of operation and lighting in consideration of residential neighbors. Mr. Monroe stated the fields will be closed by 8:00 p.m. and lighting would be cautiously placed so as not to disrupt the neighbors. Following the presentation, Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to authorize the Town Administrator to continue discussions with SelectMA Soccer regarding the land located at Camp Alice Carlton; and to begin an evaluation of the property. **Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.**

Rescind Approval of Whitman Little League Tollbooth

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the approval granted on January 10, 2023, to Whitman Little League to conduct a tollbooth fundraiser on June 10, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Request for Tollbooth Fundraiser (amended date): Whitman Little League

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Whitman Little League to conduct a tollbooth fundraiser on April 15, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Waikiki House: Rescind Common Victualler’s (did not renew for 2023)

Mr. Salvucci thanked the owners of the Waikiki House for their dedicated business and service to Whitman; and congratulated them on their retirement. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED**, with regret, to rescind the Common Victualler’s License for Waikiki House, located at 680 Bedford Street. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Body Magic, Inc.: Rescind Class II Auto Dealer’s License (did not renew for 2023)

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED**, with regret, to rescind the Class II Auto Dealer’s License for Body Magic, Inc. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Resignation: Chris DiOrio, By-law Study Committee

Chairman LaMattina read a resignation letter from Mr. DiOrio in which he stated that he did not agree with the decision of the Town Clerk regarding the use of the town seal on a cookie designed by his wife. The cookies were distributed as a gift at a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen – they were not sold and were not labeled with the name of his wife’s business. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED**, with regret, to accept the resignation of Chris DiOrio from the position of Member, By-Law Study Committee. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Disposal of Obsolete Safety Vests

Chief Clancy advised the Board that the safety vests currently in the Town’s possession have expired. The Department of Fire Services is requesting to use the vests for training purposes only. Mr. Lynam stated that the vests have no value. Mr. Salvucci asked if the vests were originally purchased for use in hostile events. He was assured that the vests have been replaced with a current version. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Chief Clancy to declare obsolete safety vests as surplus material; and to authorize said vests to be donated to the Department of Fire Services. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

February Meeting Schedule

The Board set their meeting schedule for Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Rescind Appointment: David Codero, Member, Capital Committee

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the appointment of David Codero form the position of Member, Capital Committee. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Appointment: Kathleen Ottina, Capital Committee

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Kathleen Ottina to the position of Member, Capital Committee (indefinite term), in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

Report on Regional Agreement Amendment Committee

Mr. Evans reported that he attended a meeting of the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee, and he raised a list of topics discussed including the suggestion of a member of the Hanson Select Board to raise the voting threshold to a 2/3 vote. Transportation was also discussed and Mr. Evans said that all transportation methods should be treated the same. Mr. Galvin reminded all that the towns of Whitman and Hanson have different policies regarding

non-mandated busing, crossing cards, sidewalks, etc. and that each town can do what they would like regarding transportation. Mr. Salvucci inquired about the state mileage limit for busing to which Mr. Lynam responded that the town is subject to the policy the region sets which is 1.5 miles. Mr. Evans went on to say that capital costs were increased to \$20,000. A definition of emergency costs needs to be established especially in light of the prior mold remediation issue. Chairman LaMattina clarified that an emergency is an issue that impacts the school not being able to open the following day. Mr. Evans suggested that the Regional Agreement be reviewed every 3-5 years. Chairman LaMattina clarified that DESE has a standard that it would need to be reviewed every 5 years.

INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Increase in Utility Costs

Mr. Lynam stated that there is a major increase in utility costs in the last 30 days. The Town uses Constellation for a better rate; and also gets net metering credits through a net metering agreement, resulting in a 22 percent discount. He is also looking at aggregation. A vote is required by Town Meeting. Mr. Evans noted the process regarding aggregation will take about a year.

Closing of Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Lynam would like to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant on February 9, 2023. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to close the annual Town Meeting warrant at the close of business on Thursday, February 9, 2023. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

At 8:02 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §21(a)(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 (4) to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. **Second** Dr. Kowalski. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. Kain – yes; Dr. Kowalski – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman LaMattina – yes. **So voted 5-0.** The meeting will reconvene in Open Session only for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 8:27 p.m. Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Salvucci, **so voted 5-0.**

Justin R. Evans, Clerk