

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

In attendance were Chairman Randolph G. LaMattina; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Justin R. Evans; Members Shawn M. Kain and Dr. Carl F. Kowalski; and Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter.

Chairman LaMattina opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and was followed by a moment of silence.

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

Chairman LaMattina welcomed new Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter.

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.**

Chairman LaMattina opened public forum and WHRSDC member Dawn Byers came forward to address the Board. Ms. Byers spoke about the Town's levy and requested that Whitman use all of its available renewable revenue. She also suggested that the town-owned building at 168 Whitman Avenue being used by Self Help, Inc. would be a valid revenue stream, and although Self Help offers a great program, in her opinion the building is being given away for free. Mr. Lynam clarified the tax levy calculation. Chairman LaMattina asked Mr. Lynam to further clarify the 2013 tax levy which was due to the growth in utilities. Following Mr. Lynam's explanation, Mr. Kain thanked Ms. Byers for her inquiry and advised her that he will look into the issue.

Finance Committee member Rosemary Connolly also addressed the Board and stated that she has been researching how utilities are assessed locally and will be forwarding that information to Mr. Kain. She also noted there is a major difference in our assessed values for utilities and what we actually charge.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the February 7, 2023, Board of Selectmen meeting. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS/EVENTS**

**Holmestead Harvest (Elizabeth Wilson)**

Chairman LaMattina opened a public meeting in connection with the application of Holmestead Harvest (Elizabeth Wilson) for a Common Victualler's License at 30 Temple Street, Unit C. Ms. Wilson advised the Board she currently operates her business from a small farm stand in East Bridgewater. Her plan is to have a commercial kitchen, a farm stand and a specialty grocery store, with seating for approximately 20 people. She will also be hosting small events such as paint nights, etc. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the application of Holmestead Harvest

(Elizabeth Wilson) for a Common Victualler's License on the premises located at 30 Temple Street, Unit C, subject to receipt of a copy of the workers' compensation policy declaration page; the license fee; and final approval of the Board of Health, Fire Chief and Building Commissioner. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Chief Clancy provided a Covid-19 update. There was an increase of 41 cases with 313 tests performed. The positivity rate increased slightly to 13 percent. Chief Clancy will continue to monitor the situation.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

#### **Update: WMS Building Project**

Chairman LaMattina provided an estimated cost of \$127.5 million for a new Whitman Middle School (grades 5 through 8 with an auditorium) with the Town's portion of the cost being \$67.1 to \$73.1 million, depending on reimbursement from the MSBA. The OPM will be setting up a dedicated website for those seeking information on the project. A link to that website will be provided on the town's website.

Chairman LaMattina stated that Kathleen Ottina and Josh McNeil were added as Members to the Whitman Building Committee.

Chairman LaMattina advised the Board that a special Town Meeting will need to take place in November to seek approval for this project. If approved, it will need to be placed on a ballot at a special election.

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that the town received \$23,000 in voter reimbursements from the state which can be used to fund a special Town Meeting and a special election.

Mr. Evans floated the idea of placing the question on the ballot for the presidential primary in March, 2024, as there would be a much higher voter turnout. Chairman LaMattina advised Mr. Evans that MSBA guidelines must be followed and he is unsure if that would be an option. All members of the board agreed placing the question on the presidential primary ballot would be ideal and Chairman LaMattina agreed to look into whether that could be an option.

#### **ATA Hiring Process**

Chairman LaMattina would like to proceed with the hiring process for an Assistant Town Administrator and suggested forming a committee to do so. The Committee will consist of Chief Clancy, Mary Beth Carter, Mr. Evans and Dr. Kowalski. Ms. Carter will draft a job description and provide a salary range at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Mary Beth Carter: Appointment to MMHG**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Mary Beth Carter as Whitman's representative to the Mayflower Municipal Health Group. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

#### **Mary Beth Carter: Various Appointments**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to appoint Mary Beth Carter to the following positions: Affirmative Action Representative; Auction Permit Agent; By-Law Study Committee (Member); Claim Agent; Fair Housing Committee-Fair Housing Officer; and Assistant Parking Clerk through June 30, 2023; Capital Committee (Member, indefinite term) and WHRSD Regional Agreement

Review Committee (indefinite term); in order to fill the existing vacancies. **Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.**

**WCC: request to Use Town Hall Auditorium**

Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to approve the request of Kristy Zamagni-Twomey on behalf of the Whitman Cultural Council for permission to use the Town Hall auditorium on Friday, June 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. for an indoor free concert performed by members of the Massachusetts Walking Tour, subject to the Town Administrator obtaining additional information on the event, i.e. the number of hours required for the event and is the event free to the public or is it a fundraiser. **Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.**

**Annual Spring Drug and Sharps Turn-in Day**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of the Board of Health to conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Drug and Sharps Turn-in Day on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the parking lot at the WPD. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

**Appointment: Averi Moccia**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Averi Moccia to the position of Member, Whitman Cultural Council, for the remainder of a three-year term, through June 30, 2024, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

**Appointment: Joe Moccia**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Joe Moccia to the position of Member, Conservation Commission, for a three-year term, through June 30, 2025, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

**Appointment/Rescind: Margaret Schnabel**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Margaret Schnabel to the position of Member, Historical Commission, for the remainder of a three-year term, through June 30, 2024, in order to fill an existing vacancy; and to rescind the appointment of Margaret Schnabel as Associate Member of the Historical Commission, effective immediately. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

**Appointment: Cheryl McPhee**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to appoint Cheryl McPhee to the position of Member, Whitman Cultural Council, for the remainder of a three-year term, through June 30, 2024, in order to fill an existing vacancy. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

**Request for Use of Town Counsel to Recover Detail Payments**

Mr. Lynam advised the Board of the failure of Rochester Bituminous to pay invoices from the WPD for detail police officers hired to work during the construction of the new intersection at Park Avenue and Essex Street. Rochester Bituminous did however include the cost of those detail officers in its invoice to the Town for the construction of the intersection. The DPW paid that invoice not realizing Rochester Bituminous had not paid the invoices from WPD. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize the Town Administrator to engage Town Counsel for the purpose of recovering detail payments from Rochester Bituminous. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

### **Civil Service: Call for Appointment List (Police)**

Deputy Chief Bombardier stated that with the recent resignation of Kelly Travers (resignation letter provided to the Board by Deputy Chief Bombardier) the Town has two candidates remaining on the list who have been working in the town since 2017, and both are great candidates who meet all the criteria. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to call for a list of full-time police officers from the Town's active Reserve/Permanent Intermittent list from Civil Service. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

### **Resignation: Kelly Travers**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the resignation of Kelly Travers from the position of Reserve/Permanent Intermittent Police Officer, effective February 21, 2023. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

### **Proposal: Community Resource Dog**

Deputy Chief Bombardier discussed the value in having a comfort or community resource dog. The WPD received a \$5,000 donation from T&K Asphalt which can be used as 25 percent of the cost. The department has also received information that it is first in line for the MDAA Mini-Grant in the amount of \$5,000. The department will fundraise for the remaining funds needed. The dog will have an area in the police station and will reside with a handler. Mr. Salvucci shared his family's positive experience with a comfort dog. Dr. Kowalski agrees that it is a great idea a sentiment shared by Chairman LaMattina. Deputy Chief Bombardier is currently working on a policy. Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to approve Deputy Chief Bombardier's proposal for a Community Resource Dog. **Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted, 5-0.**

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Sign CBA with SEIU, Local 888 & IAFF, Local 1769**

No representatives from either group was present. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to table signing the Collective Bargaining Agreement with SEIU, Local 888 and the Collective Bargaining Agreement with IAFF Local 1769. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

#### **Camp Alice Carlton Property**

Mr. Lynam discussed the recurring topic regarding the Camp Alice Carlton property. He is suggesting selling the Rockland and Whitman parcels to MA Select Soccer, with the land in Rockland to carry a notation that it be memorialized to Alice Carlton and the land in Whitman dedicates as the Camp Alice Carlton Memorial Park. The deed states that the land must be used for recreational purposes. After some investigation, Mr. Lynam discovered the Town never voted to accept the land; and he is requesting to place it on the annual Town Meeting warrant in order for the Town to vote to accept the parcels as they were deeded to us. Mr. Kain would like to explore all of the options available for the land. Dr. Kowalski stated he was very impressed with the proposal of MA Select Soccer. Chairman LaMattina agreed. Mr. Lynam has also submitted a reserve fund transfer to the Finance Committee in order to have the property surveyed. He then asked for the Board's support with this issue because the Finance Committee feels the survey should be paid for by the buyer after the purchase is made. Mr. Salvucci

**MOVED** to support a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$7,500 submitted to the Finance Committee by interim Town Administrator Frank Lynam for the purpose of surveying the Camp Alice Carlton property. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0. Mr. Lynam advised the Board he will continue to work with Ms. Carter on the matter.

**INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Lynam had nothing to present to the Board.

At 8:09 p.m. Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Salvucci, **so voted 5-0.**

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Justin R. Evans, Clerk