

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 7, 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 the meeting is being recorded and televised by WHCA.

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 approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on February 21, 2023. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Kowalski thanked Frank Lynam for serving as the interim Town Administrator for the last several months; and expressed gratitude for his accomplishments during the many years he served as the town administrator. This statement was met with a standing ovation.

OLD BUSINESS

WMS Building Project.

Chairman LaMattina expressed that the last meeting was a brainstorming session and that no decisions were made. Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter informed the Board that she met with John Bates, the Project Manager of the Whitman Middle School project, to discuss the project budget. She feels it would be best to put it out to the voters at the March, 2024, Presidential Primary Election, when there would be the most voter turn-out. However, delaying the vote until then would increase the cost of the project by approximately \$800,000. Chairman LaMattina, Dr. Kowalski, Mr. Kane and Mr. Salvucci agree that attracting the greatest number of voters is the best idea. Mr. Evans had reservations due to the increase in cost.

Fred Small, Chairman of the Whitman Middle School Building Committee stated that moving forward quickly is not being irresponsible. He stated that all residents will have the opportunity to vote whenever it is decided to hold the vote. He suggested holding a Special Town Meeting in January with a special election in February.

John Galvin, also a member of the Whitman Middle School Building Committee asked that the timeline be clarified. Mr. Lynam confirmed that the election must take place 35 days after the

special Town Meeting, which is in the Town by-laws. Mr. Galvin notified the Board that there will have to be two ballots; separating the Presidential election from this election. The Board was aware of this and agreed to extend an invitation to the Town Clerk to attend the next meeting in order to further discuss the issue.

COVID-19 Update

Chief Clancy provided a Covid-19 update. There were 244 tests performed resulting in 16 positive tests. This is a positivity rate of 6.5%; a 50% decrease. The wastewater report also showed a gradual decrease.

OLD BUSINESS

Sign CBA with SEIU, Local 888

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Whitman and the Whitman Public Library Employees, SEIU, Local 888 for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Sign CBA with IAFF, Local 1769

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Town of Whitman and Whitman Firefighters Association, Local 1769, I.A.F.F., AFL-CIO for the periods July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2020; and July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.** Representatives from the Union were present to sign the Agreement which was also signed by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Taxi/Livery License and Taxi/Livery Driver's Certificate Renewals

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to renew the Taxi/Livery License and Taxi/Livery Driver's Certificate for Eric Young, dba Sleipnir Transportation, 8 Danecca Drive, for the period April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, subject to receipt of all required paperwork and license fees. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to renew the Taxi Livery License and Taxi/Livery Driver's Certificate for Edwar's Transportation (Edwar Guirguis), 15 Hilltop Road, for the period April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, subject to receipt of all required paperwork and license fees. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Resignation: Karen Marshall

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the resignation of Karen Marshall from the position of Member, Historical Commission, effective February 17, 2023. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Rescind Appt. to DPW Bldg. Committee (L. Heineman)/Appt. to DPW Bldg. Committee (M. Carter)

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to rescind the appointment of Lincoln Heineman as Member, DPW Building Committee, and to appoint Mary Beth Carter to the position of Member, DPW Building Committee. **Second Dr. Kowalski, so voted 5-0.**

Registrar Appt.: Yvonne B. Evans

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to reappoint Yvonne B. Evans to the position of Registrar of Voters for a three-year term, beginning April 1, 2023 and expiring March 31, 2026. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

Harbor to the Bay Charity Bike Ride

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Jim Morgrage and David Whitman on behalf of Harbor to the Bay, Inc. for permission to pass through Whitman along Route 58 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2023, in connection with the 21st and final Harbor to the Bay Charity Bike Ride. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

OLD BUSINESS (continued)

Cultural Council: Request for Use of Town Hall Auditorium

Ms. Carter advised the Board of the answers she received to the questions that were asked at the previous meeting. This is a free concert, not a fundraiser. As customary, custodial services will be provided at no charge to the Cultural Council.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of the Whitman Cultural Council for permission to use the Town Hall auditorium on June 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. for an indoor concert by the Massachusetts Walking Tour. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

ATA Job Description

Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter stated that she has a completed job description for the Assistant Town Administrator position that she would like to post. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize the Town Administrator to post a job opening for the Assistant Town Administrator position. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.** The salary range for this position is \$90,000 to \$100,00.

DPW Project Update

Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter stated that a link to the project will be placed on the DPW web page and on its Facebook page as well. Mr. LaMattina suggested the technology director do the same for the middle school project.

Whitman Middle School Feasibility Study

Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter advised the Board the BAN for the feasibility study is due. The Board needs to decide whether to pay it off all at once or roll it over for one more year. Her suggestion was to roll it over for another year. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to roll the BAN for the WMS feasibility study over for an additional year. **Second** Dr. Kowalski, **so voted 5-0.**

Finance Committee Request for a Joint Meeting

Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter stated that the Finance Committee would like to have a joint meeting on March 28, 2023. The Board discussed rescheduling their next meeting date of March 21st, to March 28th, at 6:15 p.m. Following discussion, the Board agreed to stay with their meeting date of March 21st, and to change the start time to 6:15 p.m., at which time the joint meeting will take place.

Chairman LaMattina expressed his appreciation to Mr. Lynam for serving as interim Town Administrator.

At 7:45 p.m. Dr. Kowalski **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second** Mr. Salvucci, **so voted 5-0.**

Justin R. Evans, Clerk