

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 23, 2023**

In attendance were Chairman Dr. Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Justin R. Evans; Member Shawn M. Kain; Member Laura Howe; and Town Administrator Mary Beth Carter.

Vice Chairman Daniel Salvucci opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and was followed by a moment of silence dedicated to retired Whitman Police Lieutenant James Fox.

Mr. Salvucci announced that the meeting is being recorded and televised by WHCA.

Mr. Salvucci welcomed Laura Howe as a new member of the Board of Selectmen; and thanked Mr. LaMattina for his service to the Town of Whitman.

Ms. Carter called for reorganization of the Board of Selectmen. She then opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chairman. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to nominate Dr. Kowalski to the position of Chairman. **Second** Mr. Evans. Mr. Kain **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Evans for the position of Chairman. **Second** Dr. Kowalski. Hearing no other nominations, Ms. Carter called for a roll call vote in connection with the motions on the floor. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Salvucci – Dr. Kowalski; Mr. Kain – Mr. Evans; Dr. Kowalski – Dr. Kowalski; Mr. Evans – Mr. Evans; Ms. Howe – Dr. Kowalski. **So voted 3-2.**

Ms. Carter then turned the meeting over to Chairman Kowalski.

Chairman Kowalski called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Howe **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Salvucci for the position of Vice Chairman. **Second** chairman Kowalski. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. **So voted 4-1 (Mr. Kain opposed).**

Chairman Kowalski called for nominations for the position of Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Howe **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Evans for the position of Clerk. **Second** Mr. Salvucci. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. **So voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept bill and payroll warrants. **Second** Mr. Evans, **So voted 4-0-1 (Ms. Howe abstained).**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the read file. **Second** Chairman Kowalski, **So voted 4-0-1 (Ms. Howe abstained).**

PUBLIC FORUM

Dawn Byers congratulated Chairman Kowalski and Ms. Howe on their new roles before asking the Board to clarify why free cash in the amount of \$455,323 was applied to the FY24 budget; and if it benefited the Town. Ms. Carter explained that it was used to balance the budget and that it was discussed throughout the budget process.

Mr. John Galvin also congratulated Chairman Kowalski and Ms. Howe. He then suggested that Justin Evans be appointed to the Whitman Middle School Building Committee to replace Mr. LaMattina. Chairman Kowalski responded that this topic was going to be raised later in the meeting during the Town Administrator's report, but asked for a motion at this time. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to select Mr. Evans to serve on the Whitman Middle School Building Committee. **Second** Mr. Kain, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on April 4, 2023. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 3-0-2** (Chairman Kowalski and Ms. Howe abstained).

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on April 24, 2023. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 4-0-1** (Ms. Howe abstained).

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the minutes of the ~~Executive Session~~ meeting held on May 1, 2023. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 4-0-1** (Ms. Howe abstained).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Kowalski thanked Mr. LaMattina for his service and welcomed Ms. Howe to the Board of Selectmen.

NEW BUSINESS:

Edwar's Transportation: Request for Name Change

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Edwar Guirguis to change the name of the business on the Livery License and Livery Driver's Certificate for Edwar's Transportation to Pharaoh Limo Services; and to rescind the Livery License and Livery Driver's Certificate for Edwar's Transportation on the premises located at 15 Hilltop Road. **Second**, Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0**.

Appointment to WHA: Michelle Frazier

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of the Whitman Housing Authority to reappoint Michelle Frazier (Town appointed Resident Member) to the Whitman Housing Authority for a five-year term, effective July 20, 2023, through July 20, 2028. **Second**, Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0**.

Nomination to OCES Board of Directors

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the recommendation of the Council on Aging to nominate Mary Holland to serve as the Town's representative on the Board of Directors for Old Colony Elder Services for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. **Second**, Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0**.

Appointment as Auxiliary Administrator

Chief Hanlon advised the Board that due to police reform, sworn officers must comply with POST orders. Because Officer Cannizzo does not have POST powers, Chief Hanlon would like to change his position from Auxiliary/Special Police Officer to Auxiliary Administrator; and noted Officer Cannizzo's position has become more of an administrative one as opposed to being an active "out on the street" officer. Officer Kevin Shanteler, President of Whitman Police Union MassCOP Local 494, requested the Board table this discussion until the next meeting. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to table action to appoint John J. Cannizzo, Jr. to the position of Auxiliary

Administrator; and to table action to rescind Mr. Cannizzo's appointment to the position of Auxiliary/Special Police Officer, until the next regularly scheduled meeting on June 20, 2023. **Second, Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Appointments to Plymouth County Advisory Board

Mr. Evans **MOVED** to reappoint Daniel Salvucci to the position of Delegate, Plymouth County Advisory Board, through June 30, 2024. **Second Mr. Salvucci, so voted 5-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to reappoint Justin Evans to the position of Alternate Delegate, Plymouth County Advisory Board, through June 30, 2024. **Second, Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Declaration of Surplus Material

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to declare approximately 2,375 used water meters as surplus material; and to dispose of said surplus material by public auction or by other disposal means if there is no value. **Second, Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Block Party Request

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Tina Moniz and Desiree Milnes to hold a block party on Sunday, August 27, 2023, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., with Fox Hill Run being blocked off to traffic between Shelly Lane and Hunter's Path. **Second, Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.** Mr. Salvucci asked Chief Hanlon and Chief Clancy if they agree with the vote of the Board and they both stated that they were and further stated that the block party has not been an issue in the past.

Forget-Me-Not Drive

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Commander Walter Randolph of the Whitman Chapter of Disabled American Veterans to conduct its annual Forget-Me-Not Drive at Stop & Shop on June 16, 17 & 18, 2023; and July 15 & 16, 2023, or any alternate dates suggested by Stop & Shop, depending upon availability of time and space. **Second, Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Holiday MOA: Local 1769

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to table action to ratify the Holiday MOA between the Town of Whitman and Whitman Firefighters Association, Local 1769, IAFF to the next meeting. **Second, Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Authorize Chair to Sign Local 1769 CBA

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to table action to authorize the chair to sign the CBA between the Town of Whitman and the Whitman Firefighters Association, Local 1769, IAFF, for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. **Second, Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Civil Service List

Chief Hanlon advised the Board that his department is down by a number of officers and two others will be retiring soon; and suggested the Board call for a Civil Service list. Mr. Salvucci asked if there will be promotions within the ranks and. Chief Hanlon advised Mr. Salvucci that it depends on who retires. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to call for a Civil Service list. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Payton Place

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the remaining work for Payton Place in accordance with the Planning Board's approval process. **Second, Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Soulflower, Inc.: Amended Host Community Agreement

Mary Beth Carter stated that there is a proposed amended Host Community Agreement for Soulflower, Inc. as it is being split into four separate businesses. Town Counsel has looked over the amendment has no concerns. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the amended Host Community Agreement for Soulflower, Inc., where, in accordance with Section 23 of the HCA, the Town consents to the assignment of Soulflower, Inc.'s rights, obligations and interests as initial HCA Recipient under the HCA to Chill & Bliss, LLC as Retailers; Fusion Drop, LLC as Product Manufacturer; Crafted Cannabis, LLC as Cultivator; and Soulflower Express, LLC as Existing Licensee Transporter. **Second Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

Flag Display, Painted Crosswalks

Ms. Carter advised of a comment regarding flag display and a request for painted crosswalks. Kathleen Evans stated that she would like to have the painted crosswalks at the library in time for Pride Month. Chairman Kowalski relayed that he had spoken with Town Counsel on this issue and expressed his concerns for setting a precedent for other groups to request to do the same, stating that perhaps a by-law would have to be created before a vote is taken. He then told Mr. Evans that Town Counsel advised him that Mr. Evans would have to remove himself from the room if discussion takes place with respect to painted crosswalks because the request is from Mr. Evans' wife. Mr. Evans exited from the meeting at this time. Ms. Evans noted this idea came about last year and the library is on board with it. Chairman Kowalski agreed it is a great idea; and Mr. Kain stated that he wants counsel present for this discussion. Ms. Evans asked for clarification of the approval process for her request to which Chairman Kowalski stated there isn't one; however, Town Counsel has suggested forwarding the issue to the By-law Study Committee. Ms. Evans stated that she has no issue with this being sent to the By-law Study Committee if it paves the way to making the town more inclusive and welcoming to all. Again, Mr. Kain requested that Town Counsel be present before going to the By-Law Committee. Mr. Salvucci asked Mr. Kain if he would be comfortable with providing his list of questions to Ms. Carter in order for her to pass it along to Town Counsel. This would allow for Town Counsel to be prepared if this issue is tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Kain preferred to speak with Town Counsel. Chairman Kowalski asked for a motion on the issue and asked that it include arranging a conversation between Mr. Kain and Town Counsel. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to forward the issue of flag display and painted crosswalks to the By-law Study Committee; and to authorize the Town Administrator to arrange a conversation between Town Counsel and Mr. Kain, in order to address his concerns. **Second Ms. Howe, so voted 3-0-1 (Mr. Kain abstained).**

Set June Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen has been scheduled for June 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Assistant Town Administrator

Ms. Carter stated that an offer of employment was presented to and accepted by Kathleen Keefe for the position of Assistant Town Administrator. Ms. Carter introduced Ms. Keefe and congratulated her on her new position. Ms. Keefe thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the terms of the offer of employment accepted by Kathleen Keefe for the Assistant Town Administrator position. **Second** Mr. Evans, so voted 4-0-1 (Ms. Howe abstained).

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

American Legion: Request for Extension of License

Ms. Carter advised the Board that the Pool Table License held by the American Legion was inadvertently omitted from the list of license renewals approved by the Board at a previous meeting. She then asked the Board to vote to grant an extension until the Board's next meeting. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to grant an extension of the Pool Table License issued to Memorial Field Association, Inc., dba American Legion Post #22, until 12:00 midnight on the date of the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting. **Second, Mr. Evans, so voted 5-0.**

At 7:48p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L., c.30A, §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. Evans. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Evans – yes; Ms. Howe – yes; Mr. Kain – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes So voted 5-0. The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 7:58 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn. **Second** Mr. Evans, **so voted 5-0.**

Justin R. Evans, Clerk