

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2020

PRESENT: Mr. Dario F. Nardi; Chairman and Mr. John Nason, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Marc Richard, Clerk

ATTENDEES: See attached list

Opened the Meeting at 7:00 PM

Chairman Nardi opened the meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised all that tonight's meeting was being both video and audio taped.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of November 7th, November 25th, November 26th, December 20th* and December 30th** made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous (*Mr. Richard abstained, **Mr. Nardi abstained)

CORRESPONDENCE

*The office received the monthly reports of the Police and Fire Chiefs for months ending November & December 2019 and the reports from CERT/EM for the months of October thru December - **Noted**

*The office has also received the Town Accountants notice of retirement effective April 9th - **Noted and a huge "thank you to Madeline who was in attendance this evening for her years of service. Advertising for the position will happen shortly.**

*The office received notice that due to additional legislation filed by the Governor's Office, the town will receive an additional \$28,813 in Chapter 90 funding. This brings the towns overall total for this year to \$316,938. - **Noted**

DISCUSSION W/DR. PAIST – PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

The Board met this evening with Dr. Paist, Principal Duda and Brenda Turner, Director of Guidance to discuss and highlight Pathfinders' many program available to incoming students. Dr. Kustigian was invited to attend this evening, however, School Committee member Jason Morgan asked that he not attend. After 46 years in the educational system, Dr. Paist has tried to maintain their relationships with each community that Pathfinder services. Quaboag however has seemed to be hesitant in allowing Pathfinder in to do a brief presentation to the students. Out of their nine communities, the only resistance is from Quaboag.

Currently, Pathfinder has 16 programs with plumbing added this year. Principal Duda stated that they are continually reviewing what services and programs can be provided to allow students to succeed in their next chapter in life. Mrs. Turner stated that they provide an outreach to students as best as they can. They have found out however that the vast majority of students don't know what they have to offer. Pathfinder is a great alternative as not all students are geared for college. Mr. Morgan stated that he feels that this attempt is disingenuous to say that they don't allow access. Mr. Duda responded that Pathfinder doesn't seem to have the same opportunity to make their presentation at Quaboag as their other communities.

Mrs. Turner stated that she would just like to see all students in each community have the same opportunity. Mr. Morgan suggested that they contact Mr. Duff in order to work something out. The Board of Selectmen fully support Pathfinder, their staff and students. Mr. Nardi stated that if they provide information to our office, we can get the information out there.

Dr. Paist, Mr. Duda and Mrs. Turner were thankful of the Board's time this evening.

POLICE CHIEF EVALUATION

With 6 months having passed on Chief's Millette's interim appointment as Police Chief, Mr. Nardi feels that it is appropriate to do an evaluation of his performance to date. After this is done, this will dictate the direction that the Board will want to proceed. Motion to appoint Mr. Nardi to administer Chief Millette's evaluation made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous. Mr. Nason would also like to see Chief Millette a self-evaluation.

ABCC SEASONAL POPULATION INCREASE

Motion to ratify that the ABCC Seasonal Population Increase will not change in 2020 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous. (This determines the town's quota for licenses. The population must change by at least 1,000 people in order to increase the quota)

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES

Mr. Krawczyk was in attendance this evening to request that the Board of Selectmen vote to request DLTA funding in order further pursue the possibility of moving forward. There are several towns that have expressed interest. Mr. Krawczyk is anticipating that the cost may be in the neighborhood of \$17K to \$20K and about \$1K annual to maintain. With no objections, the following motion was made: Motion to allow support and allow DLTA funds to pursue investigating the next steps in the electronic voting machines made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve the Warrants as presented made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Richard wanted to announce that the Village Market is now open and encourages all residents to support local business. Also, he said that the window project at the Senior Center is now completed. Residual funds from a CDBG Block Grant were used to fund the project. He also thanked the Local 195 for their dinner for the Senior Citizens and for all those who attended the tree lighting despite the inclement weather. Mr. Richard concluded by thanking Mrs. Acerra and her family for providing meals to the elderly for the holidays and to Mrs. Lowell and her crew for their holiday boxes for heroes.

Mr. Nason reminded all that the FOTTH will be hosting their Polish Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday. Tickets are still available from the members. Mr. Nardi stated that at the next meeting he'd like to discuss the staffing audit. The window project at the Town Hall is in the works and hoping that if all goes well, will be completed by the end of summer.

Mrs. Acerra stated that many of the Green Communities projects for LED lighting and Weatherization are almost complete.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Nickerson questioned the guardrail on Quaboag Street that was damaged and if the insurance was going to cover it. The office is not aware of the damage. Also, he questioned the status of the cell tower. Verizon's coverage is still inadequate and asked that the Board do something. Mrs. Acerra stated that she will contact Verizon.

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 21st with a snow date of January 22nd.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Marc W. Richard, Clerk

