

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 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 January 7, 2020 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 14th from 9 AM to 11 AM at the Highway Garage. The Town Clerk will be present to issue dog licenses for 2020. License fees for dogs will be \$11.00 for unsprayed animals and \$7.00 for neutered male or spayed female. ***Bring your last rabies certificate with you. - NOTED***
2. The office received notice that Nathan Stewart has resigned from the Board of Health due to his moving out of town. – ***NOTED – The office will send Nathan a note to thank him for his service. – Anyone interested in serving the remainder of the term can submit a letter of interest to the Board of Health.***

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY WARRANT

Motion to approve and sign the Presidential Primary Warrant as presented made by Mr. Nason- second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS – ELECTION WORKERS

Motion to appoint Beverly Russell and Virginia Fleming as Election Workers as presented made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

CHAPTER 90 FUND REQUEST

Highway Surveyor is in attendance this evening to request that the Board of Selectmen approve the following request:

High Street between Maple Street and Bridge Street. Scope of work proposed is to shim the entire road with top coat and tack coat (4,993 sq. yds.), MOB driveway, shim and top coat (650 sq. yds.), Berm 1,700' top coat sidewalk, (1,030 sq. yd.) and replace road signs as needed.

Old Douglas Road from Old Warren Road to the town line. Scope of work proposed – full depth reclamation with drainage, guardrails, and tree work.

Mr. Olson stated that his employees will do most of the prep work. With no objections, the following motion was made: Motion to approve and sign the Ch. 90 Fund Request as presented made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nardi – unanimous.

7:15 PM – CDBG – PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 17, FY 18 & FY 19 BLOCK GRANT PROGRAMS.

Christopher Dunphy was in attendance this evening to provide an update on the ongoing block grant programs.

FY 19 – The program was awarded in August of 2019 and allows for the complete rehab of Lombard & Moore Ave to include drainage, water lines, sewer lines as needed and replacing sidewalks in kind.

FY 18 – That program was a regional grant where Warren was the lead community with Ware and Hardwick. This program allowed for housing rehab and social service projects and is ongoing through June 30, 2020.

FY 17 – The FY 17 program funded improvements to Quaboag Street and provided financial assistance for the Domestic Violence Services program. Quaboag Street also received funding through the state's MassWorks program. The combined sources helped the town make the comprehensive public works improvements to the entire street. Residual funds from that project allowed for the design of neighboring School, Prospect and Otis Streets. In addition, after another request to utilize unused funds, the windows at the Senior Center were replaced. Even with all of that work done, there is still \$39,362.02 in unspent funds from the FY 17 grant. Mr. Dunphy is requesting that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the shift of funding of the residual funds to combine that with a project within the FY 18 program for housing rehab. This particular project is \$117K (low bidder) which is mostly due to lead paint. Due to the amount, which is in excess of \$80K, there will be a permanent lien on the property so should the owner sell, the town will recapture that money.

With no objections, the following motion was made: Motion to allow the residual funds from the FY 17 grant program to be combined with funds from the FY 18 program for the housing rehab project as presented made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

While in attendance, Mr. Dunphy acknowledged the difficulty that some small communities have in getting invoices signed and processed due to lack of signatures. Mrs. Acerra already signs the Town-Owner Agreements and Mr. Dunphy has requested the same for the invoices. With no objections from the Board, the following motion was made: Motion to allow Mrs. Acerra, as Administrative Secretary to sign the invoice on behalf of the Board for PVPC made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to close the public hearing made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

Mr. Dunphy thanked the Board for their time. The Board in turn thanked him for all of his efforts over the years on the town's behalf.

CHIEF MILLETTE – STAFFING AUDIT

At the direction of the Board of Selectmen, Public Safety Consultants, LLC conducted a staffing audit of the Police Department. The completed report was provided in March of 2019 and provided a detailed accounting of crime statistics, current staffing, and financials associated with the staffing and the minimum standards. Chief Millette stated that he feels that we as a town need to do whatever it takes to service our community properly. As discussed previously, changes are coming to the rules that govern part-time officers. He further stated that by adding two more full-time officers would bring them to where they should be, based on the report. Mr. Nason

asked if we are equipped to adequately handle two additional officers. Chief Millette stated that the shifts are already there, he's just backfilling them. The addition of the two full-time officers should show a significant savings in overtime. Mr. Nardi stated that we should be looking for at the very least, one more and possibly two. Mr. Nason feels that we should start with one, as does Mr. Richard. Mr. Nardi stated however that he should budget for two. Motion to post for an additional full-time officer position for this year (and budget for two on FY21 budget) made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Richard wanted to thank all who help not only attend but who worked the recent Polish Dinner which the FOTTH hosted. Mr. Nason echoed Mr. Richard's sentiments.

Also, Park & Rec will be holding a free movie night on Friday, January 31st at 6:30 PM. Toy Story 4 will be playing. The Quaboag Drama Club will be presenting a play that same weekend, January 31st, Feb. 1st & 2nd.

Mrs. Acerra stated that all of the Green Communities projects for LED lighting and Weatherization have been completed. Mr. Olson stated that the LED lighting project at the Highway Barn has made a tremendous difference and his employees are thrilled with the results.

Mr. Nardi reminded all that budgets are due on February 1st.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mrs. Como stated that she will be meeting with the Council on Aging to discuss Senior Housing options for Warren.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tentative – February 4th – 7 PM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nason second: Mr. Richard – unanimous at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary

Marc W. Richard, Clerk

