



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

48 High St. • P.O. Box 609 • Warren, MA 01083-0609 • Tel. 413-436-5701 • Fax 413-436-9754

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2020

**PRESENT:** Mr. John A. Nason; Chairman, Mr. Marc Richard; Vice-Chairman and Mr. David Dufresne, Clerk

**ATTENDEES:** See attached list

### Opened the Meeting at 7:00 PM

Mr. Nason opened the meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised all that this meeting is being video/audio taped and will be rebroadcast following the meeting. Mr. Baker acknowledged his video/audio taping as well. **(Minutes taken from DVD)**

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received the monthly reports of Police/Fire/CERT- Emergency Mgmt. for the month of June. Also, as a reminder, July 12<sup>th</sup> thru the 18<sup>th</sup> in Hurricane Awareness Week. - **Noted**
2. The office received an email from a resident expressing concerns over the MassDOT Bridge Project. – **Resident Marci Dineen addressed the Board this evening regarding the bridge project. She is familiar with the construction field and it is estimated to be a 3.9-million-dollar project. The laydown location is the old dry-cleaning property which is a listed Brownfield. Her concerns are that there is no silt fencing around the property to avoid any runoff into the river. Mr. Krawczyk also stated that he too has concerns and through a public records request, discovered that the Conservation Commission had nothing on file. He then contacted MassDEP in Springfield and Boston and they too really were not able to give any solid answers. Mr. Dufresne stated that he would contact ConCom on the matter.**

### LINE ITEM TRANSFERS/RESERVE ACCOUNT TRANSFERS

**Board of Selectmen** – Motion to approve the Line Item Transfer request in the amount of \$5,800.00 for the for legal expenses from June 13<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> (final invoice for FY 20) made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

**Board of Assessors** – Motion to approve the Line Item Transfer request in the amount of \$305.99 for an office chair made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

### AMBULANCE ABATEMENTS – 3<sup>RD</sup> QTR – FY 20

Chief Lavoie explained the abatement process to Mr. Dufresne as this is his first time as a Selectboard member. After a brief discussion, no official motion was made, however all member were in agreement.

### DONALD NICKERSON – DISCUSSION REGARDING

Mr. Nickerson addressed the Board this evening regarding the lack of cell service in town. Although a new tower was built on Southbridge Road, it has yet to prove any substantial improvement in town. He (Nickerson) stated that back in 2008, Verizon did go before the Planning Board at the time, however after numerous discussions, the Board requested that they follow the provisions of the by-laws at the location (School Street) was out of the overlay district. Verizon decided that it would not be cost effective and walked away. Mr. Nickerson is asking the Board to contact Verizon in writing and set up a meeting to see if something can be done to improve service. Mr. Dufresne stated that we should investigate it as it is a public safety issue. Mr. Nason will take the lead on this matter.

### JOINT MEETING-PAKS/WATER DISTRICT/BOARD OF HEALTH

Mrs. Ramsey spoke on behalf of the Parks & Rec Department looking to ensure that the same message is being sent out regarding our Parks and Comins Pond. The Parks Department does have signage posted with restrictions that include no contact sports, face coverings required, open to walking, hiking and Comins Pond is posted that there are no lifeguards on duty, and you swim at your own risk. Fishing is permissible. Parks does not have the manpower to provide staff or the



necessary sanitation protocols that are required. Mr. Nason's biggest concern is that there are no lifeguards which could prove problematic. Regarding the Parks, they (Park Dept.) are not encouraging gatherings. They have taken down the basketball hoops in an abundance of caution. Mr. Lacey stated that basketball is still currently on the prohibited list. Mr. Dufresne expressed concern that some kids do not have the luxury of shooting hoops in their backyard, however, understands the concerns. Motion to allow swimming at Comins Pond at your own risk in agreement with Parks, Board of Health and the Water District made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

### **38 ELM STREET – DISCUSSION ON FENCING AND DOG ISSUE (Mr. Nason abstained on the following matter)**

Ann Banville addressed the Board this evening regarding an ongoing issue with the abutting neighbor at 38 Elm Street. The homeowner, Todd Brodeur was sent notice of this evening's meeting, however, was not present. This matter started in November of 2018 and has persisted ever since. There are two issues, the first being a dilated fence that is rotting and falling into Ms. Banville's yard, which leads to a bigger issue of an inground pool that is now unsecured. The second is the property owners' dogs that are getting into Ms. Banville's yard, through the broken fence and she is in fear that her dogs will be attacked. They have already stopped one incident of this happening. Building Inspector, Jack Keough was in attendance and he stated that letters and warnings have proven unsuccessful and the next step is through legal action. Mr. Lacy, Chair of the Board of Health was also present, and this property is on their list of enforcement actions and with their new Health Inspector will be looking into this. Mr. Nason has offered at his own expense and time to fix the fence, however the offer was declined. Regarding the property owners' dogs being unleashed, ACO, Sydney Plante stated that she can certainly fine and after three incidents, a Nuisance Dog hearing can be held. The Board agreed to allow the Building Inspector to use Counsel.

### **TOWN HALL WINDOW PROJECT**

Motion to approve and sign the Town Hall Window Project made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

### **WARRANTS & INVOICES**

Motion to approve and sign the Warrant No's. 108 & 109 dated June 30, 2020 in the amounts of \$19,013.57 & \$229,925.62 respectively made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No. 1 dated July 1, 2020 in the amount of \$402,654.00 made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 2 & 3 dated July 6, 2020 in the amount of \$19,689.73 & \$26,655.40 respectively made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the Warrant No's. 4 & 5 dated July 13, 2020 in the amounts of \$44,674.57 & \$15,480.96 respectively made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard; - unanimous.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

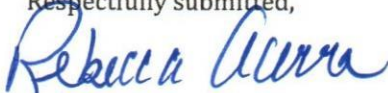
Mr. Nason reminded residents that open seats are still available on Finance and Capital Planning. Mr. Richard stated that the Senior Center is open with limited access. On Wednesdays, at 10 AM the crew provides Coffee & Conversation. Many services are still available, however advises all to call ahead. Mr. Dufresne spoke with the Town Treasurer regarding unpaid taxes. There are many on the tax title list that go back as far as the 1980's. He would like to see enforcement equal across the board. The Board of Selectmen fully support the Treasurer in any efforts in collecting unpaid taxes.

### **COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Mrs. Soltys questioned the status of Heal, Inc. on Pulaski Street. Mr. Keough stated that due to financial issues and continual changes to the plans, the project is at a standstill. Mr. Krawczyk noted Mr. Cliff Fountain's 35 years on the School Committee. He did not run for re-election this year.

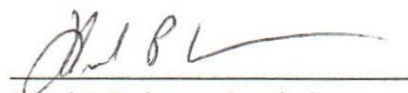
**\*\*Taped ended at 1:22:35**

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Acerra

Administrative Secretary



David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk