



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 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.

MINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of July 21, 2020 as written made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of August 6, 2020 (1PM) as written made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of August 6, 2020 (7PM) as written made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received the monthly report of the Chief of Police for month ending July 2020 – **Noted**
2. The office received notice that residents are now able to sign up for the Swift911 Reverse 9-1-1 system. A link is available on the town's website. If anyone has any questions or issues with registration please contact Kyle Sledziewski at sledziewski@warren-ma.gov or contact the Warren Fire Department at 436-5444. – Chief Lavoie stated that mailers have gone out to all residents as well. They are planning on doing a test run on the system, however, will advise prior to. - **Noted**
3. The office received a request from the Board of Assessors requesting the approval of a gift account for the purpose of accepting funds from Borrego Solar to offset legal expenses associated with the PILOT. – **Both Selectmen Nason and Dufresne had questions/concerns and asked for the matter to be tabled until an upcoming meeting.**
4. The office received a request from the Warren Water District requesting that the Board of Selectmen see if they can intervene on their behalf in moving their project along with the Sewer Commission. The Water District has had an application before them and would like to obtain the tie in permit as quickly as possible. Productive talk between the Sewer and Water Departments have stalled. – **Mr. Nason stated that he would like to schedule a meeting with the Sewer Department to discuss the matter. Mr. Dufresne, who also serves on the Planning Board stated that the Water District has come before them and is nearing the end of the process. All is in order from his perspective. Water District Commissioners were on hand this evening and provided a handout to the Board with their concerns and actions to date.**

7:15 PM – POLE HEARING – FOR NATIONAL GRID

A representative from National Grid was on hand this evening on their request to install 1 SO pole 24-84 on Little Rest Road beginning at a point approximately 260 +/- feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Bemis Road. A new residential dwelling is being constructed and this pole will serve as an anchor pole. With no opposition to the petition,

the following motion was made: Motion to approve the petition of National Grid to install a 1 SO pole, 24-84 as presented made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT/FIRST RESPONDERS

Considering recent legislation, letters of support for local law enforcement have been signed by the Executive Officials for each community. With Warren being in full support of our Law Enforcement/First Responders, the following motion was made: Motion to sign the letter of support for Law Enforcement/First Responders as presented made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

APPOINTMENT

With the passing of long-time Cemetery Commissioner, Daniel Zrate, the Cemetery Commission held a meeting to fill the vacancy until the next election. They received two letters of interest, one from Mr. Leo Swett and the other from Mr. Steven Cristol. The Commission voted to recommend Mr. Swett as he is a lifelong resident and Veteran. With no objections from the Board, the following motion was made: Motion to appoint Mr. Leo Swett to the Cemetery Commission until the May 2021 election made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous. Mr. Swett thanked both the Cemetery Commission and the Board of Selectmen for the opportunity.

AMBULANCE ABATEMENTS – 4th QTR – FY 20

Motion to approve the 4th Qtr. Ambulance Abatements for FY 20 in the amount of \$82,026.86 made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign the Warrant No's. 113 & 114 dated August 10, 2020 in the amounts of \$40,837.56 & \$684,438.59 respectively made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 15 & 16 dated August 17, 2020 in the amounts of \$40,711.39 & \$100,416.62 respectively made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 150 for FY 18 – CDBG Draw Down to PVPC in the amount of \$10,982.87 made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 15 for FY 19 – CDBG Draw Down to PVPC in the amount of \$237,877.03 made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard -unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Richard stated that the window project is under way, however, they are currently 4-6 weeks out on getting the windows in. The delay is due to COVID. He also stated that the bell tower will be painted soon at no cost to the town. The Highway Department will be paving in September and have 5 streets on the list, including 980 Main Street parking lot and a portion of Old W. Brookfield Road, up to Lucy Stone Park. The Police Department Administrative Assistant is moving her office to the former dispatch area. This will provide immediate contact with visitors. The 38 Elm Street matter is moving along, and the paperwork is being sent to the court.

The Veterans Council held a small ceremony marking Purple Heart Appreciation Day on August 7th at St. Stans Pavilion. The Board thanked Mrs. Acerra for spearheading the event and thanks to all Council Members.

Mr. Dufresne stated that concerns still surround the ongoing bridge project. Conservation is monitoring the work being done. Chief Lavoie stated that within the next several days, the bridge will be going down to one lane. This project is anticipated to take approximately 2 years to complete.

Mr. Dufresne also advised all that the office received a complaint about the ongoing solar project on Coy Hill. Stipulations of the Orders of Conditions are not being adhered to. The Planning Board/Police Department are aware and addressing the matter.

Mr. Nason reminded residents to be cautious of the threat of EEE. Several cases in neighboring communities have popped up. Remove and standing water and wear insect repellent.

He has also received inquiries about the status of the Senior Tax Write Off program which was up on hold due to COVID. At this point, the Board of Health is recommending that seniors not come back now as their demographic is susceptible to the virus. The Board agrees.

Mrs. Acerra discussed the issue with the generator at the Police Department. During the recent tropic storm, the generator failed, which is not an option for a police station. She will work with the Chief on getting an estimate on a replacement. A proposal for a repair came in at \$2,500.00.


COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Ms. Banville liked to remind all residents that the town does indeed have a dog waste by-law and encourages all to adhere to it.

Mr. Kordek asked for an update as to the matter with Verizon and cell service. Mr. Nason stated that to date there is nothing earth shattering. He will continue to reach out to them. Mrs. Acerra also drafted a letter to Comcast regarding the need for a Springfield new station. The Board will sign this evening. Mr. Kuprycz is also willing to get an estimate on wiring the gym so meetings can go out live. Options are being investigated with uploading meetings onto the town's website as well as YouTube.

Motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with M.G.L. c30a, Section 21(2) "to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel" (Police Lieutenant) not to return to open session made by Mr. Nason; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary



David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk