



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 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 August 18, 2020 as written made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of August 20, 2020 as written made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of August 26, 2020 as written made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received notice from the Tree Warden that pursuant to MGL Chapter 87 Section 2, Mr. Lacey has appointed Ms. Samantha Lacey and Mr. Jeremy Olson as deputy tree wardens. The appointment term shall run through May 4, 2021. - Noted
2. The office received a call from a resident and has asked to remind residents that it is illegal to removal political campaign signs. - Noted
3. The Board of Assessors would like to remind residents that they are accepting property exemption applications for Veteran's Elderly, Blind and Surviving Spouse as well as Chapter 61 Land Classification for FY 2021. - Noted
4. The office received notice from DOER – Green Communities Division that Warren successfully obtained a competitive grant for an additional \$22,102. This will allow for kitchen appliance replacement at the Senior Center, \$5K towards the purchase of a hybrid police vehicle and 2 EV charging stations. - Noted
5. The office received the monthly reports from Police/Fire/EM-CERT for the month of August 2020. – Noted

APPOINTMENTS

Motion to appoint Mrs. Sylvia Buck and Mr. Thomas Perkins to the Historical Commission as presented made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

DISCUSSION WITH POLICE/FIRE RE: RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

Both Chief Lavoie and Chief Millette were in attendance this evening to discuss a subject that was touched upon at an earlier meeting in August. During the last few significant weather events, the radios have gone down due to the aging and outdated infrastructure system. A grant was just received through the efforts of the RRECC to fund an engineering study in addition to another grant that zeroed out the town's assessment for FY 2021 with possible reimbursement for the next 4 fiscal years. Chief Lavoie also took this time to correct misinformation that was out on social media. At no

time did RRECC promise any funding/replacement of our infrastructure. They did and have provided numerous technology upgrade in both stations/cruisers/ambulances. Mr. Dufresne stated that he read through the IMA and it specifically states that they (RRECC) will not be responsible for the infrastructure. Both Chiefs agreed that it is the town's responsibility, regardless if we were independent dispatching or in a regional agreement. There was an upgrade in 2012 for the Police. This current project (infrastructure) is estimated to be around \$320K. It would be the intent to re-allocate the funds appropriated (122K) at the ATM for dispatch and request the remainder at a STM. Mr. Melendez, who is a new resident in town and who has been on the other side of a call due to his work, fully understands the need for solid communication during any kind of event. He fully supports and encourages all to support this endeavor.

Mr. Dufresne requested that the Chief provide a copy of the proposal to the office for review. Mr. Nason also suggested that both Chief's put a statement on their social media pages to clarify to residents as to what the RRECC has done thus far for the town. After allocation of funds, this project would need to follow guidelines under Chapter 30B.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

A discussion took place about scheduling a STM. Mr. Nason has concerns going forward as to the fiscal stability, however, understands the obligations that the town needs to adhere to. Mr. Dufresne asked if there is any issue with holding a meeting on a Saturday. Mrs. Acerra will work with the departments to see which date works best.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 17 & 18 dated August 24, 2020 in the amounts of \$41,368.95 & \$268,765.52 respectively made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 19 & 20 dated August 31, 2020 in the amounts of \$46,185.49 & \$238,991.29 respectively made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 21 & 22 dated September 7, 2020 in the amounts of \$45,588.09 and \$166,377.14 respectively made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Invoice No. 152 for FY 2019 CDBG Draw Down to PVPC in the amount of \$168,691.49 made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dufresne spoke with Mr. Shea who had expressed concern over the crosswalk being so far from the Senior Center. He wondered if there could be an additional crosswalk put in so folks wouldn't have to walk almost down to the Post Office to cross.

Mr. Richard wanted to thank Police/Fire/Highway and the Shepard Building staff for their continued efforts during this time and reminded all that the Senior Center is slowly re-opening. He also encouraged residents to shop local.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Nickerson addressed the Board this evening with clear frustration that there has been no movement with Verizon. He urged that the Board write to them with a copy to our Senator and State Representative. Mr. Soltys questioned if we have every considered a Town Manager.

Next Meeting Date: Due to scheduling conflicts, the Board of Selectmen will be moving their meetings to Thursdays at 6 PM beginning September 24th, unless otherwise posted.

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 at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary



David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk