



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 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 6:00 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 November 19, 2020 as written made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. B & P Liquors Hearing on Hours- New Hours: 8am-11pm M-F, 10am-11pm Sundays.- Motion to approve new hours made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.
2. Host Community Agreement, 81 South St., West Warren.– Matthew Plotkin -Discussed Host Community Agreement for marijuana cultivating. BOS Secretary will provide Mr. Plotkin with copy of Heal Inc. Agreement/Contract for Mr. Plotkin to review.
3. RAO (Records Access Officer)- Mr. Nason discussed moving the RAO to the Assistant Town Clerk, increase her hours for the RAO and cross train to help out in other town offices as needed. He stated he would get in touch with Town Counsel to see if this can be done under an emergency situation or does it have to go on the town floor for a vote.
4. Chief Millette inquired about a Town Manager. All in attendance agreed that it was a good idea. This would have to be addressed at an Annual Town Meeting.
5. Dept. Army Corps Engineers-Levee Safety at South Street, Emergency Management Director Mr. McKeon; has concerns about vegetation on the stones and trees growing; needs to be cleaned out. Mr. Nason suggested that Mr. McKeon, Chief Lavoie, Chief Millette and Mr. Olson get together for a plan of attack.
6. Railroad brush cutting- Mr. Olson is meeting with the civil engineer and will be at the next meeting with an update on brush cutting on the Railroad's property.
7. WCAT- the hard wiring the gymnasium for live television broadcast of meetings due to overflow will take place on December 9, 2020 at no cost to the Taxpayers.
8. Senior Volunteer Program FY21- Due to Covid-19 shut down, seniors were not able to complete their full hours for the program. Motion to honor the full amount of \$500 toward their tax bill made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard -unanimous.
9. CMRPC, (Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission)- seeking an alternate.
10. Town Clerk received Grant for \$5,000 for Election Supplies from the Center for Tech and Civic Life on 11/10/20.
11. October Monthly Reports received from Police and Fire Departments.
12. The Town is in receipt of \$118,690.02 from PVPC on 11/25/20.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion to ratify the appointment of Mrs. Priscilla Clowes, BOS Administrative Secretary made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne— unanimous.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

After a brief discussion, the board asked Priscilla to reach out to all departments requesting only: **"Must-Have Articles"**. A discussion took place regarding submitting an article at the next Annual Town Meeting to change the number of members on the Finance Committee from 7 to 5. Possibility of combining Finance Committee and Capital Planning into one Committee in the near future.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to ratify PVCP invoice \$10,419.65 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne— unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 35 & 36 dated October 26, 2020 in the amounts of \$46,214.92 & \$285,418.97 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 37 & 38 dated November 2, 2020 in the amounts of \$46,963.46 & \$77,214.94 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 39 & 40 dated November 9, 2020 in the amounts of \$42,115.62 & \$27,268.53 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 41 & 42 dated November 16, 2020 in the amounts of \$35,794.86 & \$83,710.83 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 43 & 44 dated November 23, 2020 in the amounts of \$35,658.22 & \$775,200.49 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Transfer Station road recently redone with \$30,000 worth of free road millings, many road repairs done around town as well. Kudos to Jeremy Olson for stepping up, per Mr. Richard. Also, the Highway Department recently repaved Douglas Road and guardrail is now being installed to finish the project.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Dufresne stated that Verizon claims we are pretty well covered with service. They will look into areas of complaint, example= School Street area to see if can do better coverage there. Upgrading your phone gives better coverage, older phones don't receive signals as good. Verizon will look into the "Dead Zones"/problems: could be from mountains or ledge interfering, too.

Mr. Nason wanted to Thank Mrs. Becky Acerra for her community work in putting out 72 Thanksgiving Turkeys this year to those in need – and for the Veteran's flags.

Mr. Richard thanked Mr. McKeon for all the Christmas decorations around town, and the red and green lights in the bell tower.

Mr. Richard informed people of the Light Night-Decorating Contest- December 18, 19 and 20th 5-8pm.

Mr. Richard thanked Mrs. Lowell and staff for a great job on the election.

Mr. Richard thanked Representative Smola for purchasing the new drop box.

Mr. Richard thanked Mr. Dyjak and the Friends of the Town Hall for repairing the bell tower, great job.

Madeline Witaszek questioned the article in the local newspaper regarding the Health Insurance costs being looked into.

Mr. Nason stated that it is a good idea every few years to look into our options. No decisions right now on changing insurances or combining resources with the school. Madeline stated that years ago the Town was combined with the school for health insurance and the Town moved away to MIIA insurance.

Madeline Witaszek had a question for David Dufresne regarding a statement he made in a campaign flyer – when running for Selectman: “Dario Nardi cost the town \$70,000”. David stated that he does not have the information in front of him, but does recall it had something to do with legal fees that cost the Town. He will look it up and respond back to her.

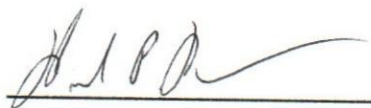
Next Meeting Date: Thursday, December 10, 2020, 6:00 PM, Shepard Municipal Building, unless otherwise posted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm. Motion made by Mr. Richard, second by Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Priscilla Clowes
Administrative Secretary



David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk