

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
 CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
 48 HIGH STREET
 WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS 01083

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2021

PRESENT: Mr. Marc Richard: Vice-Chairman, and Mr. David Dufresne, Clerk.

ABSENT: Mr. John Nason: Chairman.

ATTENDEES: Gerry Millette, Adam Lavoie, Kerry Schmidt, and Stan Soltys

Opened the Meeting at 6:05 PM

Mr. Richard opened the meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

CORRESPONDENCE, read by Mr. Dufresne:

1. The office received the monthly report of the CERT/EM, the Police Department, and the Fire Department for December 2020.
2. The office is in receipt of CDBG funds of \$7,096.74 AND \$9,188.01.
3. Harrington HealthCare System is currently offering vaccination for all those who qualify for Phase 1 of the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Timeline. Beginning on Monday, 2/2/2021, Harrington will be offering vaccination to those eligible in Phase 2, Step 1, which includes individuals 75 years or older. Please see the Town website for more information or refer to <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine-in-massachusetts> for more details.
4. **Nomination Papers** available 2/1/2021 in Town Clerk's Office-----see attached Memo
5. Palmer Board of Health needs volunteers to help with the Covid-19 vaccination site to open up Friday February 5th. Town employee volunteers are needed for administrative and EMT duties. (attached information sent from Ken Lacey)

MINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of December 30, 2020 as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – AIF.

Motion to approve and sign the Executive Session Minutes of January 28, 2021 -appointment of new Police Lieutenant James Early, as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second Mr. Richard: AIF.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Dufresne motion to ratify the Appointment of James Early for Police Lieutenant; second Mr. Richard: AIF.

Mr. Dufresne motion to appoint Mr. John Nason to the vacant Pathfinder School Committee; second Mr. Richard-AIF.

PVPC – Motion to authorize the BOS Secretary Priscilla Clowes to sign the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Town-Owner Agreements made by Mr. Dufresne; second Mr. Richard: AIF.

RESERVE ACCOUNT TRANSFERS:

Mr. Dufresne made a motion to transfer \$3,814.55 from the Reserve Account Fund to the Fire Department's Vehicle Maintenance account for an unexpected expense on Fire Chief's vehicle to replace the motor engine. The vehicle is 11 years old; this temporary fix will allow more use out of the vehicle until it can be replaced; second Mr. Richard: AIF.

Mr. Dufresne made a motion to transfer \$3,150.00 from the Reserve Account Fund to the Workers' Compensation Insurance; second Mr. Richard: AIF. This unforeseen expenditure is for the workers' compensation Audited Premium came in higher than the estimated amount for the period 07/01/19 to 07/01/20.

TABLED ITEMS:

Fire Department - New Hire – Alex Haeseler – moved to next BOS meeting, unable to attend tonight's meeting.
Backup Custodian – needs further discussion on whether to pursue a budget line item at Town Meeting for this.
STM – Articles – ATM – need full BOS vote, usually 3-month process and with Covid-19 concerns and lack of Finance Committee or Budget members- most likely we will have to forego STM and have ATM in May with all Articles.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign Warrant & Invoices #53 through #64 as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – AIF.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dufresne stated that he recently attended a Zoom meeting, regarding the opportunity for a new Grant Program through the state. A letter of intent would have to be submitted for an opportunity to be entered into 10 different Grant Programs. Mr. Dufresne stated that we could look into this Grant for a possible new building to combine our Police, Fire and EMT's in one place with better workspaces. Mr. Dufresne will pass along the information to the BOS secretary to investigate applying for this opportunity.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Mr. Soltys questioned the BOS where the Town stands with hiring a Town Manager. Mr. Dufresne stated that we do have intent for putting this on at the upcoming ATM. Mr. Soltys said that better advertising and information on the importance of a Town Manager needs to be passed along to the Town residents to better inform them. Mr. Richard stated that in past years, the Town Manager position was declined at two ATM's – people need to know the "what" and "why" the decision of hiring a Town Manager.

Fire Chief Adam Lavoie stated that Mary Lane in Ware is pending closure. 75% of all the Town's ambulance calls end up at Mary Lane, so this is devastating news. It will have a great impact on our service; the ER is slated to close in June. Ambulance calls will have to utilize Palmer Wing or Southbridge Harrington. Chief Lavoie is seeing how we can work thru this closure and try to find ways to minimize the impact.

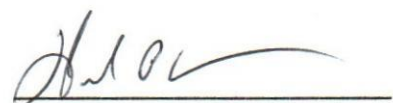
Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 - 6:00 PM, Shepard Municipal Building, unless otherwise posted.

Meeting dissolved at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Priscilla Clowes
Administrative Secretary



David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk

TO: WCAT12 and Priscilla Clowes for Website Posting

FR: Town Clerk, Nancy J. Lowell

RE: Nomination Papers Available for The Annual Town Election

DT: January 21, 2021

Please post the following:

NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021
IN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE-BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
(413) 436-5701 EXT 3

Positions open:

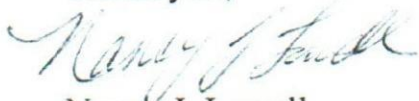
Assessor, 3-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, 3-year term and a 2-year term; Board of Health, 3-year term; Housing Authority, 5-year term; Park Commissioner, 3-year term; Planning Board, 5-year term; Selectman, 3-year term; Sewer Commissioner, 3-year term and Tree Warden, 3-year term.

OBTAIN FROM THE Q.R.M.H.S. FRONT OFFICE

Quaboag Regional School District positions:

Town of Warren, two positions for a 3-year term and one position for a 1-year term. Town of West Brookfield, two positions for a 3-year term. Nomination papers available February 3, 2021 at the Front Office, 284 Old West Brookfield Road, Warren, MA 01083.

Thank you,


Nancy J. Lowell