



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2021

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

ATTENDEES: see attached list.

Opened the Meeting at 5:00 PM

Mr. Nason called the meeting to order 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 February 18, 2021 as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Nason, Mr. Richard abstained- AIF.

CORRESPONDENCE, read by Mr. Dufresne:

1. Effective December 31, 2020, Paula B. Keefe resigned from her position on the Board of Assessors.
2. Effective April 2, 2021, Raymond Blais will be retiring from the Warren Highway Department.
3. On February 19th, the office received a letter from the Federal Funds Office regarding the Coronavirus Relief Fund – Municipal Program. The letter states that the Reconciliation Period application deadline is revised until at least June 30, 2021. Federal policy changes imply that municipalities will receive more support for eligible costs than originally anticipated through the FEMA Public Assistance grant program.
4. The Office received a letter from MassDOT to certify that, pending final passage of the bond authorization, our community's Chapter 90 apportionment for Fiscal year 2021 is \$287,355.00. This apportionment will be incorporated automatically into our existing 10-year Chapter 90 contract.
5. The office received notice from Pathfinder Regional that: At the School Committee meeting February 24th, the members present unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Eric Duda upcoming Superintendent of Pathfinder Regional, pending successful contract negotiations. Dr. Paist has announced, and the Committee has accepted, his retirement effective June 30, 2021 after 4 decades of strong leadership. Please join the Committee in congratulating Eric on his appointment.

Mr. Nason extends his thanks and appreciation to Paula Keefe for her time on the Board of Assessors, and to Raymond Blais retiring after many years at the Highway Department; you will be missed. Mr. Nason stated that after the Pathfinder Superintendent contract is executed, he will invite Mr. Duda to a BOS meeting in order to introduce him and to be informed of Pathfinder happenings; example: how they are handling Covid-19, etc.

WARRANTS & INVOICES:

Mr. Dufresne made motion to accept the Warrants as written for Payroll and Vendors; second: Mr. Richard – AIF:

<u>Warrant #</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Amount</u>
#67	Payroll	\$38,097.94
#68	Vendor	\$48,458.51
#69	Payroll	\$38,765.88
#70	Vendor	\$154,964.82

Mr. Dufresne made motion to ratify Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Invoices as written; second: Mr. Richard – AIF:

- Invoice #8 - \$9,118.01 for FY19 Grant #875
- Invoice #9 - \$8,845.46 for FY19 Grant #875
- Invoice #10 - \$8,393.05 for FY19 Grant #875
- Invoice #22 - \$1,087.47 for FY18 Grant #844
- Invoice #23 - \$2,782.26 for FY18 Grant #844

APPOINTMENT:

Mr. Dufresne made motion to appoint Michael Shea to Part-time police officer as recommended by the Police Chief Gerry Millette; second: Mr. Richard – AIF. Officer Shea stated that he is very happy to be here and will serve well for the people of Warren. The Board welcomes Officer Shea and wishes him the best.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET & ARTICLES DISCUSSION:

Chief Gerry Millette proposed Capital Project requests for purchases needed for the foreseeable future: 1. Replacement of Cruiser #68 -2015 Ford Police Interceptor SUV with over 180,000 miles and cost of repairs has been high. This vehicle is used 365 days a year at approximately 16 plus hours a day. The average service life of a Police cruiser is approximately 3 years or 100,000 miles. Approximate cost including Green Communities Grant is \$46,000-\$50,000 for a new, fully equipped 2021 Ford Hybrid SUV. 2. Active Shooter protection (armor and helmets) and 3. New Rifles. Officers are now being trained to immediately enter and engage any armed subjects. The use of rifles by subjects has risen and with this added equipment it will give the Officers more protection and the ability to confront violent subjects.

Overall Budget proposal adjustment is \$26,850, due to contractual increases, added education, and yearly increases. The Board advised to the Chief to verify with the Town Accountant on Budget figures for Payroll, Salaries; thanked the Chief for coming in for the Budget review. Further Budget meetings will be scheduled for in depth discussions and decisions.

BUSINESS:

Mr. Dufresne stated that Michael Dutton/Bridgewater Town Manager and Chairman for Massachusetts Town Manager Association, is planning on a presentation of the Benefits of Town Administrator versus Town Manager. Mr. Dutton would explain the differences and benefits. Hopefully, in two weeks, Mr. Dutton will be on the Agenda for a Board of Selectmen's meeting.

ACO: Mr. Nason stated Palmer wants to talk to us, and he is happy to discuss the ACO with them, yet he feels that the ACO should fall under the Police as point of contact; this is the case in most towns. Mr. Richard stated that the Regionalization of ACO services was a disaster from day 1, with no one showing up for meetings, Warren got thrown under

the bus. The contract should have been until end of June 2021; did contract get breached? Mr. Richard stated that Sydney Plante may be willing to offer ACO services to the town again; our Police officers should not be in the middle of dog disputes.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS:

Mr. Stanley Soltys inquired if the Board could provide weekly updates on the Town Manager research, to keep the Town informed. Mr. Nason stated that we cannot commit to weekly basis on this subject matter. Right now the focus is on Budgets. Mr. Dufresne stated that we do have enough money in our selectmen budget line to hire a consultant, and the intent is to have an Article ready for the Town meeting.

Next Meeting Date for a Working Meeting with Highway Department's FY22 Budget proposal: Thursday, March 4, 2021 - 6:00 PM, Shepard Municipal Building. The week after next, will be 3 or 4 Departmental Budgets scheduled for review.

Meeting dissolved at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Priscilla J. Clowes
Administrative Secretary



David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk