



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2021

PRESENT: Mr. John Nason: Chairman and Mr. David Dufresne, Clerk.

ABSENT: Mr. Marc Richard: Vice-Chairman,

ATTENDEES: see attached list.

Opened the Meeting at 6:04 PM

Mr. Nason called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised all that this meeting is NOT being video/audio taped, and he advised that if anyone is taping the meeting to please notify the Board.

MINUTES:

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of March 17, 2021 as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Nason – AIF.

Note: No correspondence, warrants, or invoices to mention at this meeting.

Open Meeting Law Complaint - Mr. Nason stated that the Open Meeting Law Complaint is regarding the March 11, 2021 Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 6pm, whereas the Zoom had glitches for not allowing some people to attend the meeting. Mr. Nason stated until we can purchase a reliable Zoom platform, meetings will not be held via Zoom for BOS Meetings. Mr. Dufresne stated that this was his first time hosting a Zoom meeting using the free Zoom platform, and the version only allows 40-minute sessions. Mr. Dufresne stated that after each set of 40-minute intervals, he paused the meeting, reopened the meeting, and selected "allow everyone" to enter the meeting. Mr. Dufresne stated that The Ware River News and other were able to attend, not sure why there were glitches with not everybody being able to attend. The Board apologizes and stated that there was no malicious intent to do anything wrong. The Complainant recently stated that they were able to watch the taped version of the meeting from WCAT. A response letter will be drafted for the Board to review and send to the Complainant and cc'd to the Attorney General.

Budgets & Articles: Forester – Board of Health – Council on Aging – Libraries – Conservation:

Forester: Mr. Ken Lacey stated that it is a flat, level-funded budget for FY22. He is not rerunning for Forester for FY22.

Board of Health: Mr. Ken Lacey submitted the FY22 Budget- overall increase total is \$2,457. An extra \$1,000 is requested in the Health Inspector line, \$300 extra for Animal Inspector line, extra in the BOH Secretary line for extra office hours he is looking to increase. Mr. Lacey stated that the nurses handling contact tracing for covid-19, the CMRPC money has run out and will be offset to Cares Act. A RAT to pay for the deficit will be submitted in order to fund this, to then get reimbursed through the Cares Act. Palmer vaccination site is reopening next week, now that more vaccines are being delivered. They had to shut down for a couple weeks, due to lack of vaccines.

Council on Aging: Mr. Nason was contacted by a QRSD student Victoria Morgan today, to see if the town could help out with a Civic's Project of opening up a Food Pantry. Mr. Nason asked Ms. Sharon Meli/COA if she could correspond with Ms. Morgan to possibly utilize the senior center and have a joined effort for this project. Ms. Meli stated that she would love to help out. Ms. Clowes will email the request and contact information over to Ms. Meli tomorrow. The COA FY22

Budget request shows a total increase of \$1,314. The salary lines increased by approximately \$4,200, and the COA expense line item went down \$3,450, maintenance line went up \$500. Ms. Meli stated that a second phone line needs to be installed at \$24 a month – this will enable them to field more calls, example= helping out the many residents recently with covid-19 vaccination registrations.

Warren Library and West Warren Library: Ms. Mcaughey stated that the one Budget is split for both Libraries. For 10 years, they did not have increases, now they need to catch up. The town needs to support their appropriation requests, or they could stand to lose their certification. If this happened, they would not be eligible for many benefits: grants, loans, resources. The library is such a great asset to patrons: in-person, curbside, zoom, Facebook, Story time, cultural events resume services, etc. The Municipal Appropriation Requirement for FY2022 is \$194,543 in order to be in full compliance, and then from FY23 forward the annual increase to the library budget would be capped at 2.5%. Mr. Dufresne stated that the library is so much more than books, with all of the kid's programs, etc. it is such a valuable asset to have. The town is in support of the library, we are just gathering numbers now, and will finalize budgets by the end of this month.

Conservation: Ms. Joyce Eichacker in attendance to discuss the FY22 Budget request. \$2,000 total increase request is for expenses needed for zoom, Ipad for field work, and outside storage for documents. Ms. Clowes will contact Northeast IT for advice on an Ipad, and also for advice from Northeast on device storage. There could be storage in place from the recent migration over to Microsoft OneDrive – the cloud for storage.

Comments & Concerns: Mr. Jim Kordek inquired if the Shepard Building Gym has been wired yet for live taping of meetings. Mr. Nason stated that Valley Communications is still working on this; the wrong parts were delivered, and other problems have held up the job. Mr. Kordek questioned Mr. Dufresne on cell tower progress to enhance our cell phone service. Mr. Dufresne stated that the company did look into areas of dead zones. The cell service is improved with newer phones and different service plans. Mr. Dufresne will give Mr. Kordek the cell tower contact information, in order for him to call for an update. Mr. Kordek inquired of the reason for so many municipal employees leaving, ex= Assessor Rachael Carney is leaving, Tree Warden Ken Lacey not rerunning, Marc Richard resigning/retiring from BOS, Planning/Building Kathy Czub is retiring.


Next Meeting date will be Thursday March 25, 2021 at 6pm in the Shepard Building Gym- on the agenda is CDBG/Chris Dunphy public hearing, National Grid Pole Hearing, and Parks and Rec to discuss further their idea of a Drive-in style movie theater. Also, a working meeting to take place on Saturday March 27, 2021 at 1 pm – to finalize Budgets and Articles for the Town Meeting.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:53pm by Mr. Dufresne; second by Mr. Nason– AIF.

Respectfully submitted,



Priscilla J. Clowes
Administrative Secretary


David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk