



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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2021

PRESENT: Mr. John 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 called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised all that this meeting is 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 25, 2021 and March 27, 2021 as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Nason; Mr. Richard abstained— AIF.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The office received notice from the Town Clerk of the following important dates:

Voter Registration will be held: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 Town Clerk's Office – 9am to 8pm.

Annual Town Election will be held: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 – polling hours 8am-8pm.

Annual Town Meeting will be held: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 7:00pm at Quaboag Regional Middle/High School Auditorium-
 Special Town Meeting will be at 6:30 pm.

WARRANTS & INVOICES:

Motion to approve Warrants & Invoices as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – AIF.

OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT:

The Board received an Open Meeting Law Complaint on March 24, 2021, regarding the Board's meeting of March 4, 2021. The complainant stated that "Business" listed on the Agenda is too vague. The Board advised the Administrative Secretary to not list Business on any future Agendas. New Business has been listed on the Agenda for years, and has never been a problem. A letter response will be mailed out to the Complainant and the Office of the Attorney General.

QRSD BUDGET REVIEW: Mr. Nason stated that the Quaboag School District's Budget numbers seem relatively reasonable, and he invited Dr. Brett Kustigian to the meeting in case the public has any questions, comments or concerns. Mr. Richard stated that he read the Quaboag School Budget article in the Ware River News and he sees it as a pretty responsible Budget. Dr. Brett Kustigian stated that the Budget presentation is on the QRSD website for viewing. Dr. Kustigian stated that the coronavirus relief aid is helping, but they are still underfunded at the State level. Substantial savings (\$87,081) are in effect now, since switching Health Insurance providers. Mr. Jay Morgan stated that it was a 3-year process to see what the best options were; they were able to keep the same good insurance, copays are a little different, a lot of work, time and effort - yet cost savings pay off. Mr. Richard commends the school committee, and Dr. Kustigian on their efforts and cost savings to the Town. Dr. Kustigian stated that he cannot say enough about Ms. Madeline Smola and her securing of grants-recent Nursing assistant classes secured. Biomedical classes coming soon. Mr. Dufresne made motion to accept the QRSD Budget for FY22 as written; second: Mr. Richard – AIF.

HIGHWAY BUDGET & ARTICLES: Mr. Nason stated that we are not going to approve any new wage scales right now. The new Board will work on new wage scales for all departments. Mr. Nason stated that the Backhoe Article- we are talking of creative finance ways to make it happen. Mr. Dufresne stated that we are not saying "no" to highway's wage scale proposal- all wage scales need to be done for FY23 and we will work on them all then. Mr. Dufresne stated that Mr. Olson is doing a great job and he is very important to us. Mr. Olson stated that two very important Highway jobs need to be filled: foreman and mechanic- our wage scale needs pay increase in order to attract help. The Board advised Mr. Olson that if a candidate's qualifications are there, we could bring them in at a higher step. Ms. Kerry Schmidt stated that there is nobody in the Assessor's department- both employees left due to nearby towns paying more. Mr. Nason stated that we should have looked at increasing our pay scale sooner, and he will try to help once he tries to create a finance committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board received a call from an engineer at MassDOT that is working on the downtown bridge construction. The engineer has an office on Main Street that he works out of daily. The engineer stated that the business owners do not want him taking up a valuable parking spot, yet he needs to park there to unload his computer, plans, paperwork, etc. The police stated that they need to enforce the 1-hour parking-unless the BOS approve an exemption. The Board agreed to **not** allow more than the 1-hour parking there, and will advise the engineer to unload his computer, etc. and then move to a nearby parking lot. Ms. Soltys questioned if the Town Hall replacement windows have been ordered yet. Mr. Richard stated that he spoke with the architect Larry Tuttle to resolve issues with the door being ordered and finalizing the recent order of the windows; 6 weeks or less and the windows should be in. Mr. Nason stated that on next week's agenda we need to put on the QRSD Food Pantry Civics project with COA. The Town Administrator job position description will be discussed at the next agenda. Police Chief Millette stated that seven (7) businesses and residents recently donated to get the canine car fixed; it is currently at Lamoureaux being worked on. Thank you to the businesses and residents for donating. Mr. Dufresne stated that Walkamile Nutrition on Main Street will be opening up shortly; they just dropped off their Common Victualler license application. The establishment will be selling nutritious beverage drinks.

Next Meeting date is Thursday April 8, 2021 at 6pm.

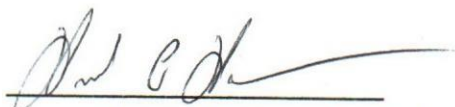
Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:16pm by Mr. Dufresne; second by Mr. Richard- AIF.

Respectfully submitted,



Priscilla J. Clowes

Administrative Secretary



David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk