



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

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 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 April 1, 2021 as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard— AIF.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. The Office received the Monthly reports for March, from the Police and Fire Departments.
2. The Office received the resignation of Priscilla Clowes/BOS Secretary, effective April 22nd. Ms. Clowes has accepted the job offer for Assistant Assessor.
3. The Office received notice from the Town Clerk acknowledging that \$4,583.52 was received in from the State, for reimbursement for Early Voting expenses.

Mr. Richard shout out to Ms. Lowell for getting reimbursed, every bit helps the Town. The Board thanks Ms. Clowes for her time as BOS Secretary and wishes her well in her new role as Assistant Assessor.

WARRANTS & INVOICES:

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

FY22 MEDICAL DENTAL RATE RENEWAL PROPOSAL: Based on the Town Treasurer's recommendation to renew with MIIA insurance for the term September 1, 2021 thru August 31, 2022- Mr. Nason makes motion to accept the MIIA insurance renewal; second: Mr. Dufresne – AIF.

VETERANS COUNCIL-Gift Account: Ms. Acerra of the Veterans Council is seeking to approve a Gift Account to hold donations for veterans. Mr. Richard stated that he has no issue with this; Mr. Dufresne stated that anything to help the veterans is good. Mr. Dufresne made motion to create a new account for Veterans Gift Account; second: Mr. Richard – AIF. Memo to Accountant and Treasure will be sent to create this approved account. Ms. Acerra stated that Memorial Day plans are a "Go" and a luncheon @ St. Stan's pavilion is planned again this year to honor veterans- social distancing protocols in place. Also, the veterans are presenting three (3) college scholarships to seniors this year- two (2) \$1,000 scholarships and one (1) \$500 scholarship.

FOOD PANTRY -QRSD CIVICS PROJECT – This topic will be discussed at a later time, based on more time needed for the Civics class to prepare for their presentation and discussion.

APPOINTMENT: Mr. Dufresne motion to appoint Mr. Peter Hastings to the position of janitor for the Council on Aging; second: Mr. Richard – AIF. Mr. Richard stated this position has been open for a couple of years, and janitorial services are needed for a few hours here and there to maintain the COA.

HIGHWAY BUDGET: Mr. Jeremy Olson stated that the Budget figures are put back to where they should be. Article for wage re-classification is not happening this year. Mr. Dufresne stated that the new BOS members will work on updating the wage scale for all town departments by June 30, 2022. The Board advised Mr. Olson to get Citizen's petition for an article; the Board is not advising an increase in the Highway Surveyor's position again this year. Mr. Dufresne stated that last year \$7,400 raise to surveyor's salary, not going to allow another increase this year. Mr. Dufresne stated they are being fiscally conscious, with Warren's poverty level- it does not support large salaries. Wage studies will be done and updated for FY23. Mr. Nason stated that they have not decided "how" they are going forward with the financing for the requested Backhoe article. Mr. Nason and Treasurer Dawn Swistak are still looking into this to finance. Mr. Nason stated that they might take a loan for the Highway backhoe along with the Fire Chief's stuff, too. Mr. Nason motion to accept Highway Budget for FY22; second: Mr. Dufresne – AIF.

SEWER BUDGET: Mr. Richard motion to approve the FY22 Sewer Budget; second: Mr. Nason – AIF.

WALKAMILE NUTRITION: 494 Main Street- new establishment selling nutritional beverages. Common Victualler license is signed and all set to go. Mr. Richard motion to approve CV license; second: Mr. Nason – AIF. Board wishes best of luck to Walkamile Nutrition, grand opening this weekend.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Mr. Dufresne presented description of job position that would be similar to our Town's needs. Mr. Nason stated that he read it and has no problem with it. Mr. Richard stated that he has five (5) different Town Administrator position descriptions, and advises the Board to review all to get it correct. Mr. Dufresne is working with other Towns to get the pay structure correct to be competitive and for our town meeting article. Mr. Nason stated that we need to look at all job descriptions, we are running out of time. The next BOS meeting will be next Wednesday at 7:15pm, and Mr. Nason stated to have the town administrator on the agenda for discussion and vote.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Richard shout out to the Parks Department for the Scavenger Egg Hunt held this past weekend. The younger kids had a ball, and it was a nice day for it. Kudos to the Parks & Rec Department and the High School kids who helped out.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS: Mr. Stanley Soltys commented on the Town Administrator topic, to advise that he figures the salary range would be around \$80-\$85,000, based on a comparison of similar towns. Mr. Dufresne stated that we would most likely fund for 6 months to start.

Mr. Bill Ramsey stated that the marijuana by-law was passed on May 8, 2018-Article #28, the moderator declared it a vote to accept marijuana retail to the Warren general bylaws. On June 18, 2018, the Attorney General accepted the article- and letter received by Ms. Nancy Lowell/Town Clerk. Mr. Ramsey stated that we need to have in place a marijuana sales tax, in preparation of possible outlet stores in our Town in the future. Mr. Dufresne stated that we will have an Article on the floor at the Annual Town Meeting in order to be proactive with taxes in place.

Next Meeting date is Wednesday, April 14, 2020 at 7:15pm.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:59 pm by Mr. Dufresne; second by Mr. Richard– AIF.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Priscilla J. Clowes", written over a horizontal line.

Priscilla J. Clowes

Administrative Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David P. Dufresne, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk