



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2020 - 5:30 PM

**PRESENT:** Mr. Dario F. Nardi; Chairman and Mr. John Nason, Vice-Chairman and Mr. Marc Richard, Clerk

**ATTENDEES:** Phil Landine, Dan Bigda, Peter Krawczyk, Beverly Soltys, Ann Banville, Dave Kirk, Sheri Sumpter and Brett Kustigian

### Opened the Meeting at 7:00 PM

Chairman Nardi opened the meeting and dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance at this time.

The Board met this evening at the request of the West Brookfield Board of Selectmen in order to discuss the FY 21 budget for the school. Both Warren and West Brookfield have scheduled their town meetings for June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Landine began the discussion. He feels that the towns need to come together as he said his position is that West Brookfield is not going to spend any more money than last year. Mr. Nardi stated that under the current conditions that have evolved due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Warren has requested that our municipal departments submit budgets to include reductions.

Dr. Kustigian stated that the target is the same above minimum as last year. Mr. Nardi is against going into the new fiscal year with a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget. His opinion is to present the omnibus budget to the voters and address articles and any other possible increases at a Special Town Meeting. Mr. Nason agreed that everyone needs to come together.

Dr. Kustigian stated that due to the shutdown, they have an approximate reserve of \$300K. Mr. Kirk (school committee) requested that he (Kustigian) lay everything on the table. Dr. Kustigian stated that at this time, the future of the school day is uncertain.

On one of the proposals, Dr. Kustigian stated that he is looking to have families purchase Chrome Books. Mr. Landine questioned a 50K playground and suggested that he put that money into Chrome Books. Mr. Bigda is in now way in favor of spending money on a playground. Dr. Kustigian also discussed the plans to move the preschool to Quaboag. He felt that students could replace paras and possibly provide a career path for them (students).

Mr. Nardi once again said that he would rather go into the new fiscal year with last years numbers then address when the picture is clearer. Dr. Kustigian would rather see a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget. Mr. Landine stated that if we go with Warrens numbers then West Brookfield will back into our numbers. The Selectmen agreed to go with the same above minimum as FY 20.

Motion to recess until 7 PM made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra  
Administrative Secretary

Marc W. Richard, Clerk