



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2020 – 7 PM

PRESENT: Mr. John A. Nason; Chairman, Mr. Marc Richard; Vice-Chairman and Mr. David Dufresne, Clerk (arrived at 7:05 PM)

ATTENDEES: See attached list

Opened the Meeting at 7:00 PM

Mr. Nason opened the meeting 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. **(Tonight's meeting was postponed from Tuesday, August 4, 2020 due to the tropical storm/tornado warning)**

The Board observed a moment of silence for Mr. Dan Zrate and Mr. Joe O'Keefe. Both gentlemen passed away recently. Mr. Zrate was a long-time Cemetery Commissioner and Mr. O'Keefe worked as maintenance for the Cemetery. Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

MINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of June 30, 2020 as written made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of July 6, 2020 as written made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of July 14, 2020 as written made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason - unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. The office received the monthly report of the Fire Chief for month ending July 2020 - **Noted**

CIRCOR NAVAL SOLUTION, LLC – WARREN

Tax Collector, Kerry Schmidt was in attendance this evening to discuss what was an outstanding balance on their FY 2018- FY 2020 Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes. She sent them notice and is happy to report that in response to her letter, they paid, \$477,209.17 as of this evening. They still have \$74,729.83 that was due on August 3, 2020, however she will monitor the matter as she thinks they may have just overlooked it. Kudos to Kerry.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion to appoint Kathleen Odiorne to the Board of Registrars as requested by the Town Clerk made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason – unanimous.

Motion to appoint Garrett Fortin as a part-time police officer as requested by the Police Chief made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Nason -unanimous. (Chief Millette stated that Garrett has already gone through the part-time academy and will be ready for field training once he is sworn in).

Chief Millette also introduced David Churchy who currently holds the position as Sergeant in North Brookfield. Sgt. Churchy applied for the position of Lieutenant and met all the qualifications. Sgt. Churchy began his law enforcement career in 1998 and looks forward to the new challenges this position brings. Chief Millette is recommending him for the position. Mr. Dufresne who himself is in law enforcement reviewed his qualifications and agrees with the Chief's recommendation. With no further discussion, the following motion was made: Motion to appoint David Churchy to the position of Lieutenant made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

Lastly, Chief Millette introduced Officer Madysen Nale. Madysen was appointed as a full-time officer during the height of the pandemic and was not present for the official appointment. Officer Nale is finishing up field training and a welcomed addition to the force.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Both Chief Millette and Chief Lavoie were in attendance this evening to discuss Emergency Preparedness. The town recently went through some inclement weather which we seem to be seeing more and more of. What was thought to be a possible tornado a few weeks ago, luckily turned out to be a funnel cloud, however emergency notification was spotty at best. Chief Millette did put out a reverse 911 call about the funnel cloud, however only approximately 200 homes received the notice. He and Chief Lavoie have been discussing switching over to a new program, which is called Swift 9-1-1. This would be done through Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center. Chief Lavoie stated that almost all the landline numbers are already into the system. There will be a sign-up for dwellings that only utilize cell phones. With the sign-up, you can sign up for all notification, only weather related, or urgent messages. The system should be up and running within the next week or so with no cost to the town. Chief Lavoie said that they have put some information out on social media. Mr. Dufresne acknowledged that the siren caused confusion, especially to those possibly new to town. Both Chiefs would only use the siren system in the case of a real emergency, so residents are not immune to it and possibly disregard it. Access to the system for sending messages would be highly restrictive to only a few personnel within the Police/Fire Departments.

Both Chiefs are starting an infrastructure inventory of radios/pagers, which they are hoping to replace through grant funding, however urged the town to consider putting a capital plan in place. The radios (fire) were replaced approximately 7-8 years ago. Again, Mr. Dufresne, through his knowledge of law enforcement stated that radios can run anywhere from 5K to 10K and up. All three Selectmen were fully supportive of this new system.

7:15 PM – POLE HEARING FOR NATIONAL GRID/VERIZON – LITTLE REST ROAD

Representatives from National Grid were not in attendance this evening as they were still on storm duty from Tuesday's storm. National Grid/Verizon are proposing 1 JO pole 38.50 on Little Rest Road beginning at a point approximately 1,800 feet southeast of the centerline of intersection of Bemis Road and Little Rest Road. In speaking with the engineer who drew the plan, this additional pole is in line with National Grid's Modification Program. This allows for feeders to be wired in thus allowing real-time knowledge of data with sensors to monitor the feed. All abutters were notified and with no one in opposition, the following motion was made: Motion to approve the application for National Grid/Verizon as presented made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard – unanimous.

WARRANTS & INVOICES

Motion to approve and sign the Warrant No's. 111 & 110 dated June 30, 2020 in the amounts of \$175.00 & \$64,419.12 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No.'s 6 & 7 dated July 20, 2020 in the amounts of \$34,008.06 & \$167,231.73 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign Warrant No's. 8, 9 & 10 dated July 27, 2020 in the amounts of \$42,807.05, (\$-285.00), & \$35,879.54 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign the Warrant No's. 11 & 12 dated August 3, 2020 in the amounts of \$47,294.82 & \$27,836.31 respectively made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne - unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign invoice number 19 for FY 18 to PVPC in the amount of \$3,304.44 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

Motion to approve and sign invoice number 4 for FY 19 to PVPC in the amount of \$10,304.47 made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Richard thanked the Police/Fire/CERT/EM and Highway for their efforts during this week's storm clean up. He also stated that the painting on the bell tower would begin soon at no cost to the town. He thanked Mr. Dyjak, the FOTTH and all who donated to support this effort. Mr. Richard urged all who have not yet been down to Lucy Stone since the revival of the park

began. A tremendous amount of work went into that project and continues to do so. A visit is well worth the trip and kudos to all who have aided in that endeavor.

Mr. Dufresne followed up from an inquiry from a previous meeting regarding the downtown bridge project by MassDOT. He met with the Conservation Commission and contractor and protective barriers are now in place. He also inquired about having a specific day set aside to recognize the efforts of employees/residents in moving this town in the right direction. Mr. Dufresne also asked Chief Millette about a letter that was circulating to communities in support of law enforcement. Chief Millette is aware of it and he will forward for the Board to consider.

Mr. Igor Kupryck addressed the board regarding some concerns that were aired on social media. Again, with the recent weather events, residents are wondering why we cannot have at least one Springfield news station. Since the last contract negotiations with Comcast, the FCC has ruled that Warren is in the Boston market and the channel line-up reflects that. That was a point of contention during negotiations, however to no avail. The Board will once again contact Comcast to see what can be done. Mr. Nason stated that we are looking to upgrade the IT in the building. Mr. Dufresne asked if they (WCAT) can provide a link which would allow residents who do not have Comcast to see the meetings. Mr. Kupryck stated that they concentrate on their Comcast subscribers.

Mr. Nickerson requested that the Board write a letter to Verizon looking for action to be taken. Mr. Nason, who has taken the lead on this is working on the matter.

Next Meeting Date: August 18, 2020 – 7 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Richard; second: Mr. Dufresne – unanimous at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Rebecca Acerra
Administrative Secretary


David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk