

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Monday, January 23, 2023**

Members Present: Chairman John Grasso; Clerk William Matchett III

Member Absent/Excused: Vice Chairman Michael Valanzola

Others Present: Zachery Berry, candidate for appointment to the Conservation Commission; Robyn Chrabasz, Historical Commission member/Clerk; Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary and Town Accountant

Chairman Grasso called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so by following the Zoom instructions below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Wales municipal website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote to appoint Zachery Berry to the Conservation Commission for a 3 year term effective January 24, 2023 through January 23, 2026

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to appoint Zachery Berry to the Conservation Commission for a 3 year term effective January 24, 2023 through January 23, 2026. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes.

Vote to appoint Christopher Ryan as the Town of Wales representative to the PVPC Joint Transportation Committee effective January 24, 2023

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to appoint Christopher Ryan as the Town of Wales representative to the PVPC Joint Transportation Committee effective January 24, 2023. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes.

Vote to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Municipality Statement of Commitment for the MA DPH Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Municipality Statement of Commitment for the MA DPH Public Health Excellence Grant Program for Shared Services. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes.

Review and vote to authorize the Chair to sign the June 30, 2021 audit representation letter: Ms. Leduc advised the Board that the audit is complete and she is in the process of reviewing the draft financial statements and management letter.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to authorize the Chair to sign the June 30, 2021 audit representation letter. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes.

Review and vote to approve the Estimate dated December 19, 2022 submitted by Erik Bishop Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$9,850.00 for replacement of the highway department oil furnace and tank: The highway department's oil furnace and tank are not functional. The fire department's boiler has been malfunctioning on a regular basis. Selectman Matchett recommended seeking a quote to replace the current systems with a single larger system to accommodate the entire building. Selectman Matchett to follow up with the road commissioner; action postponed.

Vote to authorize the utilization of services of Town Counsel pursuant to the Town Counsel Access Policy

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to authorize the utilization of services of Town Counsel by the Historical Commission to conduct a review of the designer services RFQ related to the feasibility study of Old Town Hall. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes.

Vote to approve the December 13, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to approve the December 13, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes.

Vote to approve the December 13, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes subject to release

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to approve the December 13, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes subject to release. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from Charter Communications dated December 16, 2022: Acknowledged receipt.

Email from The Norcross Wildlife Foundation dated January 19, 2023: Acknowledged receipt. Ms. Leduc to respond to Mr. Hood's email and advise that the town recommends divesting of the property to a private concern.

Email from Senior Center Director Cheri Fisher dated January 23, 2023: Acknowledged receipt. Ms. Leduc will be working with Ms. Fisher to reconcile her accounts. Chairman Grasso recommended that a formal reconciliation process be implemented.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selectman Matchett advised that he will be working with Ms. Leduc to draft/update the town's various policies and procedures.

The tri town (Brimfield, Holland and Wales) meeting of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees scheduled for this evening at 6:00 pm at the Wales Elementary School to discuss Action Ambulance Service, Inc. has been rescheduled to Monday, February 27, 2023.

Ms. Chrabascz advised the Board that she is drafting an Expression of Interest for the Community One Stop for Growth FY24 funding round with the assistance of Ms. Leduc and Ms. Fisher. Funding is being sought for capital improvements at the transfer station and reconstruction of the senior center parking lot.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Leduc

Executive Secretary