

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
JOINT MEETING WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

Monday, July 10, 2023

Office of the Board of Selectmen, 1st Floor
3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA

Members Present: Chairman John Grasso; Vice Chairman William Matchett III; Clerk Michael Valanzola

Others Present: Leis Phinney, BOA and Assistant Town Clerk; Jessica Miller, FinCom Chair; Edward Fisher Jr., FinCom Member; Kristie Ashby, FinCom Member; Shirley Lamb; Roxanne Gunther; Rod Kincaid, Treasurer and Cable Director

Chairman Grasso called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Grasso led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2023 end of year budget transfers: The Board reviewed the spreadsheet provided by the Town Accountant.

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to approve the FY 2023 end of year budget transfers as recommended by the Town Accountant. The motion passed unanimously.

FY 2024 reserve fund transfer requests: See Finance Committee minutes.

Vote to appoint Joan E. Navarro to the position of Principal Assessor for a 1 year term effective TBD: Chairman Grasso recused himself from the discussion and vote. Vice Chairman Matchett explained the recruitment process. Members of the preliminary screening committee included BOA members Leon Givner and Leis Phinney, Tax Collector Rebecca Smith and Executive Secretary Pamela Leduc. Selectman Valanzola read the letter of recommendation for appointment, voted unanimously by the committee. Selectman Valanzola requested clarification as to the (re)certification process and reviewed Ms. Navarro's resume.

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to appoint Joan E. Navarro to the position of Principal Assessor for a 1 year term contingent upon the acceptance of a formal offer of employment and effective date of appointment. Selectman Matchett – yes; Selectman Valanzola – yes.

Vote to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement between the Towns of Brimfield, Holland, Wales and Action Ambulance Service, Inc. for Emergency Ambulance Service effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026: Chairman Grasso reviewed the renewal process and discussed the negotiated changes to the agreement's terms and conditions. Selectman Valanzola requested that the formatting of the document be amended to incorporate the Town of Brimfield with the Towns of Holland and Wales for signature and address purposes.

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement between the Towns of Brimfield, Holland, Wales and Action Ambulance Service, Inc. for Emergency Ambulance Service effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve the August 31, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to amend the August 31, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes to correctly reflect board members' titles. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to approve the August 31, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as amended. Selectman Valanzola – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes; Selectman Matchett – abstain.

Vote to approve the August 31, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes not subject to release

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to approve the August 31, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes not subject to release. Selectman Valanzola – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes; Selectman Matchett – abstain.

Vote to approve the September 12, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to amend the September 12, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes to correctly reflect board members' titles. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to approve the September 12, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as amended. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes; Selectman Valanzola – abstain.

Vote to approve the September 12, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes not subject to release

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to approve the September 12, 2022 Executive Session Meeting Minutes not subject to release. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes; Selectman Valanzola – abstain.

Vote to approve the September 27, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to amend the September 27, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes to correctly reflect board members' titles. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to approve the September 27, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as amended. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes; Selectman Valanzola – abstain.

Vote to approve the February 13, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to amend the February 13, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes to correctly reflect board members' titles. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to approve the February 13, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve the February 13, 2023 Executive Session Meeting Minutes not subject to release

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to approve the February 13, 2023 Executive Session Meeting Minutes not subject to release. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve the March 20, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to amend the March 20, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes to correctly reflect board members' titles. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to approve the March 20, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve the May 8, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to amend the May 8, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes to correctly reflect board members' titles. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to approve the May 8, 2023 Regular Session Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Fire Department appointments effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024: Acknowledged receipt.

Email from Danelle Laflower dated June 19, 2023: Acknowledged receipt. Board members request the posting of a Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) liaison position.

Letter of resignation from Susan Cadieux, Board of Assessors effective July 1, 2023: Acknowledged receipt.

Correspondence from Charter Communications dated July 7, 2023: Acknowledged receipt.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selectman Matchett advised that he reached out to Lauren Smith, 6 Walker Road, to discuss her concerns related to the presence of geese and their impact on Lake George per her email dated July 1, 2023. Selectman Valanzola requests that Ms. Smith's email be forwarded to the Conservation Commission and the Board of Health for their review and recommendations.

Chairman Grasso advised that he has reached out to the Road Commissioner and requested that the current sign indicating the location of 2nd Street be replaced with a standard issue street sign.

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement between Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc. and Town of Wales to provide a fireworks display on August 5, 2023 (postponement date August 6, 2023). The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Leduc

Executive Secretary