

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, November 30, 2022
Wales Elementary School
41 Main Street, Wales, MA**

Members Present: Chairman John Grasso; Vice Chairman Michael Valanzola; Clerk William Matchett III
Others Present: Robyn Chrabascz, Library Trustee/Clerk and Historical Commission member/Clerk; Judy Ward; Dennis Ward; Bridget Ward; Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary

Chairman Grasso called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Grasso led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CANDIDATES FOR ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN INTERVIEWS

Board members interviewed Rowan Bernstein of Brimfield, MA for the position of Assistant Librarian. Ms. Leduc advised the Board that Ms. Fisher was unable to attend the scheduled interview due to a previous commitment.

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to appoint Amy Adams to the position of Assistant Librarian, contingent upon the passing of a standard prospective employee CORI check. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Email from Jean Smith dated November 28, 2022: Board members remain in favor of erecting an aesthetically pleasing street side sign indicating the location of the senior center as well as the Wales Community Pantry. Selectman Valanzola recommends reaching out to Mr. Wood at Tantasqua; Chairman Grasso and Selectman Matchett recommend contacting Industrial Designworks if Mr. Wood advises that the vocational program is unable to assist with the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote to reappoint Hugh W. Brower to the Conservation Commission for a term effective June 9, 2022 through January 8, 2023

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectmen Valanzola; to reappoint Hugh W. Brower to the Conservation Commission for a term effective June 9, 2022 through January 8, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to appoint the following individuals to the Master Plan Implementation Committee for a 1 year term effective November 8, 2022 through November 7, 2023

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to appoint the following individuals to the Master Plan Implementation Committee for a 1 year term effective November 8, 2022 through November 7, 2023:

*JoAnne Higgins, Parks Commission
Peter Higgins, Recreation Committee*

The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to designate the following positions "special municipal employees" pursuant to M.G.L. c. 268A: The Tax Collector received an opinion in response to an inquiry by the State Ethics Commission. The opinion recommended that elected positions and those positions appointed by elected officials other than the Board of Selectmen be designated special municipal employees to allow the individuals to hold multiple positions pursuant to M.G.L. c. 268A.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to designate the following positions “special municipal employees” pursuant to M.G.L. c. 268A:

***Tax Collector
Assistant Tax Collector
Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer***

The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve the renewal of annual Alcoholic Beverages Licenses for Calendar Year 2023: The Wales Irish Pub remains closed pending compliance with code enforcement regulations (building, electric, gas and plumbing, fire) and the Board of Health. The vote to renew the license is appropriate because of its approved status by both the ABCC and the LLA despite the fact that it has not been issued.

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to approve the renewal of annual Alcoholic Beverages Licenses for Calendar Year 2023:

***Choice Foods, 2 Main Street
Lake George Tavern, 2 Main Street
Wales Irish Pub, 16 Holland Road***

The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve and sign ABCC Renewal Certification 2023 Form: The ABCC’s 2023 retail license renewal package included a Retail License Renewal form for Terron LLC dba Wales Irish Pub. The Renewal Certification 2023 form has been completed to indicate that Terron LLC dba Wales Irish Pub is a licensee who failed to renew for 2023.

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to approve and sign ABCC Renewal Certification 2023 Form. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve and sign ABCC 2023 Seasonal Population Increase Estimation Form

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to approve and sign ABCC 2023 Seasonal Population Increase Estimation Form. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to authorize the Historical Commission to conduct the designer selection process required to comply with the Rural and Small Town Development Grant pursuant to M.G.L. c. 7C, §§ 44-58 and the Town of Wales Designer Selection Procedures adopted April 11, 2022: Robyn Chrabascz, Historical Commission member and Clerk, applied for and was awarded a \$98,000 grant from the MA Rural and Small Town Development Fund to be used to hire a design team to conduct a feasibility study of Old Town Hall and the adjacent town owned parcel. The feasibility study will evaluate the sites’ current use(s) and make recommendations for future use(s). This vote would delegate the Board of Selectmen’s authority to conduct the designer selection process for the Town of Wales to the Historical Commission for this project. The Historical Commission will provide the Board of Selectmen with a list of at least 3 design firms at the conclusion of the process. Ms. Leduc thanked Ms. Chrabascz for her efforts and congratulated her on securing the grant on behalf of the Town.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to authorize the Historical Commission to conduct the designer selection process required to comply with the Rural and Small Town Development Grant pursuant to M.G.L. c. 7C, §§ 44-58 and the Town of Wales Designer Selection Procedures adopted April 11, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve and authorize the Chair to sign PVPC Response to Town of Wales FY 2018 CDBG Monitoring Report (Grant #842)

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to approve and authorize the Chair to sign PVPC Response to Town of Wales FY 2018 CDBG Monitoring Report (Grant #842). The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

CONFIDENTIAL correspondence from the Law Offices of Scott A. Lathrop, Esq. dated November 12, 2022: Acknowledged receipt of the correspondence in addition to Ms. Leduc's email response.

Grant award notification from MA Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development dated October 26, 2022: Acknowledged receipt. Chairman Grasso recognized and thanked Ms. Chrabasz.

Full Time Police Officer job posting: Acknowledged receipt. Chief Ford reports that 3 resumes have been received to date.

Bartholomew Electric building security proposals: Acknowledged receipt. Selectman Valanzola requests an executive session (exemption 4) at the December 13th meeting to discuss in detail.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Valanzola; to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Leduc

Executive Secretary