

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
Office of the Board of Selectmen, 1st Floor
3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA

Members Present: Chairman John Grasso; Clerk William Matchett III

Member Absent/Excused: Vice Chairman Michael Valanzola

Others Present: Jean Smith, Wales Community Pantry Director; Janna Randall, Wales Community Pantry Intake and Delivery Assistant; Judy Ward, Wales Community Pantry Supervisor; Dennis Ward, Wales Community Pantry volunteer; Nicole Croteau, OHD Committee Chair; Thomas Ford, Chief of Police; Sarah Ryan, Town Clerk and Code Enforcement Coordinator; Rod Kincaid, Treasurer and Cable Director; Roy Lainson, OHD Committee; Ann Chrabascz, COA Chair; Susan Cadieux, BOA; Aaron Weston, CAI Technologies; Leon Givner, BOA Chair; Rebecca Smith, Tax Collector; Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary and Town Accountant

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Grasso led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OLD BUSINESS

Jean Smith, Wales Community Pantry Director: Ms. Smith requested that the Board reconsider her recommendation for signage based upon issues related to deliveries and her required compliance with USDA standards. Ms. Smith provided the Board with an overview of the Wales Community Pantry operation and extended an invitation to board members to visit the pantry. Chairman Grasso requested that Ms. Smith provide the Board of Selectmen with a copy of the USDA regulations for their review. Ms. Leduc advised the Board that she had contacted Mr. Wood at Tantasqua per Selectman Valanzola's recommendation and the initial indication was that they would be willing to undertake the project.

Board of Assessors: Susan Cadieux and Leon Givner came forward on behalf of the Board of Assessors to introduce Aaron Weston, Business Development Manager for CAI Technologies. Mr. Weston provided an overview of the mapping project process and proposed contract for services. Ms. Leduc explained that Selectman Valanzola had requested the Board of Selectmen's support for the project prior to consideration by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC). Ms. Leduc provided answers to the funding questions in Mr. Weston's October 27th email. Mr. Weston confirmed that CAI Technologies is on the state bid list for GIS services. Chairman Grasso and Selectman Matchett indicated their support for the project. CDBG and ARPA were mentioned as possible funding scenarios.

Review and vote to approve effective January 1, 2023 the schedule of fees as proposed by the Electrical Inspector: Sarah Ryan, Code Enforcement Coordinator, came forward and provided the Board with copies of the electrical inspector's current and proposed fee schedules in addition to the electrical fees charged by surrounding towns. Ms. Leduc proposed that an effective date of February 1, 2023 be considered to provide adequate notice to the public.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to approve effective February 1, 2023 the schedule of fees as proposed by the Electrical Inspector. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Nicole Croteau and Roy Lainson: Olde Home Day 2023 will be held on Saturday, August 12, 2023. Festivities this year will include a parade. Chairman Grasso requested periodic updates from the OHD Committee leading up to the event.

Thomas J. Ford III, Chief of Police: Chief Ford came forward to recommend the appointment of Sergeant Dario Camacho to the position of Lieutenant effective January 1, 2023.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to confirm the appointment of Dario Camacho to the position of Lieutenant effective January 1, 2023 as recommended by Chief Ford. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to reappoint Christopher R. Ryan to the position of Road Commissioner for a term effective December 8, 2022 through June 30, 2023: Ms. Leduc advised the Board that since Mr. Ryan's appointment to the position of road commissioner in December 2021, he has obtained his CDL in addition to ensuring that all three (3) employees were successful in obtaining theirs; procured and published a formal pavement management plan; produced and oversees a legitimate departmental budget; and continues to implement significant operational changes in the highway department. Selectman Matchett questioned the term of the appointment and Ms. Leduc explained that she is hopeful that the special legislation filed by the town will be approved by the spring which will transform the current structure of the highway department into a DPW.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to reappoint Christopher R. Ryan to the position of Road Commissioner for a term effective December 8, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Street light request: Ms. Leduc to contact National Grid; action postponed.

Vote to approve and sign the renewal of Class II – Used Car Dealer's Licenses for Calendar Year 2023: Selectman Valanzola joined the meeting via phone for this agenda item only.

Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to approve and sign the renewal of the following Class II – Used Car Dealer's Licenses for Calendar Year 2023:

***Pearson Towing & Collision Repair, 51 Hollow Road
Smitty's Speed, Paint and Fabrication, 49 Main Street
T Works, 45 Union Road
T Works, 32 Monson Road***

Selectman Valanzola – yes; Selectman Matchett – abstain; Chairman Grasso – yes.

Vote to approve and sign the renewal of Entertainment Licenses for Calendar Year 2023: The Board will be reevaluating its policies and procedures related to the issuance of entertainment licenses during calendar year 2023.

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to approve and sign the renewal of the following Entertainment Licenses for Calendar Year 2023:

***Lake George Tavern, 2 Main Street
Oak Haven Campground, 22 Main Street***

The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve and sign the renewal of Common Victualler Licenses for Calendar Year 2023

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to approve and sign the renewal of the following Common Victualler Licenses for Calendar Year 2023:

***Choice Foods, 2 Main Street
Lake George Tavern, 2 Main Street
Oak Haven Campground, 22 Main Street***

The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to approve the November 30, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to approve the November 30, 2022 Regular Session Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

January/February/March 2023 meeting schedule: Monday, January 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm; Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm; Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

Memo from Tantasqua/Union 61 Director of Finance Stephen Nembirkow dated December 7, 2022: Acknowledged receipt. Unanimous consent to appoint Selectman Valanzola as the Board of Selectmen's FY24 district budget liaison.

Correspondence from Senior Center Director Cheri Fisher dated December 8, 2022: Acknowledged receipt. Ms. Leduc to follow up with Ms. Fisher.

Correspondence from Wales Council on Aging dated December 8, 2022: Acknowledged receipt. Ms. Leduc to draft Senior Tax Work Off Program policy and procedures for adoption by the Board of Selectmen and implementation by July 1, 2023.

Email from Library Trustee Robyn Chrabasz dated December 12, 2022: Acknowledged receipt. Ms. Leduc thanked Ms. Chrabasz for her efforts related to the purchase of propane for the library and the senior center.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selectman Matchett requested an update from Chief Ford regarding the full time police officer recruitment. Chief Ford advised that the initial advertising resulted in three (3) candidates who were not currently qualified to fill the position. Additional advertising outlets are being considered to expand the candidate pool.

Tri town (Brimfield, Holland and Wales) meeting of the Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Wales Elementary School to discuss Action Ambulance Service, Inc.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Selectman Matchett at 7:28 pm; seconded by Chairman Grasso; to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Exemption 4 to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. Selectman Matchett – yes; Chairman Grasso – yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Refer to Executive Session minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Leduc

Executive Secretary