

## Wales Board of Selectmen Minutes

January 12, 2016  
Wales Town Hall  
3 Hollow Road  
Wales, MA 01081

Present: Jeff Vannais, Mike Milanese, Ed Boyce, Amy Bishop  
Open 7:13

### ✱ Emergency Management Grant

Emergency Management Director John Croke was in attendance to discuss the availability of match grant through MEMA. Croke stated he would like to get the grant to update Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which includes creating meeting space, relocating radios, and upgrading technology. He is asking the Board if they would be willing to match \$2460 so they can get the grant. Milanese asked what is in the emergency Management budget. Croke explained the used some of the budget, approximately \$1,000, earlier in the year for purchases and there is about \$300 remaining. He would be willing to put the \$300 toward the grant.

**MOTION:** TO spend \$2,160 out of Norcross to match the funds for an Emergency Management grant. Motion made by Boyce, seconded by Vannais.

**Discussion:**

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

### ✱ Tantasqua Regional School District (TRSD)– Athletic Fields Proposal

Mike Valanzola, Chair of the TRSB was in attendance to explain the proposal to install artificial turf on some of the athletic fields at the high school. In addition to the artificial turf, the project also will include the track to be resurfaced and making the press box handicap accessible. Valanzola explained the project would not be funded from taxes, or operating budgets, but from the capital budget. The project would be funded through the issuance of bonds. He stated they believe this is a good time for another project because they will be making final payments on another project and the technology for turf has greatly improved over the past few years. Several Wales residents were in attendance and stated they believe it would only be beneficial to the school to have artificial turf. Typically in the spring, especially after winters with they cannot use the fields for quite some time which puts the teams at a disadvantage. He also added he believes Wales is the only town that may call a Special Town Meeting. But he and the Tantasqua administration are confident they would be successful. Milanese stated he had a bit of concern when the TRSD decided to vote on this. It seemed a bit sneaky since it was right before the holidays. Valanzola it absolutely was not sneaky, they have tried to be as transparent as possible with this project. In fact, Wales is the only town that has a member of their Select Board on the TRSD. Boyce stated he has already briefed the Board on the matter. He is just concerned because there have been people unaware of the project and not in favor of it.

**MOTION:** To approve the project to upgrade the athletic fields and not hold a Special Town Meeting. Motion made by Vannais, no second. **MOTION FAILED**

Valanzola added if the Board decides to call a Special Town Meeting, the TRSB is confident they will be successful at town meeting. If the Board wants to waste \$1,000 to call the meeting, he is okay with that. He added the Town of Wales has come a long way with the relationship with the Tantasqua district, and he would hate to see Wales vote this down. It would be an embarrassment to the town and to him.

Concern was also raised that if the fields continue to get used and damaged, they would no longer allow, recreation sports to continue to use the fields. Valanzola stated the football would use the “cage” which would also have artificial turf, for their practices, which would no longer damage the grass fields.

Milanese asked who in attendance was in favor of the project. All who were in attendance of the meeting raised their hands.

**MOTION:** To approve the project and not hold a Special Town Meeting. Motion made by Milanese, seconded by Vannais.

**Discussion:** Nothing further

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

✳ **Minutes**

**MOTION:** To accept the minutes for the December 29, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion made by Boyce, seconded by Milanese.

**Discussion:** None

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

✳ **Fire Chief Description**

An updated job description for the Fire Chief position was submitted to the Board.

**MOTION:** To accept the job description as presented and post the job for four weeks. Motion made by Milanese, seconded by Boyce.

**Discussion:** The Board will review the resumes for the position at the February 9, 2016 meeting in executive session. Posting for the position will be in on the website and newspaper and other local places.

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

✳ **Old Stafford Road**

A deed prepared by the buyer's attorney was reviewed by the Board. Vannais stated the deed did not have the "Hold Harmless" clause and the sale amount may need to be adjusted. They would like to have the attorneys make those changes before approving the deed.

✳ **Cemetery Appointment**

The Cemetery Commission notified the Board they do not intend to recommend anyone to be appointed to the Commission since very little is done during the winter months and they only have three meetings until the next election. They have had several people inquire about being on the Commission and do not believe it would be helpful to train someone when they may not be re-elected. The Board was okay with that decision.

✳ **Budget Request FY17**

Finance Committee was looking for budget requests for FY17

**MOTION:** To increase the Building Maintenance line item \$10,000 for FY17. Motion made by Boyce, seconded by Vannais.

**Discussion:** Milanese does not believe it needs to be increased. Typically they are able to carry money forward from each fiscal year. This year there was just a large project (Septic system) that was costly and then it went over. He believes \$50,000 is more than enough for building maintenance.

**VOTE: Boyce: YES; Milanese, Vannais: NO**

**MOTION:** To level fund the Building Maintenance line item for FY17. Motion made by Milanese, seconded by Vannais.  
**Discussion:** None

**VOTE: Milanese, Vannais: YES; Boyce: NO**

**MOTION:** To move forward with submitting the budget with the 3% raise for the Executive Secretary. Motion made by Vannais, no second. **MOTION FAILS.**

**MOTION:** To level fund all line items and discuss salary with the Finance Committee. Motion made by Boyce, seconded by Milanese

**Discussion:** Boyce stated he believes they should not set a precedent with salary until they speak with the Finance Committee. Vannais stated the precedent has already been set with the union agreement with the highway contract. Milanese asked how much was the highway increase. Vannais stated it was 2%. Milanese **withdrew the second.**

**MOTION:** To level fund the budget with a 2% increase in the Executive Secretary salary. Motion made by Vannais, seconded by Boyce.

**Discussion:** None

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

**MOTION:** To submit the budget to the Finance Committee as discussed. Motion made by Vannais, seconded by Boyce.

**Discussion:** None

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

✳ **Certificate of Completion**

**MOTION:** To sign the Certificate of Completion for the Woodland Heights project. Motion made by Boyce, seconded by Vannais.

**Discussion:** Chris Dunphy of PVPC has confirmed all the concerns the Board had with the project have been addressed and no outstanding concerns exist.

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

✳ **PVPC Invoices**

**MOTION:** To sign PVPC Invoice #22 for \$785.95 and #23 for \$1,731.45. Motion made by Boyce, seconded by Vannais.

**Discussion:** None

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

✳ **Discharge of Lien**

**MOTION:** To sign the PVPC Discharge of Lien. Motion made by Boyce, seconded by Vannais

**Discussion:** None

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

✳ **Town Owner Agreement**

**MOTION:** To sign the PVPC Town Owner Agreement. Motion made by Boyce, seconded by Vannais

**Discussion:** None

**VOTE: ALL in favor**

✳ **Senior Center Job Posting**

Vannais stated he had asked Heather Ackerman, Senior Center Director to attend the meeting because there was a job posting in the Senior Newsletter for an assistant to the Director. But she had sent an email stating she would not be able to attend. He was concerned because the Board is the hiring authority and she needs the Boards approval before that happens. Boyce stated she had money from the Formula Grant that she was originally using for a seniors exercise class, but the teacher is no longer available to teach the class. Instead of losing the money she would like to have an assistant. Milanese stated she is creating a new position.

**MOTION:** To approve the posting that Ackerman had put into the senior newsletter. Motion made by Boyce, no second.

**MOTION FAILS.**

Vannais stated he would like Ackerman to attend the next meeting

**Additional Discussions:**

Liquor License fees

Mike Bowden

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:05. Motion made by Boyce, seconded by Vannais.

**Discussion:** None

**VOTE: ALL in favor**