

**TOWN OF WALES, MA**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**

Office of the Select Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA

**Meeting of Monday, December 9, 2019**  
**Regular Session**

**Members Present:** Michael Valanzola; William Matchett III, John Grasso

**Others Present:** Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary

**OPEN & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Matchett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. leading the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REORGANIZATION**

**Motion:**

Mr. Valanzola nominated the following positions:

Mr. Matchett, Chair

Mr. Valanzola, Vice-Chair

Mr. Grasso, Clerk

Mr. Grasso seconded the nominations. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Matchett closed nominations and called for a vote.

VOTE: All in Favor

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Wilfred Jarvais – VFW Post 2596 Commander – Cancelled by Mr. Jarvais. Ms. Leduc was authorized to talk with Mr. Cummingford to see if he could meet Wales residents in Wales rather than Monson. The meetings could be held in the Senior Center.

- Transfer Station – Annual Permit Fees

Last FY, there were 365 permits issued, this current year, 419 permits issued. The town purchased 500 printed stickers. Ms. Leduc reported that Mr. Silva was asking whether the Board would consider a pro-rated annual fee for new users. The annual renewal date is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion:**

Mr. Gasso moved, seconded by Mrs. Valanzola, to pro-rate the fee for any household buying a transfer station permit sticker on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> as follows: \$75 for town resident household stickers, \$90 for non-resident household stickers. This provision is offered as a one time only permit.

Discussion: The names of anyone buying a sticker is in a database, and as a renewal, they would not be allowed to purchase a pro-rated sticker in the future.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Christine Randall, WES – Holliday Festival

Mr. Valanzola indicated Mrs. Randall was unable to attend the meeting, but she was requesting reimbursement for holiday lights that were damaged at the elementary school. (Wires cut during tree trimming activities)

**Motion:**

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to reimburse Christine Randall in the amount of \$191.25 for holiday lights damaged at the school. Said costs to come out of Building Maintenance Account.

VOTE: All in Favor

- PVPC City/Town-Owner Agreement – 9 LaFlamme Rd., Brimfield

**Motion:**

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the City/Town-Owner Agreement for location: 9 LaFlamme Road, Brimfield, MA.

Discussion: Mr. Matchett indicated because of an emergency, he had already signed the agreement, but the Board should proceed and endorse the agreement with a vote.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Rent Control Board

**Motion:**

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, appoint Gail Jette to the Rent Control Board for a term ending June 30, 2020.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Jan/Feb/March 2020 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Leduc scheduled meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. The March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting is the joint meeting scheduled with the Finance Committee. Mr. Valanzola recommended that meetings remain scheduled if two members can attend, unless any member objected because of the meeting agenda items.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Tax – Tax bills will be going out on time, the tax rate set at \$19.34.
- Bridge Inspections – Action: Ask the Road Commissioner to attend a meeting to discuss the bridge inspection report.
- Ambulance Agreement – The current agreement with ALS has not been signed. The Board had legal counsel review the contract. In addition to legal counsel's recommended change to the indemnification clause, the Board also had some objections to other contract language, but the matter did not proceed. The town is continuing on a month-to-month basis, with no contract in place for the current fiscal year. There are also issues with the service: Agreement indicated they would have two paramedics in service and two ambulances in use; but they haven't done either. Actions discussed:
  - Forward legal counsel's email with suggested changes to Board members.
  - Review the other suggested changes the Board had in mind.
  - Meet with Police and Fire Chiefs to review the agreement. Note: Fire Chief Croke has discussed the situation with mutual aid towns. Action: Add Chiefs to 12/30/19 agenda.
  - Ask ALS for proof of current insurance.
  - Plan for what's going to occur for the new fiscal year. NOTE: The town of Brimfield has added a vote on their Annual Town Meeting warrant to have and fund their own ambulance service. Brimfield, Holland and Wales, are under the current ALS agreement. Possible action: Investigate possible mutual agreement with Brimfield.
  - Investigate all options for service.

- Ensure there is no gap in ambulance coverage.
- Transportation Assessment – Union 61 - Mr. Valanzola advised the Board that Tantasqua's transportation assessment may increase. Buses are currently housed at the Brimfield DPW site and Brimfield has create an assessment for housing the buses.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:**

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Minutes transcribed by Pat Gauthier via a DVD recording.

WBS:pag