

TOWN OF WALES, MA
SELECT BOARD MEETING

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

Meeting of Monday, June 14, 2021
Regular Session

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

Others Present: Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary

OPEN & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. leading the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REORGANIZATION

Meeting was turned over to Mr. Valanzola for the purpose of electing a Chair.

Motion:

Mr. Grasso nominated Michael Valanzola for the position of Chairman, seconded by Mr. Matchett.
Hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion:

Mr. Grasso nominated Mr. Matchett for the position of Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Valanzola.
Hearing no other nominations, nominations were closed.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Valanzola asked if there were any objections to appointing Mr. Grasso as Clerk. Hearing no objections, he declared the Mr. Grasso as Clerk by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS

• MSBA Statement of Interest

Attending: Dr. Erin Nosek, Superintendent and Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent of Business and Finance, Mrs. Christine Randall, Chair of Wales Elementary.

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to approve the following resolution:

Having convened in an open meeting on Monday, June 14, 2021, prior to the closing date, the Wales Board of Selectmen, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the State of Interest dated June 23, 2021 for the Wales Elementary School located at 41 Main Street, Wales, MA 01081 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

Priority #7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

Discussion: Dr. Nosek indicated the Statement of Interest is the first step in a longer process. The Statement of Interest is reviewed by the MSBA who then decides whether the project gets invited to a full application process.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Eastern Hampden County Veterans' Service District (EHCVSD) Update

Mr. Valanzola serves on the EHCVSD Board. Mr. Valanzola updated the Board with regards to the Hampden County Veterans' Service District. EHCVSD currently does not have a Veterans' Service Officer (VSO) eligible for processing federal claims. The volume of interest for federal VA claims has increased. The current VSO does not have the desire to go through the training process needed for federal claim certification, but has agreed to remain working so there is no lapse in veterans' services. The EHCVSD is looking to change the current model and they are working on a job description for the new position to include the federal claims processing certification.

- Town Accountant Recruitment Update

Ms. Leduc indicated there has been no interest in the position. She has asked Town Counsel to render a decision whether an internal employee would be eligible to also hold the Town Accountant position.

- PVPC Discharges of Liens

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign PVPC Discharges of Liens on Real Estate 162 Monson Road Unit 1, Wales 16 Woodland Heights, Wales (2).
VOTE: All in Favor

- Job Descriptions – Highway Department

At town meeting, the voters approved changing the position from an elected to an appointed position.

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to approve Road Commissioner Job Description as presented.
VOTE: All in Favor

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to approve Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator Job Description as presented.
VOTE: All in Favor

Ms. Leduc indicated the posting of the Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator position comes through the Select Board's office, shared with the Road Commissioner for his/her input and the Board is responsible for interviewing candidates.

- Road Naming/Renaming Procedure

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to adopt Road Naming/Renaming Procedure as presented.
VOTE: All in Favor

CORRESPONDENCE

- Mass Forest Cutting
- Charter Communications – RE: Spectrum TV Choice package. Letter to be forwarded to the Cable Advisory Commission.
- Resident asking to meet with Select Board with regards to roads in west Wales. Ms. Leduc will: (1) contact the resident to ask specifically what are their concerns and set a meeting with the Select Board; (2) present the concerns to the Road Commissioner and invite him to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Matchett asked whose responsibility would it be to put out buoys for no-wake zones. It would be the responsibility of the town, enforced by the harbor master/Police Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to move into Executive Session at 6:45 pm, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), Exemption 2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

Additionally, the Board will adjourn the meeting from Executive Session.

Teamsters Local Union 404

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Grasso, Matchett, Valanzola

NOTE: The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. from Executive Session.

Minutes transcribed by Pat Gauthier via a DVD recording.

WBS:pag