

TOWN OF WALES, MA
SELECT BOARD MEETING

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

Meeting of Monday, July 12, 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 6:01 p.m. leading the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS

• Road Repairs

Mr. Roger Felton of 40 Peck Road, accompanied by fellow area residents, attended the meeting to discuss road repairs/improvements/projects. Mr. Felton felt the roads in the western part of town have been neglected and he asked what plans are in place to repair the roads/potholes.

Mr. Cadieux, Road Commissioner, indicated there are limited funds budgeted (\$23,000) for all road maintenance/paving/patching. This funding account also covers the costs for drainage repairs and related materials – i.e., pipe, stone, fill, etc. He added that his department is also short-staffed, with one current opening and one person out on medical leave.

Mr. Valanzola indicated that the Board will be discussing developing a five-year road plan. He added that the town has limited financial resources to keep all town roads in optimal repair. With the funds that are available, and current staffing, the town cannot keep the roads in the desired top condition. He added that the Board will be discussing regionalization of some other town services that could help save funds in the future, allowing greater funding availability for roads.

Ms. Leduc suggested that residents write to their local state representatives asking for increased Chapter 90 funding to help with road repairs.

• Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations

Mr. Justin Mathiau, 12 Ainsworth Hill Road attended to discuss Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations (MASSRACF). MASSRACF is requesting support for the Massachusetts Senate Bill 548 currently stalled in the Joint Environmental, Natural Resources and Agriculture Subcommittee.

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to support Massachusetts Senate Bill 548.
VOTE: All in Favor

• Collective Bargaining Agreement – Teamsters Local #404

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to ratify and sign the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Wales and Teamsters Local Union 404 for the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.
VOTE: All in Favor

OLD BUSINESS

• Olde Home Day

Members of the Old Home Day Committee attended to discuss the upcoming event.

- Police details – a greater number of officers than used in past years are in the Police Chief’s 2021 coverage plan. The Police Chief feels that coming out of Covid restrictions, the event may draw more attendees than in past years. The police detail rate is also higher than paid in the past.

Action: The Board will discuss the matter with the Police Chief to see if any of the police detail expense can be covered by the Police Department budget and/or coverage reduced.

- Permits
- Committee will submit vendor invoices for payment to Ms. Leduc.
- Liability Insurance

• Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Projects/Town Offices Projects

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to authorize the Executive Secretary to approve on the Select Board’s behalf expenditures up to \$30,000 to include the Semi-permanent garage, front steps at the Old Town Hall and smaller projects in the current town offices. Funding to come from the Building and Grounds Maintenance account.

VOTE: All in Favor

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT JOB POSITIONS

- Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator – Interview with Colby A. DuVerger

The Board asked Mr. DuVerger a series of questions related to his application for the position of Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator. He discussed his experience and noted he is currently working towards obtaining a Hoisting License (testing in two weeks) and CDL. The Board thanked Mr. DuVerger for his time.

- Road Commissioner – Interview with Bruce R. Cadieux

The Board asked Mr. Cadieux a series of questions related to his application for the position of Road Commissioner. Mr. Cadieux discussed his experience with all aspects of construction, including his time serving as the elected Wales Road Commissioner for the past 9 years.

Mr. Valanzola discussed developing a five-year plan for maintenance of the roads. He felt that working with the Road Commissioner, the Board must show the voters what it would really cost to properly fund the roadways for voters to decide what level of service they want and are willing to fund. The plan should include staffing, project costs, grant funding, equipment needs – new and maintenance, etc.

The Board thanked Mr. Cadieux for his time.

Highway Staffing – Mr. Cadieux indicated he was expecting another vacancy (8/29/21 employee’s last day). Ms. Leduc asked the Board to authorize her to post the opening. She also asked that the employee submit his resignation intentions in writing. The Board approved the early job posting.

Highway Position Appointments:

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to appoint Colby A. DuVerger to the position of Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator.

Discussion: Mr. Grasso indicated the importance of the employee having the training and knowledge for the purposes he is being hired to cover and to have a plan to meet these expectations. Concerns: not currently having his CDL or Hoisting License. The state may have delays in CDL testing (Covid related). There is a 60-day probation period as a term of hire. The Board should retain the ability to extend the requirement for obtaining his CDL License.

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to Include in the prior motion: the requirement to have Mr. DuVerger obtain his CDL & Hoisting License within 6 months of hire.

Discussion: Mr. DuVerger had indicated during the interview that he was studying for his CDL license. The Board noted when he is ready for the test, the Board could file with the MA DOT for an emergency to move up Mr. DuVerger's testing schedule.

Mr. Valanzola called for a vote to appoint Mr. DuVerger to the position of Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator to include the CDL & Hoisting license expectations as noted.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to appoint Bruce Cadieux to the position of Road Commissioner for a period of one year, to include a 6-month probationary period and with the list discussed below.

Discussion:

- Preparation of the 5-year road plan to include road projects, staffing, staff training, equipment needs, etc.
- Road Commissioner shall provide a monthly report to the Board.
- Set of goals to present to Mr. Cadieux so that he understands how he will be judged on his performance.

VOTE: All in Favor

• Regionalization Discussion

The Board discussed having the Executive Secretary begin discussions with the various departments on regionalizing some of the town services. Mr. Valanzola indicated in the past, the towns of Holland, Brimfield and Wales held monthly tri-community meetings. He suggested sending a letter to Holland, Brimfield and Monson to begin discussions about regionalization of some services, with Wales hosting this first meeting.

Action: Ms. Leduc will move forward with this matter.

OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss a Reserve Fund Transfer request and year end transfers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Minutes transcribed by Pat Gauthier via a DVD recording.

WBS:pag

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting was conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be at the meeting location listed above, and it is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting could also be accessed remotely via the Zoom instructions provided on the meeting agenda. When required by law or allowed by the Chair, persons wishing to provide public comment or otherwise participate in the meeting, may do so by in person attendance, or by accessing the meeting remotely, as noted above.