

TOWN OF WALES, MA
SELECT BOARD MEETING

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

Meeting of Monday, September 13, 2021
Regular Session

Members Present: Michael Valanzola; William Matchett III

Others Present: Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary

OPEN & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. leading the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT JOB POSITIONS

- Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator - Interviews

5:00 PM: Matthew Obrzut

5:30 PM: Nathan Piazza

Also attending: Bruce Cadieux, Road Commissioner

The Board asked each candidate separately a series of questions related to their application for the position of Mechanic/Heavy Equipment Operator.

NEW BUSINESS

- Public Works Bituminous Concrete Contract Amendment

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign Public Works Bituminous Concrete Contract Amendment dated August 31, 2021.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Police Department Appointment

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to appoint Tiffany Ramos to the position of Part Time Police Officer effective September 14, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Senior Center Van Driver Appointment

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to appoint David Tolson to the position of On-Call Senior Center Van Driver effective September 14, 2021.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Wales Precinct

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, that pursuant to M.G.L. c. 54, § 6 that the Town of Wales remain one (1) precinct.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Halloween parade – Correspondence from Barbara Bready included in Board packet.

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve the Halloween parade proposal, requiring that the Halloween parade Committee work with public safety officials to ensure that safety protocols are in place.

Discussion: Trick or Treating is scheduled for Halloween night.

VOTE: All in Favor

- October/November/December meeting schedule – maintain meeting once a month, but if needed, extra meetings can be called. Meetings scheduled as follows:

- October – 10/18/21,
- November - 11/15/2021
- December – 12/20/21

- Highway Department – Appointment

The Select Board discussed the appointment of the Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer.

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to appoint Nathan Piazza as a Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer with a requirement to obtain his CDL License within the 60-day probationary period.

Discussion: Concern that the candidate has not yet obtained his CDL license. Mr. Piazza indicated he is currently studying to take the CDL test. If needed, the Select Board can petition the MA DOT to move up the testing schedule for this individual.

VOTE: All in Favor

CORRESPONDENCE

- Planning Board vacancy – the date for interested parties to apply has been extended as there has been no interest at this point.
- Eastern Hampden County Veterans' Service District – Mr. Valanzola indicated Monson has withdrawn from the group. The remaining members are working towards hiring a Veterans Service Officer capable of working on federal applications. Ms. Leduc is assisting with some of the duties, including accounting.

- Conservation Commission Enforcement Procedures

Attending: Members of the Conservation Commission

Discussion –

- Highway Department has submitted the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Stafford Holland Road projects around wetlands. Public hearing scheduled for 9/16/2021.
- The 3-year “blanket” NOI is meant to cover typical types of projects.
- The Stafford Holland Road project obtained emergency authorization a few months ago.
- The Conservation Commission requested better communication with the Highway Department, for all projects within a wetland buffer zone, even for emergency projects.

Enforcement procedures for other projects and projects with public interest were discussed.

- The Conservation Commission indicated that there is one forest cutting project that may end up in court over the Enforcement Order issued by the Commission. Applicants have up to 60 days to file a suit against the town. No action is needed at this time.
- One resident altered a stream without permitting. Working with the resident, no action is needed.
- Storage facility at the north end of Main Street — soil used in project did not meet plan requirements.
- Solar Project on Sizer Drive – Public Hearing coming up.

Ms. Leduc discussed the Conservation Commission working with the Planning Board's enforcement officer, Sarah Ryan.

Conservation Commission is short two members for their 5-member board. Ms. Leduc will post for two openings on the Conservation Commission.

- Conservation Commission Fee Schedule

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve the schedule of filing fees as presented by the Conservation Commission to be effective immediately.

Discussion: \$1,400 was budgeted as the Revolving account. The Wetlands account is where the fees from NOI's are deposited as revenue. There are no fees for RDA's (Request for Determination Applications).

VOTE: All in Favor

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be 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 may 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.

Minutes transcribed by Pat Gauthier via a DVD recording.

WBS:pag