

TOWN OF WALES, MA
SELECT BOARD MEETING

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

Meeting of Monday, March 9, 2020
Regular Session

Members Present: William Matchett III, Michael Valanzola, John Grasso
Others Present: Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary

OPEN & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Lake George Study Committee Update – William Terry, Chr.

Mr. Terry was present to discuss Lake George weed treatments and dam. All the dam boards are back in place to fill the lake.

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to approve and issue an invitation to bid for the treatment of Lake George.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Sichols Colony Beach Association – William Luchon

Mr Luchon, with his neighbors, attended the meeting to discuss the condition of Sichols Road (private way with public right of way). The road conditions have deteriorated. Mr. Valanzola indicated the town's by-laws dictate that town funds can not be used on private roads and indicated there are options the resident could take: (1) Select Board partner with the Association to see if there is grant funding available, (2) the Association can petition for a change in the by-laws; or (3) petition the town to accept the road at a town meeting; (4) the Sichols Road residents fund the repairs with a private contractor; (5) file a petition for the town to declare the town-owned beach property as surplus and sell the property (town meeting requirements) .

If the residents proceed with scheduling their self-funded repairs, the Association would need to obtain appropriate town permits. Mr. Valanzola offered to connect the Association with MA Representative Smola's office for contacts with the state highway department to see if there are other unknown options. The Town of Wales (public beach) is also a property owner on Sichols Road; but if funds are needed from the Town, it would require that an article for funding be placed on the town meeting warrant. Residents expressed concerns about off-hours beach activity. The Board advised residents to call the Police Department when inappropriate activities occur.

- Rent Control Board Appointment

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to appoint Jane Duggan to the Rent Control Board for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Town Accountant Appointment

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to appoint Derek H. Geser to the position of Town Accountant effective March 16 2020.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to continue to have Ms. Leduc and the Town Clerk continue on a stipend basis to supply training/support for the Accountant position through mid-April.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Lake George Tavern Keno License Application - There were no objections to the application.

- Contract Agreement - Communications

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to approve Quote ID 318488, dated March 2, 2020 from Valley Communications Systems, Inc. for a new phone system up to \$2800 funded from Building Maintenance

VOTE: All in Favor

- Minutes

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to approve the following Regular Session Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2019

VOTE: All in Favor (NOTE: Mr. Valanzola and Mr. Grasso voted by necessity- they were not members or present at the time of the meeting)

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to approve the following Regular Session Meeting

Minutes: February 24, 2020

VOTE: All in Favor

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

- Working with National Grid on projects, including an energy audit. Discussed putting electric rate out to bid.
- Earth Day – April 25th Ms. Leduc will organize. She asked the Board to approve funding for trash bags and gloves. Mr. Silva agreed to keep the Transfer Station open to allow time for the drop off of the trash collected during Earth Day.
- Transfer station cameras – asked Mr. Silva to move the focus area/placement of cameras.
- Meeting to discuss the town's Health Insurance.

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to approve funding for Earth Day related trash bags and gloves, funding to come from the Transfer Station account.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Upcoming workshop with Finance Committee and town Boards. Cancel 3/23 meeting, post a meeting on 3/21 following the workshop on Saturday, 3/21.

OLD BUSINESS

- Bylaw Review Chapter 1(1) through Chapter 4(2)

Police Chief Dessert attended to join in the discussion of his recommended bylaw changes related to the Police Department.

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve the by-laws changes/recommendations submitted by the Chief of Police.

VOTE: All in Favor

Continued discussion on by-laws:

- Inspector of Slaughtery – Is the position still needed?
- Compare language in neighboring towns for positions: Highway Commissioner/Superintendent.
 - How many towns have Road Commissioners vs. Highway Superintendents and differences in duties.
- Compare penalty/fee schedules with other towns.
- Fee Schedule will be referenced in the by-laws. The fee schedule shall be set annually by the Select Board.
- Ambulance Service - Mr. Grasso provided an update on ambulance services.

- Correspondence

Mr. Matchett reviewed the correspondence.

- Meat Raffle – Lake George Tavern
- Chapter 90 Funding
- PVPC meetings – Wales Representation Discussion: Concerns with PVPC operations; look at other planning alternatives.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Minutes transcribed by Pat Gauthier via a DVD recording.

WBS:pag