

**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 14, 2020  
Regular Session**

**Members Present:** William Matchett III, John Grasso, Michael Valanzola (via telephone)  
**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.

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Wales Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Wales website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

NOTE: All votes were taken by roll call as required with members attending via telephone.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Note: For the discussion/votes taken on snow removal/Inland Docks, Inc., Mr. Matchett, due to possible conflict of interest, asked Mr. Valanzola as Vice-Chair to lead the meeting.

• **Snow Removal Emergency Action**

Vote to ratify the emergency action taken by the Board of Selectmen on December 6, 2020:

*Motion by Selectman Valanzola; seconded by Selectman Grasso; to engage Inland Docks Inc. to provide shoveling and sanding/salting services related to the December 5, 2020 snow event for the Town Offices, Library, Senior Center, Old Town Hall and the Church Street/Route 19 crosswalk.*

*Selectman Grasso – yes; Selectman Valanzola – yes; Chairman Matchett – abstain.*

**Motion:**

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to ratify the emergency actions taken on December 6, 2020 to engage Inland Docks Inc. to provide shoveling and sanding/salting services related to the December 5, 2020 snow event for the Town Offices, Library, Senior Center, Old Town Hall and the Church Street/Route 19 crosswalk.

VOTE: Yes – Grasso, Valanzola Abstained: Matchett

• **Goods and Services Agreement**

**Motion:**

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve a Goods and Services Agreement effective December 11, 2020 through June 30, 2021 with Inland Docks Inc. to provide shoveling and sanding/salting services to the Town of Wales pursuant to Estimate #2020- 182 dated December 7, 2020.

VOTE: Yes – Grasso, Valanzola Abstained: Matchett

• **Budget Liaisons to Schools**

**Motion:**

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to appoint Michael Valanzola as the budget liaison to the Wales Elementary School Committee.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion:**

Mr. Matchett moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to appoint Michael Valanzola as the budget liaison to the Tantasqua Regional School Committee.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Calendar Year 2021 License Fees

**Motion:**

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to waive the alcohol licensing fees for the two (2) local restaurants.

Discussion: Relief related to Covid impact on business – one time action.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Health Insurance

**Motion:**

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, that the Town of Wales elects to engage in the process to change health insurance benefits under M.G.L. c. 32B, §§ 21 through 23.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Police Chief Retirement

Attending: Police Chief Dessert

Chief Dessert attended to discuss his letter of resignation/retirement as Police Chief and a transition plan. Chief Dessert indicated it was a privilege to work with the Board, staff and community.

**Motion:**

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to post internally the position of Police Chief for a period of two weeks.

VOTE: All in Favor

**Motion:**

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to accept with sincere appreciation and regrets, the resignation of Police Chief Dessert.

VOTE: All in Favor

**OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Leduc provided updates as follows:

- COVID-19 update/discussion/action plan

Town Hall is staffed. Staff working regular hours, with some working remotely, but building is staff every day.

Senior Center – closed to public, staff staggering their hours.

Library – open to public, no programs, traffic is down so there are no issues.

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – declared federal holiday this year.

- Transfer station operations

Action requested – hire a couple of on-call attendants and an on-call cashier. Select Board had no objections.

- PVPC Budget & Revision Form

**Motion:**

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve the PVPC Program Budget and Revision Form as presented.

VOTE: All in Favor

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:**

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola , to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 pm.

VOTE: All in Favor

Minutes transcribed by Pat Gauthier via a DVD recording.

WBS:pag