

TOWN OF WALES
Select Board Meeting
April 1, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Boyce (Chair), Bill Matchett, James Whalen

OTHERS PRESENT: Pamela Leduc (BOS Executive Secretary), Cmdr. Wilfred Jarvis (VFW), Tom Rex (Rex Monuments), Charlie Duquette, Leon Givner, Gary Burdick, Douglas Dickinson, Elizabeth Dickinson, Chris Dunphy (PVPC)

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Veterans' Memorial Park:** Cmdr. Jarvis stated that the necessary supplies have arrived, the property has been mapped out and the crew is ready to start digging on Saturday. In addition to local volunteer labor, Rex Monuments has been retained to complete 6 – 7 hours of onsite work. To date, approximately \$1,000 - \$1,400 toward the project has been obtained through fundraising. An additional amount of up to \$7,500 is being requested from the Town. After checking the balance in the Norcross account, Whalen made the motion for the Town to allocate up to \$7,500 for completion of the Veterans' memorial Park (W – 1; M – 2; Unanimous approval).
- **Chief of Police Position:** Pam will email a proposed job description for the Chief of Police position to all BOS members tomorrow. The proposed salary for this position is \$24,000 to start, increasing to \$30,000 within 3 years, contingent upon positive performance evaluations.
- **Community Compact Cabinet Project:** Boyce stated that he was looking for clarification of the IT portion of the Community Compact Grant. Dunphy explained that the Wales BOS submitted a grant proposal for both transportation and IT, and was awarded \$30,000 for these areas. However, the BOS subsequently rejected the transportation component of the Grant. After a meeting between PVPC and the Wales BOS, it was decided that the Town of Wales needed a Master Plan, and the \$30,000 was delegated toward the development of such a plan. Dunphy stated that PVPC has someone available to perform an IT assessment for the Town, and once the assessment is completed, the Town will be eligible to apply for a Community IT Grant of up to \$200,000. Molly from PVPC will contact Pam Leduc to discuss this.
- **Solar Projects:** Douglas and Elizabeth Dickinson provided background information on Earth Removal Permits, emphasizing that because Wales is a watershed for the surrounding area and contains many fresh water springs and fisheries, the removal of large amounts of dirt could have hazardous effects. They also stated that the two solar

companies currently involved in Wales (Andrews and Nexamp) did not follow proper protocol for obtaining a permit (i.e. filing with the Town Clerk and paying a filing fee). They also provided recommendations for future Earth Removal Permits, and stressed that the Town could face potential liability issues if proper protocol is not followed. After some discussion, the BOS opted to obtain additional information on these issues before any additional decisions are made.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Veterans' Service Officer: Boyce stated that the Town is in the process of rearranging Veterans' Services, switching from a District model to an Independent Town model. Duquette submitted his resume and a sample job description to the BOS, and indicated that he would be willing to become certified as a VSO. There was a discussion about job responsibilities, compensation, expenses and office location for the Wales VSO, and it was decided that more information was needed before making any decisions about this position. The BOS will revisit this issue on a future date, after this information has been obtained.
- Whalen made the motion, seconded by Matchett, to authorize the BOS Chairperson to sign various Town Owner Agreements recommended by PVPC (Unanimous).
- Old Sturbridge Academy would like to plant a tree in Wales. The BOS would like to discuss this with the Wales School Committee before making a decision
- Whalen made the motion, seconded by Matchett, to enter Executive Session for Reason #3. Roll call vote: Boyce- Yes; Matchett – Yes; Whalen – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Hubbell
(Transcribed from DVD)