

TOWN OF WALES
Select Board Meeting
April 16, 2019

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Pamela Leduc (BOS Executive Secretary), Bill Terry (Lake Study Commission), Joe Trolio (Lake Study Commission), Becky Smith (Tax Collector), Rod Kincaid (Treasurer), Roy Lainson (Finance Committee Chair), Keith Davis (Finance Committee), Jillian Giannandrea Mustion (Finance Committee),

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bill Terry and Joe Trolio from the Lake George Study Commission stated that the following procedures were completed for Lake George: Water quality testing, weed control and mild lily pad management. The draw down, supervised by Bill Matchett, was very successful. Bill Terry coordinated with the Conservation Commission to secure the order to manage Lake George for 3 more years. Matchett stated that the top of the dam was being replaced with metal. Motion was made by Whalen, seconded by Matchett, to solicit bids for the lake services for the next fiscal year. This bid should include expanded water quality testing. (Unanimous approval)
- Motion was made by Whalen, seconded by Matchett, to appoint Jillian Giannandrea Mustion to the Finance Committee for a three year term. (Unanimous approval)

JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE/BOS

- Motion made by Lainson, seconded by Mustion, to open Joint Finance Committee/BOS Meeting (Unanimous approval)
- **Discussion of FY20-21 Budget:**
 - Lainson stated that the top six areas for budget increases are: Tantasqua Regional School District Payment, Wales Elementary School budget, Medical, life and dental insurance, Brimfield Ambulance Service, Firefighter Health and Wellness OSHA Program and Senior Center Director's Salary.
 - Tax Title: There was a discussion about additional funding for Tax Title research that would facilitate auctions of several properties currently in tax title. Lainson wants to do further research on this issue.
 - The line item for the position of Grant Writer has been reduced from \$10,000 to \$500 because it was not used. If a Grant Writer is hired, the difference in funding will be allocated from the Reserve Account.

- Moved by Matchett, seconded by Whalen, to allocate the following amounts for the Veterans' Service Officer: VSO Stipend = \$3,000; VSO Expenses = \$2,000. Unanimously approved.
- Police Chief's Salary: After surveying several similar size towns, Matchett recommended an increase in the Police Chief's Salary. Lainson disagreed, suggesting that the position be level funded. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to level fund the position, allowing for the possibility of a salary increase to obtain a highly qualified candidate.
- TOTAL FY20-21 BUDGET: Lainson proposed that the Finance Committee submit a total budget of \$4,677,810.61 for FY20-21. Seconded by Davis. (Approved Unanimously). Whalen proposed, seconded by Matchett, that the BOS approve the FY20-21 budget submitted by the Finance Committee. (Unanimously approved.)
- Lainson indicated that the Finance Committee plans to establish a uniform salary scale, including starting salaries and step increases for years of continuous employment.
- Motion made by Matchett, seconded by Whalen, to approve the entire warrant for the May 15, 2019 Annual Town meeting. (Unanimously approved and signed by all.)
- Motion by Matchett, seconded by Whalen, to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2019 BOS meeting. (Unanimously approved).
- Motion by Whalen, seconded by Matchett, to authorize the BOS Chairman to sign various PVPC City-Town-Owner agreements. (Unanimously approved).
- Motion by Whalen, seconded by Matchett, to approve and sign the FFY 2018 invoice CDBG program financial warrant #3. (Unanimously approved).
- Motion by Matchett, seconded by Whalen, to approve the minutes of the February 13 Tri-Town Meeting (Unanimously approved).
- Motion by Whalen, seconded by Matchett, to amend motion 2119-08 for an additional \$55 from Building and Maintenance (Unanimously approved).
- Motion by Matchett, seconded by Whalen, to authorize Whalen to draft a letter to the Palmer Town Manager in support of a Palmer rail stop on the East-West Railway. (Unanimously approved).
- Whalen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Matchett. (Unanimous approval).

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. Hubbell
Transcribed from DVD