

**SELECT BOARD MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 5, 2019  
Office of the Select Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA**

Members Present: Chairman Ed Boyce; Vice Chairman James Whalen; Clerk William Matchett III  
Others Present: Rod Kincaid, Treasurer/Assistant Collector; Keith Davis, Finance Committee Member; Bill Bozenhard, Conservation Commission Chair; Amanda Lovell, Conservation Commission; Norma Thompson, Conservation Commission Clerk; Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary

Chairman Boyce called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***Motion 020519-01 by Selectman Whalen at 4:00 pm; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to enter into Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto. Selectman Matchett – yes; Selectman Whalen – yes; Chairman Boyce – yes.***

Chairman Boyce reconvened Regular Session at 4:10 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Vote to approve the January 8, 2019 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: Action postponed until February 19, 2019.

Vote to approve the January 8, 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes not subject to release: Action postponed until February 19, 2019.

FY20 Budget: No discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Vote to approve the January 22, 2019 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: Action postponed until February 19, 2019.

Vote to approve the January 22, 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes subject to release: Action postponed until February 19, 2019.

Vote to approve and authorize the Chair to sign PVPC City/Town-Owner Agreement

***Motion 020519-02 by Selectman Whalen; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to approve and authorize the Chair to sign PVPC City/Town-Owner Agreement for a housing rehab project located at 50 Dogwood Lane, Wales. The motion passed unanimously.***

Vote to authorize the Executive Secretary to sign payroll and accounts payable vouchers: The Town Accountant has advised that a formal vote is required in order for the Executive Secretary to be considered authorized to sign payroll and accounts payable vouchers on behalf of the Select Board.

***Motion 020519-03 by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Selectman Whalen; to authorize the Executive Secretary to sign payroll and accounts payable vouchers. The motion passed unanimously.***

Vote to designate Wendy LeSage as Animal Control Officer for the Town of Wales for the year 2019 in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151(a): Ms. Leduc advises that MDAR (Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources) requires the annual designation of an ACO (animal control officer) and notification of the same to the commissioner by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Board members request Ms. LeSage's presence at the next meeting (February 19<sup>th</sup>).

Planning Board Clerk: Mr. Whalen, Planning Board Chair, advises the Board that the sole candidate for the position of Planning Board Clerk withdrew her name from consideration.

FY19 Budget: Mr. Kincaid came forward to discuss the calculation of deficits in the health insurance, Medicare and unemployment line items he has estimated as of June 30, 2019. He explains that the addition of benefit eligible employees, a school department pay increase and the results of the annual workers comp audit are the major reasons for the anticipated deficits. He advises that he will be submitting a reserve fund transfer request to the Finance Committee to address the majority of the required funding. He cautions the Board about adding benefit eligible employees mid fiscal year without indicating a clear funding source and requests that the Board approve a transfer in the amount of \$2,470.80 from the Norcross Gift Account to the health insurance line item to fund the cost of benefits for the remainder of the fiscal year related to the appointment of the Interim Senior Center Director.

***Motion 020519-04 by Selectman Whalen; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to approve a transfer in the amount of \$2,470.80 from the Norcross Gift Account to the health insurance line item to fund the cost of benefits for the remainder of the fiscal year related to the appointment of the Interim Senior Center Director. The motion passed unanimously.***

Discuss Fire Department/Boy Scouts joint initiative and vote to authorize the use of the CodeRED notification system (EB): Chairman Boyce provided a brief overview of the project. Residents of Wales are encouraged to take advantage of the efforts of the American Red Cross, Boy Scout Troop 765 and the Wales Fire Department to provide and install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in homes for free. There are no income or age restrictions to participate in the program. If the smoke detectors in your home are over 10 years old, they should be replaced. Please contact the Wales Fire Department at 413.245.7695 by Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> to be placed on the list. Members of the Wales Fire Department and Troop 765 will be installing the equipment in homes on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous consent was given to authorize the Town Clerk to issue a CodeRED notification about the program.

Brimfield Fire Department ambulance services proposal (EB): Mr. Davis came forward. Chairman Boyce advises the Board that he attended the Brimfield Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> and provides a brief summary of the discussion related to the current fiscal situation of the Brimfield Ambulance Service. Selectman Matchett states that it is imperative that Chief Croke is included in all discussions related to this issue. Chairman Boyce indicates that he is concerned with the timing of any proposed action(s) that would require the appropriation of funds by town meeting in May. Selectman Matchett states that his primary concern is for the residents of Wales rather than any tri town initiative. Chairman Boyce suggests hosting a tri town meeting to include members of the Boards of Selectmen, Finance Committees and Fire Chiefs on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Wales Senior Center. Proposed discussion to focus on the solvency of Brimfield Ambulance Service through June 30, 2019. Selectmen Whalen and Matchett state that they would not support a bailout of Brimfield Ambulance Service without additional detailed financial information. Board members instruct Ms. Leduc to post the tri town meeting and inform the towns of Brimfield and Holland.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Whalen, Planning Board Chair, advises the Board that the Planning Board has voted to recommend the implementation of an earth removal special permit fee in the amount of \$250.00 and requests the Select Board's approval of the same.

***Motion 020519-05 by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Boyce; to approve the Planning Board's recommendation to implement an earth removal special permit fee in the amount of \$250.00. Selectman Matchett – yes; Selectman Whalen – abstain; Chairman Boyce – yes.***

Mr. Bozenhard, Ms. Lovell and Ms. Thompson came forward to discuss the Nexamp/Union Road solar project. Mr. Bozenhard explained the Conservation Commission's permit process and limited authority outside of the scope of the previously issued order of conditions related to the project. Mr. Whalen, Planning Board Chair, described what he considered to be a breakdown of communication between the members of the Planning Board and the Conservation

Commission. Mr. Bozenhard agreed with Mr. Whalen's assessment and there was a mutual agreement to learn from this experience and a commitment to communicate more frequently during future projects.

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion by Selectman Whalen; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 pm. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela A. Leduc*

Executive Secretary