

Select Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 11, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
Office of the Select Board, 1st Floor
3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA

Members Present: Chairman - William Matchett III, Vice Chair - Michael Valanzola, Clerk Selectman John Grasso

Others Present: Pamela Leduc - *Executive Secretary*, Lauren G. – *K P Law*, Bill Anair – *Cemetery Commission*, Bruce C. – *Highway Department*, Rodney Kincaid – *Treasure*, Lisa Sheridan – *Scout Troop 765 Wales*

Chairman Matchett called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Selectman Matchett delivers the Pledge of Allegiance and Governor Baker's Order

Executive Session

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| 6:05 PM | 2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel. <i>Fire Chief John Croke</i> |
| 6:30 PM | 3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. <i>Teamsters Local Union 404</i> |

Selectman Matchett re-opens the meetings after Executive Session

New Business

KP Law, P.C. introduction and legal discussion
Lauren F. Goldberg, Esquire

The board of Selectman and KP Law – *Lauren Goldberg* discuss the structure and system with which town counsel and the town will navigate. Executive Secretary – *Pam Leduc* will write a formal policy to submit to the board of Selectman for approval. Selectman Valanzola share that the board of Selectman have been going through the town bylaws looking for ways to improve and update wording and content. KP Law would provide reviews of these modifications

FY 2021 Budget
Cemetery Commission and Road Commissioner

The board of Selectman have a discussion with Cemetery Commission members about the proposed budget 2021. The cemetery commission members feel that this financial cut is unnecessary and unfair. Unfortunately, the board of Selectman were faced with hard decisions when balancing this budget and many departments are facing financial cuts. The board felt that there were more cost-effective ways to provide the services that the cemetery commission provides, by utilizing the staff available.

Motion 051120-01 by Selectman Valanzola, to direct the Executive Secretary -*Pam Leduc* to follow up with town counsel to determine our annual working conditions along with providing us with a plan for that approach the boards next meeting. **Seconded by Selectman Grasso.**

No further discussion, all in favor.

Scout Troop 765 Wales Flag Retirement Ceremony

Lisa Sheridan from Scout Troop 765 requested approval for a flag burning ceremony for Boy Scout troops. Mrs. Sheridan is also asking the town to post an announcement of the ceremony on the Town's website and Facebook page. The board suggests that Mrs. Sheridan contact the Fire Chief regarding the burning.

30 Woodland Heights – Rodney Kincaid – Treasurer

Rodney Kincaid explains that the owner of 26 Woodland Heights brought in documentation from when they purchased the home, which showed an easement on the property for a well and another easement for a leach field. The language does not specify that these are for 30 Woodland Heights, but the understanding is that 26 and 30 Woodland Heights were owned by the same family and shared the easements. Now 26 Woodland Heights is under new ownership.

Rodney Kincaid is requesting permission from the board of Selectman to send the properties exhibition and title for 26 and 30 Woodland Heights to town counsel for review.

Motion 051120-02 by Selectman Valanzola, Seconded by Selectman Grasso

No discussion, all in favor.

Vote to approve and authorize the Chair to sign PVPC City/Town – Owner Amendment 19 Long Hill Rd, Holland

Motion 051120-03 by Selectman Grasso, Seconded by Selectman Valanzola

No discussion, all in favor.

Transfer Station operations – FY20 3rd quarter financial report

Pam Leduc updates the board on the operations of the Transfer Station and breaks down the FY20 3rd quarter report. *Pam L.* explains that if there is a deficit at the end of the year, it would be a very small deficit. *Pam L.* will conduct an additional analysis to see if the use of bags vs. stickers is more cost effective.

Old Business

COVID-19 update/discussion/action plan – May 20, 2020 Annual Town Meeting – May 27, 2020 Election

The board agrees that if they hold town meeting on May 20, 2020, it will be held at Tantasqua High School for safety reasons. The board is concerned that giving the public a weeks' notice that the meeting would be held in a different town does not suffice.

Pam L. informs the board that the Town Clerk would be utilizing the CODE RED to inform the public about the change in polling locations from the Senior Center to the Wales Elementary School.

Motion 051120-04 by Selectman Valanzola as Town Moderator, recommends that the Board of Selectman prefer the town meeting to occur on June 10th at Tantasqua Regional High School, Seconded by Selectman Grasso

No discussion, all in favor.

The board discuss the Governor's latest statements about COVID-19. The board decides to revisit level funding options for the 2021 Budget at the next Selectman's meeting. This will allow the board to re-evaluate financial decisions regarding the 2021 Budget if any "new" or "differing" information comes from the State.

Selectman Valanzola adjourns the meeting at 8:21 P.M.

*Minutes were transcribed by **Sarah Ryan – Assistant Town Clerk** via DVD*