

**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, April 30, 2020 @ 5:00 P.M.  
Office of the Select Board, 1<sup>st</sup> 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*, Rebecca Smith – *Tax Collector*

Chairman Matchett called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

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

**New Business**

Vote to rescind the appointment of John Cozens to the New Braintree Regional Communications Center Board of Overseers effective May 1, 2020

**Motion 043020-01 by Selectman Valanzola, Seconded by Selectman Grasso**

**No discussion, all in favor.**

Vote to appoint John Croke to the New Braintree Regional Communications Center Board of Overseers effective May 1, 2020

**Motion 043020-02 by Selectman Grasso, Seconded by Selectman Valanzola**

**No discussion, all in favor.**

Vote to rescind the appointment of Siddall and Siddall, P. C. as Town Counsel effective May 1, 2020

**Motion 043020-03 by Selectman Grasso, Seconded by Selectman Valanzola**

**No discussion, all in favor.**

Vote to appoint KP Law, P.C. as Town Counsel effective May 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020

**Motion 043020-04 by Selectman Grasso, Seconded by Selectman Valanzola**

**No discussion, all in favor.**

Vote to approve the Proposal for Lake George Aquatic Plant Management in 2020 submitted April 13, 2020 by Solitude Lake Management, LLC in an amount up to \$6,340.00

The board commits to contributing half of the proposed fee from Solitude Lake Management made payable to Lake George Aquatic Plant Management.

**Motion 043020-05 by Selectman Valanzola, Seconded by Selectman Grasso.**

**No discussion, all in favor.**

Discuss and vote to adopt the recommendations of the Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC) pursuant to their actions of April 28, 2020 & **Old Business** FY 2021 Budget

The Insurance Advisory Committee has had a few meetings since the committee was formulated and the IAC recommended level funding of Chapter 32 B Line but was unable to make suggestions that would balance the budget. Therefore, the school budget will need to be reduced. Initially the Wales Elementary School presented a budget of a 10% increase, but the budget landed on a 7% increase. Once FY 2021 Budget is balanced the Wales Elementary School will still see about a 4% increase from last years budget.

The recommendation of the IAC was to adopt “plan change option 1” which would generate some plan alterations.

**Motion 043020-06 by Selectman Grasso to accept the recommendations of the IAC to adopt “plan change option 1” to the WES budget, Seconded by Selectman Valanzola**

**No discussion, all in favor.**

Selectman Valanzola recommends that a letter be sent to the Wales Elementary School with an updated budget that shows the adjustments of \$43,353.65 as a reduction to the WES budget and an increase to the Chapter 32 B Line item.

**Motion 043020-07 by Selectman Valanzola to approve the above adjustments, Seconded by Selectman Grasso**

**No discussion, all in favor.**

### **Old Business**

#### **COVID-19 update/discussion/action plan**

The board discusses Governor Baker’s new orders imposed on the State, which includes keeping town offices closed to the public.

The board discusses town meetings and election polling locations with the concern that State guidelines are constantly changing.

After the board speaks with the Town Clerk, the board decides to keep the election day as is and move the polling location to the school for a safer and more fluid polling location.

The board then discusses moving town meeting to Tantasqua Regional High School but ultimately decides to hold off on making any changes to town meeting at this point.

**Motion 043020-08 by Selectman Valanzola to change the venue of Town elections from Senior Center to Wales Elementary School, Seconded by Selectman Grasso**

**No discussion, all in favor.**

#### **Olde Home Day**

*Rebecca Smith* informs the board that she was able to close the \$4,000.00 fundraising gap. The board discusses restructuring the event as a possibility to keep things safe. Changes will be made as needed.

### **Executive Session**

The board of Selectman Chair William Matchett declares.

*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 the board will not be reconvening in open session only for the purpose of adjournment.*

Meeting adjourned.

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