

**TOWN OF WALES, MA**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
Office of the Select Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA  
**Meeting of Monday, January 11, 2021**  
**Regular Session**

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

"Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Wales Board of Selectmen is being conducted in-person and via remote participation. No inperson attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Wales website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting."

**Members Present:** Chairman William Matchett III; Vice Chairman Michael Valanzola (remote participation); and Clerk John Grasso,

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:** Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary; Hugh Brower, Conservation Commission; Tara Fafard, MIIA Senior Account Executive

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, leading the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

IIIA Presentation

Tara Fafard, Senior Account Executive, provided a handout and reviewed available employee health insurance options. The pricing shown and projected savings reflect current FY21 rates; the FY22 rates will not be available until mid-end of February. The Board asked that the document be updated to show the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) Benchmark 4 rates. Depending on when consensus can be reached with the IAC, any change in plan may not be implemented until January 2022 (two enrollment dates: July or January). Mr. Valanzola asked that the Board's next agenda include a vote on health insurance.

- Payroll and Vendor Warrants

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve and sign payroll warrant 2114P dated January 7, 2021, in the amount of \$73,047.34.

VOTE: All in Favor

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve and sign vendor warrant 2114V dated January 7, 2021, in the amount of \$177,505.85.

VOTE: YES (2) Abstained: Mr. Matchett

- Police Chief Recruitment

It was noted that three applications resulted from the internal posting. Ms. Leduc recommended the Board serve as a Screening Committee, conducting separate interviews in Executive Session and withholding the names of the applicants. Following the private interviews, the Screening Committee can either choose to

expand the search or if the Screening Committee determined the pool was adequate to fill the position, could move to bring one or more of the candidates to open meeting interviews as a Select Board at which time the candidates' names would be made public as required by the Open Meeting Law.

The Screening directed Ms. Leduc to schedule Executive Session interviews for January 26<sup>th</sup>.

- Senior Center - Cook

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to appoint Darleen Gilley to the position of Cook for the Senior Center effective January 12, 2021.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Finance Committee Appointment

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to appoint Jessica Miller to the Finance Committee for a 3-year term to expire January 10, 2024.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Library Ramp Replacement Project

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to award and approve a Goods and Services Agreement for the Library Ramp Replacement project to Cornerstone Building Services in the amount of \$23,630.00.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Norcross Wildlife Foundation Grant

Motion:

Mr. Gasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to accept the Norcross Wildlife Foundation Grant No. CB-20-05 in the amount of \$500.00; and to authorize the expenditure of funds without further appropriation.

VOTE: All in Favor

Mr. Valanzola left the meeting.

- Community Development Program – Financial Warrant

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to approve and sign the FY2018 Wales Community Development Program Financial Warrant #21 in the amount of \$964.99.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Minutes

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to approve the July 8, 2019, Regular Session Meeting Minutes.

NOTE: Mr. Gasso was not present at the 7/8/19 meeting.

VOTE: All in Favor

October 21, 2020, Special Town Meeting - Article 8

Ms. Leduc thought it was the Board's wish to wait to send the letters to the legislature, as authorized by Article 8, after the November election. The Board requested the discussion be delayed until Mr. Valanzola can participate. Ms. Leduc will add to the January 26, 2021 agenda.

FY 2022 Budget

Ms. Leduc indicated the initial budget has level funded most of the budget. There is time for the Board to adjust if so determined. Mr. Matchett requested a year's break-down of utility expenses by building. She noted that Mr. Valanzola had requested a year after year budget analysis. Ms. Leduc will provide a FY2021 Financial report at the next meeting as well as the document requested by Mr. Valanzola. Ms. Leduc asked whether the initial budget could be submitted to the Finance Committee. The Board agreed but indicated there may be some changes yet to be made and the Finance Committee is to be advised of such.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- COVID-19

An action plan was reviewed as provided by the Public Health Nurse. Harrington Hospital has reached out to local public health officials hoping for a commitment of time to coordinate vaccines to include Wales residents. The information has been provided to the Board of Health.

Town Hall Employees have requested that the Board approve to limit visitation to the Town Hall by extending the "appointment only" requirement until February 16, 2021, and authorize the posting of this requirement on the website and on the door. The Board agreed.

**Covid Allocation**

- The Town received \$167,342 and that state has extended the "use by" date to December 31, 2021. There is approximately \$50,000 remaining. Ms. Leduc indicated there are some outstanding expenses and she is looking at an on-line software for the processing of permits, Viewpoint. The software could be used for no-contact permits for the transfer station as well as animal permits, etc. Covid funds can be used for this purpose. She will present additional information to the Board.
- The Board also asked Ms. Leduc to look into expenses for Fire building updates.
- Ms. Leduc is also researching cameras for the Town Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT****Motion:**

Mr. Gasso moved, seconded by Mr. Hatchett, to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

VOTE: All in Favor

Minutes transcribed by Pat Gauthier via GoToMeeting video

NOTE: This meeting was broadcast live on Wales Cable Access Channel 192

GoToMeeting Video and Phone Conferencing information was provided on the Wales Selectmen's webpage.

WBS:pag