

**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, February 8, 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; and Clerk John Grasso  
**Others Present:** Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary

**OPEN & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. leading the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Transfer Station Positions

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso , to appoint two positions as follows:  
Lauren Robinson to the position of On Call Transfer Station Cashier effective February 9, 2021.  
David Mott to the position of On Call Transfer Station Attendant effective February 9, 2021.  
VOTE: All in Favor

- Wales Community Development Program Financial Warrant

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve and sign the FFY 2018 Wales Community Development Program Financial Warrant #22 in the amount of \$508.42.  
VOTE: All in Favor

- Uptime Network Technologies, Inc.

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve Estimate # 1940 dated January 6, 2021 from Uptime Network Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$6,274.65.  
VOTE: All in Favor

- Agreement for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to approve and sign the Agreement for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Under M.G.L. c. 59, § 38H(b) with Wales Solar, LLC for the property located at 230 Union Road.  
VOTE: All in Favor

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Police Department Directive 01/21 - Use of Force

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to approve the Police Department Directive 01/21 - Use of Force.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Board of Selectmen 2021 Annual Report - Ms. Leduc is still working on the list of bullet points to provide Mr. Matchett for the Chairman's report.

- Older Computers

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, to declare nine computers as obsolete.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Leduc to check with schools to see if the computers could be beneficial to any student or educational program.

VOTE: All in Favor

- Unpaid Fines

The Board discussed unpaid fines by residents in violation of the Zoning By-Laws. The Board felt that the rules are to be followed and fines imposed as are defined in the regulations. Any resident can request an appeal to those fines.

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- Updates

Mr. Valanzola provided a brief update of the recent Veterans meeting. Vote on the budget has been delayed until the March meeting.

Mr. Valanzola provided a brief update on the school department budgets. The Tantasqua budget assessment will impact the town with an increase, possibly up to 9-11% primarily driven by the increased percentage of enrolled students from Wales. The issue of charter schools' tuition impacting the Elementary school budget was also discussed. The home-schooling counts increased during the Covid crisis also resulted in a lower in-school student number for the October 1<sup>st</sup> counts which is used by the state to calculate Chapter 70 funding.

## **INTERVIEWS FOR CHIEF OF POLICE**

The Board members conducted separate 20-minute interviews with the three candidates for the position of Police Chief: Thomas J. Ford III, Christopher R. Ryan and Paul R. Valley. Each candidate was asked to provide a brief introduction and statement of their background and then was asked a series of prepared questions.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to move to Executive Session at 7:05 pm as provided under MGL C30A, §21A to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

*Teamsters Local Union 404*                      *Chief of Police*

A roll call vote was taken.

YES – Grasso, Matchett, Valanzola

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:59 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS (cont'd.)**

**Police Chief Appointment**

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to appoint Thomas J. Ford III as Chief of Police contingent upon the ratification of an employment agreement.

VOTE: All in Favor

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

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.

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