

TOWN OF WALES, MA
SELECT BOARD MEETING

Office of the Select Board, 1st Floor
3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA

Meeting of Monday, February 22, 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; Clerk John Grasso

Others Present: Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary;

Via remote participation: Tara Fafard, MIA Representative; Insurance Advisory Committee members; and Mr. Jared Collins, Town Counsel.

OPEN & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Advisory Committee

The purpose of the joint meeting with the Insurance Advisory Committee is to review proposed changes to the town's health insurance plan design for FY2022.

Tara Fafard reviewed the Benchmark 4 plan design as it compared to the current plan. The proposed plan reflects a 5.31% overall increase, but by moving to Benchmark 4, the town saves 7.41% (town and subscribers) over the current plan.

Ms. Fafard also reviewed the Town of Wales Select Network Plan for an alternative plan comparison. This Select plan has a smaller list of approved health providers, but provides a 23.5% decrease over the current plan.

Town Counsel reviewed next steps:

- Public notices to establish the Public Employee Committee (PEC) to include a member from each bargaining unit and one retiree representative. Each will be asked to designate a representative.
- Each PEC member will receive notice of the proposed health insurance changes with comparison documents.
- PEC will have 30 days to review, negotiate the proposed changes and come to an agreement.

As referenced by Town Counsel, Ms. Leduc indicated she will send out notices to establish the PEC on Wednesday, February 24th via email correspondence, requesting receipt confirmation from each of the email recipients.

Council on Aging Appointment

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to appoint Trent Bradbury to the Council on Aging for a term to expire June 30, 2021.

VOTE: All in Favor

PVPC City/Town Owner Amendment

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign PVPC City/Town-Owner Amendment for 16 Woodland Heights, Wales.

VOTE: All in Favor

OLD BUSINESS

• Board of Selectmen 2021 Annual Report

Ms. Leduc provided a list of bulleted items to the Board for their use preparing their Annual Report.

• Transfer Station Operations

Ms. Leduc indicated she was recommending keeping the third attendant on for now, allowing adequate staffing to complete some maintenance and clean-up work needed at the Transfer Station. Discussed: Mr. Matchett noted the exit driveway is in need to repair and asked whether a capital improvement plan is needed for the site. Action: Ms. Leduc will discuss the driveway repair with the Highway Commissioner to determine what options are available and get an estimate.

• Correspondence

- Mr. Matchett noted the office received a few complaints regarding the solar park.
- Resignation letter from Planning Board member, Laurie Hornacek, effective April 30, 2021. The Town Clerk may post the opening on the election agenda.
- Holland Bridge repair - Public Hearing notice.
- Open Space plan - By-law being drafted to be presented at Town meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to move to Executive Session at 6:29 pm 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

The Chairman indicated the Board intends to come out of Executive Session, vote on an Employment Agreement and promptly adjourn. No other matters are on the agenda.

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 7:05 pm.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT)

Employment Agreement – Chief of Police

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett to approve and sign the Employment Agreement between Thomas J. Ford III, Chief of Police and the Town of Wales.

VOTE: All in Favor

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 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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