

**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, April 12, 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; Clerk John Grasso (via remote connection)

**Others Present:** Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary; Jared Collins, Town Counsel; Tara Fafard, MIA Representative; Philip Katz, MTA Representative; Martin Hernandez, John Brouder, Kerri Glanville, Patrick DePalo, Thomas Ford, Dawn Godek, Jill Jarvais

**OPEN & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. leading the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

• Minutes

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Matchett moved to approve the following (3) Regular Session Meeting Minutes:

- April 6, 2020
- September 14, 2020
- September 28, 2020

VOTE: All in Favor

• Transfer Station Operations

Ms. Leduc had provided a comparison financial report for this and last year's figures. Mr. Matchett noted it appears that the operational funding trend is self-sustaining.

**JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Gasso, to at 4:40 p.m. enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §21(a), Exemption 2: 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.

*Wales Teachers' Association*

*Wales Education Support Personnel*

*Teamsters Local 404*

*Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts;*

and

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §21(a), Exemption 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.

*Wales Teachers' Association*

*Wales Education Support Personnel*

*Teamsters Local 404*

*Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts;*

A roll call vote was taken.

**YES** – Valanzola, Grasso, Matchett

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at 5:22 p.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS (Cont)**

#### **• Police Department Appointments & Updates**

Remote Participants: Thomas Ford, Police Chief, and Bernard G. St. George

Police Chief Ford recommended the Board appoint both Patrick DePalo and Bernard St. George to the position of Police Officer (PT) at the senior patrol rate.

Motion:

Mr. Grasso moved, seconded by Mr. Valanzola, that effective April 13, 2021, and as recommended by the Police Chief to appoint Patrick T. DePalo, Jr. and Bernard G. St. George to the position of Police Officers (PT) for a term to expire June 30, 2021.

Discussion:

- Chief Ford expressed his concern over the “term to expire” June 30<sup>th</sup> date as it relates to new federal police reform guidelines and academy certification status. A police officer’s academy status may be jeopardized if they are not actively employed as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board makes police employee reappointments prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, therefore there will be no break in service and the officers should not be impacted by the June 30<sup>th</sup> date. Ms. Leduc indicated reappointments are on the Board’s agenda for the first meeting in June.
- Both officers are academy certified.

VOTE: All in Favor

Chief Ford indicated there are still police officer open positions and each appointment requires a series of time-consuming steps to get an officer hired and in place.

He indicated he has not fully reviewed the full operations of the department.

Chief Ford indicated the new police reform act requires mandatory training hours. The mandate has a rolling start date to be put into effect alphabetically by each officer’s last name (groupings). Most police departments feel this is an unfunded mandate and are contacting their legislators to see if there is any funding available.

#### **• Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

Mr. Valanzola indicated that the Finance Committee has not submitted their final proposal and as such, he is not prepared to take a vote on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Leduc reported the Finance Committee is meeting this week on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Valanzola indicated the Capital Plan Committee’s budget recommendations are contingent upon the Select Board’s review, inclusion of any

amendments and vote on the Finance Committee's final proposal. Ms. Leduc indicated that she's been keeping a spreadsheet of all department's budgets and with the Board's upcoming vote on the School budget, the town's budget is balanced.

Actions:

- Ms. Leduc will send link for the Finance Committee's virtual meeting to all Board members.
- Ms. Leduc to share her spreadsheet with the Finance Committee.
- The Board directed Ms. Leduc to post a Board meeting at the same time as the Finance Committee meeting. With a separate meeting post, the Board would be able to move forward and vote on the May 19, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

• **FY 2022 BUDGET**

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to reduce the FY22 Wales Elementary School proposed budget by \$75,000.00 to \$1,851,389.00.

VOTE: All in Favor

Action: Ms. Leduc will send official notification of the FY2022 Budget vote (above) to the Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance.

• Warrant Article - Ms. Leduc indicated she included a warrant article to adjust the town's bylaws to comply with state law relative to posting meetings.

• Correspondence

Mr. Matchett noted correspondence from Mrs. Martinez. He indicated that he thought the Board had already responded to her concern. Ms. Leduc indicated the Road Commissioner has met with her on multiple occasions.

Action: Mr. Matchett requested correspondence be sent to her indicating the Board has no jurisdiction and she is to contact the Road Commissioner.

Roads – RE: Sink hole on Stafford Holland Road. Ms. Leduc indicated the repair was a temporary fix. Mr. Matchett questioned when a permanent repair would be done. Funding for the repair was discussed. The Board felt there was funding available for the repair.

Action: Ms. Leduc to Email Road Commissioner, cc: Board, that a permanent repair of culvert issue on Stafford Holland Road is to be addressed with high urgency.

Email from Mr. Luchon RE: Sichols Road repairs. Abutters have joined forces to repair the private road, have contacted a contractor and are asking that each abutting property owner contribute \$500 to the repairs. The Town of Wales owns 3 parcels of property on that road and is being asked to contribute \$1,500 towards the repairs. They contacted the Road Commissioner who has approved the repairs. Ms. Leduc was not advised whether the landowners have contacted the Conservation Commission. The Board indicated that as an abutter, the Board wants to review the plans/scope of work, have information about whether Conservation has approved the work, understand whether this is a temporary or permanent fix, and be sure the Board is legally compliant with any laws to facilitate their decision.

Highway Department – There has been a resignation at the Highway Department effective April 22, 2021. Ms. Leduc will reformat the job description and post the job opening. Mr. Valanzola recommended postponing filling that position until negotiations are finalized.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion:

Mr. Valanzola moved, seconded by Mr. Grasso, to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 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.

WBS:pag