

**SELECT BOARD MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
Monday, March 18, 2019  
Office of the Select Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
3 Hollow Road, Wales, MA**

Members Present: Chairman Ed Boyce; Vice Chairman James Whalen; Clerk William Matchett III

*Others Present: Laurie Hornacek, Planning Board Member; Lynn Greene; Leon Givner, Cable Access Director; Pamela Leduc, Executive Secretary*

Chairman Boyce called the meeting to order at 5:21 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Vote to designate Wendy LeSage as Animal Control Officer for the Town of Wales for the year 2019 in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 151(a): Action postponed until April 1, 2019.

Police Chief Search Committee: Selectman Whalen recommends the establishment of a search committee to assist with the recruitment process. Selectman Matchett agrees with the establishment of a search committee and recommends that the committee be comprised of the fire chief, a local police chief, a member of the Select Board and 2 residents. Selectman Matchett further suggests researching qualified firms to conduct an assessment center as part of the recruitment process. Chairman Boyce does not agree with the establishment of a search committee for this purpose and feels that the Select Board should handle the process.

The Board reviewed the Police Chief Salary Survey provided by Ms. Leduc. Board members instructed Ms. Leduc to expand the survey to include the towns of Brookfield, Hardwick, Oakham and Warren.

FY20 Budget: Selectman Whalen shared his concern regarding the tree warden's budget. He advises that the current level of funding is insufficient to support an adequate maintenance and/or hazard tree mitigation program. Northern Tree Service has been responding in emergency situations at no cost to the Town.

Board members questioned the funding of scheduled increases to the minimum hourly wage in the budget.

Chairman Boyce recessed the meeting at 5:52 pm to place a telephone call to the FinCom Chair.

Chairman Boyce reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm and advised the Board that Chairman Lainson confirmed that scheduled increases to the minimum hourly wage have been calculated into the FY19 approved and the FY20 proposed budgets.

***Motion 031819-01 by Selectman Whalen; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to submit an increase to the police chief salary line item budget request for the FinCom's consideration based upon the results of a comprehensive salary survey. The motion passed unanimously.***

**NEW BUSINESS**

Vote to approve and sign the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Wales and Teamsters Local Union 404 for the period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021: Action postponed until April 1, 2019.

Vote to nominate an Inspector of Animals for the Town of Wales for the year ending April 30, 2020 in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 129, Section 15, as amended: Action postponed until April 1, 2019.

Planning Board Clerk

***Motion 031819-02 by Selectman Whalen; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to appoint Sarah L. Ryan to the position of Planning Board Clerk effective April 8, 2019 at an hourly rate of \$12.00. The motion passed unanimously.***

Tri Town Ambulance Committee: Selectman Whalen provided a recap of the March 6<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the Brimfield, Holland and Wales Boards of Selectmen which included a unanimous vote for the tri towns to form a subcommittee of the whole comprised of one (1) Select Board member and the Fire Chiefs from each community. Chairman Paul McCarthy will be representing Brimfield and Selectman Bettina Schmidt will be representing Holland.

***Motion 031819-03 by Selectman Matchett; seconded by Chairman Boyce; to appoint Selectman Whalen as the Select Board's representative on the Tri Town Ambulance Committee. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### Zoning Board of Appeals

***Motion 031819-04 by Selectman Whalen; seconded by Chairman Boyce; to appoint Selectman Matchett to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate member. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

Annual Town Report: Chairman Boyce advised that he would provide Selectman Whalen and Selectman Matchett a draft for their review by the end of the week.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Laurie Hornacek and Lynn Greene came forward to discuss concerns expressed by residents of Union Road in regard to the Nexamp solar project. Ms. Hornacek advised the Board that she had filed a complaint with the DEP. The DEP conducted an inspection of the site and found violations resulting in the notice issued and received on March 18, 2019. Selectman Whalen requests town counsel's attendance at an executive session on April 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss.

Chairman Boyce advises the Board that he has approached local veteran Charlie DuQuette to apply for the VSO position. Mr. DuQuette has agreed to apply for the interim position as of July 1<sup>st</sup> and seek the certification required to become eligible for the permanent position. Leon Givner will be assisting Mr. DuQuette in the interim.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion by Selectman Whalen; seconded by Selectman Matchett; to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm. The motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela A. Leduc*

Executive Secretary