



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday March 2, 2020**

Members Present: Shana M. Shufelt, Chair
Brian T. Valcourt, Vice Chair
Ann E. Boxler, Clerk
Steven J. Ouellette
Richard W. Brewer

Also Present: Timothy King, Town Administrator

Select Board Chair, Ms. Shufelt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Westport Town Hall, 2nd floor meeting room, 816 Main Road, Westport, MA.

Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Announcement – The Chair announced that under the provisions of MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f), the meeting was being recorded.

1. Acknowledgements & Recognitions

Ms. Shufelt acknowledged the Boys Basketball Team making it to the playoffs and wished the Lady Wildcats good luck in their quarter final match tonight.

2. Licenses

- a. **Public Hearing - RE:** The acceptance of the **Road Layout for Briggs Landing** roadways Grinnell Court, Sherman Court, Jennings Way, Brownell Avenue and the remainder of Cortney Drive and the remainder of Devol Avenue by petition.

Mr. Mohamed Itani, the developer was present to explain that this is the remainder of the roadways. The report from the Highway Surveyor made note that there is water pooling by electrical boxes and other comments related to seeding not being complete. Mr. Valcourt stated that his concern is that the town is left with repairs that the Town cannot afford. Mr. Itani stated that the town engineer suggested waiting until spring to seed and in addition, there is an \$85,000 bond for this project. He said they would make sure that any seeding and loam would be taken care of before Town meeting. The Planning Board report approves if punch list is met before Town Meeting.

Motion by Mr. Valcourt to approve acceptance of the road layout for Briggs Landing roadways as presented conditional on the items on the punch list being met before Town meeting. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- b. Request to approve seasonal trailer licenses for 2020 conditional on no issues.

Motion by Mr. Valcourt to approve. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

6:10 p.m.

3. Discussion Items

Discussion with Town Moderator, Steven Fors regarding Annual Town Meeting.

Steve Fors stated that he was pleased with the conduct of the Special Town Meeting in February and commended the orderly behavior of attendants on both sides of the topic.

As for street acceptances, he reviewed the procedure the Board must follow for laying out the roadways. Once the Board votes to lay out the road, it is then filed with the Clerk no later than 7 days before Town Meeting. He recommended placing an article on the warrant well in advance to meet that deadline. If the roadway does not meet specs in the layout, he suggested not filing it with Town Clerk. The Board will decide to accept the layout beforehand and Town meeting will not decide as a group to accept the roads.

Discussion ensued touching upon the recodification of the Zoning By-laws. Mr. Fors recommended that people with concerns go to the Planning Board hearings and participate in that process there rather than coming to Town meeting with pages of questions.

6:20 p.m.

4. Action Items

- a. Interview and possible appointment of Assessor Candidate, Theodora Gabriel.
Steve Medeiros, Chair of the Board of the Assessors presented Ms. Gabriel as their choice for the position. He noted she comes with many years of experience. Ms. Gabriel highlighted her qualifications and Mr. King noted she is fluent in Portuguese. **Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to approve her appointment. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- b. Request from the Westport Land Conservation Trust to approve a Conservation Restriction on 10.88+/- acres of land Adamsville Road Assessors Map 78, Lot 2. The restriction will have no Town funding and will be paid completely through philanthropy. **Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to approve the Conservation Restriction. Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- c. Request approval from the Trustees of the Reservations to sublet fields at the Town Farm at 830 Drift Road for agricultural use to an organic farmer.
Winslow Dresser was joined by Bill Braun who is proposing to farm several of the paddocks. Mr. Dresser stated the paddocks have been farmed by volunteers in the past and there has been a drop in volunteers. He suggested that if this works out well, the Trustees would look to offer more of the paddocks for agriculture. Mr. Braun would use this area for seed work crossing flowers and providing pollinator forage. **Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to approve the sublet of the fields to Mr. Braun. Seconded by Ms. Boxler. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- d. Request approval of 1-week MassDOT "Pre-Apprenticeship & Vocation School Training Program". Mr. King provided an explanation of the program. **Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the apprenticeship. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- e. Request authorization for Town Administrator to act as the authorized representative in connection with the Targeted Integrated Water Management Grant application.
Motion by Mr. Ouellette to approve and that Mr. King provide a copy of documents signed to the Board for review. Seconded by Ms. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

5. Appointments and/or Resignations

None.

6. Town Administrator Report

Mr. King reviewed his report.

Discussion ensued over the law allowing an additional 3.5 percent impact fee focused on communities on the Cape that have weekly rentals and turnover and incur more costs. The article on the local occupancy is for an increase from 4 to 6 % on the warrant. Ms. Shufelt asked what impact this will

have on the non-hotel rentals and discussion ensued Mr. Brewer felt that it would hurt the homeowner who rents seasonally. Mr. King noted that health insurance will increase premiums 2% in July. The Audubon report was of interest.

7. Minutes

February 2, 2020

Motion by Ms. Boxler to approve as amended. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

February 18, 2020

Motion by Ms. Boxler to approve as amended. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor. Mr. Ouellette abstained because he was absent at that meeting.

8. Bill Warrant

Mr. Brewer stated that upon his review, all was in order. Mr. Brewer noted that he will be out of town next week and that Mr. Ouellette will review and sign the bill warrant as the backup.

9. Selectmen Liaison Committee Reports

Ms. Boxler updated the members on the activities of the Affordable Housing Trust. The Trust has received an RFP from Habitat for Humanity to build a duplex on Sodom Road.

Mr. Valcourt noted the Agricultural Open Space Preservation Trust Council will be meeting next week and had nothing further to report.

Ms. Shufelt stated that the next School Building Committee meeting is scheduled on the 18th.

Mr. Ouellette noted the primary elections are tomorrow. He stated Town Committees for each party were blank and people will need to write names in. He said that Bike Committee is working on many activities. The bike path will be connected to Fall River and New Bedford through a \$35k grant. The intersection at Rt177 and Rt6 is being looked at and it is possible a rotary is being considered.

Mr. Brewer noted that Weatherlow Farms appealed the BOS decision with ZBA and the appellant withdrew their appeal from Zoning Board of Appeals without prejudice. There was no ruling. As a result, the hearing with ABCC will be rescheduled. It is anticipated that the appellant will file suit against the Zoning Board of Appeals.

10. Boards/Committees/Commissions Vacancy List

Noted.

11. Board Members Suggestions for Future Agenda Discussion / Action

None.

12. Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting

Town Nurse, Linda Pierce briefed the Board on the Corona virus. There was one person that was quarantined at home in Westport who returned from a trip to China. The Board of Health checked in with the person daily and has since been released from that quarantine. There is no treatment other than treating the symptoms. She urged handwashing and avoiding touching face and surfaces. The Fire Department is on Board to treat and transport. Any other updates would be relayed. Mr. Valcourt noted that more people have died from the flu in the US and urged people not to panic. The virus symptoms are like a bad flu. The Board of Health is coordinating with the State and Emergency preparedness. She urged common sense.

13. Question & Answers.

None.

14. **Executive Session** – **Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to enter into executive session at 7:16 p.m. and adjourn the regular session at its conclusion pursuant to the provisions of MGL c 30A section 21(a), Chair declares an open meeting will have a detrimental effect to:
- a. conduct strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel Town Administrator (2).
 - b. approve Executive Session Minutes.
- Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board Voted 5-0 in favor.
- Roll Call Vote:** Shufelt, Aye. Valcourt, Aye. Ouellette, Aye. Boxler, Aye. Brewer, Aye.

Adjournment

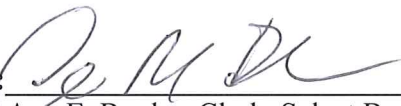
Motion by Mr. Ouellette to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:45p.m. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucy Tabit Administrative Assistant/
Confidential Clerk

APPROVED:



Ann E. Boxler, Clerk, Select Board Member

Attachments to Agenda of 3/2/20:

- 2a Briggs packet
- 2b Trailer Renewal Memo – BOS
- 3a 5-5-20 ATM Warrant 1st Draft
- 4a Theodora Gabriel resume
- 4b Westport CR #68 Santos
- 4c TTOR Request to sublet fields
- 4d DIMAN Co-op
- 4e CW Authority to file
- 4e Closeout Planning Project Certificate
- 6 TA REPORT
- 8 Bill Warrant