

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY
APRIL 03, 2017**

Members Present: R. Michael Sullivan, Chairman
Craig J. Dutra, Vice Chairman
Steven J. Ouellette
Antone C. Vieira Jr.
Shana M. Shufelt, Clerk

Also Present: Timothy J. King, Town Administrator

Chairman Sullivan called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:04 P.M. in the Westport Town Hall, 2nd floor meeting room, 816 Main Road, Westport, MA.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman's Announcement – Under MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f) – Meeting being recorded.

Public and/or Board Member Comments

1. Chairman Sullivan called for a Moment of Silence for the passing of Richard J. Barresi, a member of the Water Resources Management Committee and former member of the Finance Committee.
2. Tom Hancock warned of a phone scam happening, in which the caller is crying, stating they are under arrest and in jail in Canada. Mr. Hancock warned that residents, especially seniors, need to be mindful of these scams and suggested that anyone should check with the Police and the Post Office before responding to these scams.

Acknowledgments & Recognitions

1. The Board presented John “Jack” McDermott with a Citation recognizing his retirement after dedicating forty-seven years of service to the Town by volunteering on the Personnel Board, Capital Improvements Planning Committee and as an elected official on the Board of Assessors. Senator Rodrigues also presented Citations on behalf of the Senate and on behalf of Representative Schmid, who sent his regrets. Mr. McDermott was present.

Appointments and/or Resignations

1. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to accept with regrets the resignation of Heather M. Salva from the Zoning Board of Appeals and to send a letter of thanks. Second by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
2. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to appoint Arthur Caesar as Republican Registrar of Voters. Second by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
3. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to appoint Ryan Wagner as an Alternate to the Westport Agricultural Commission. Second by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
4. **Motion** made by Mr. Ouellette to appoint Charles Huntington as Library Aide I, Robin Winters as Library Aide II and Amy Medeiros as Principal Clerk in the Library. Second by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
5. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to accept with regrets the resignation of Michael Perry from the Westport Agricultural Commission and to send a letter of thanks. Second by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Continued Public Hearing - RE: An application request from SoMa Imports, Inc. for a Class II License to sell used motor vehicles at 15-A High Street, Westport, MA (request is for 6 vehicles –

to be housed inside only). The property is shown on Assessor's Map 13, Lot 73 (including Lots 129-137). Owner/Manager: Kyle DeMelo.

The continued public hearing was opened at 6:24PM. Present: Kyle DeMelo. Abutters present: Danielle Pineault, Christine Nunes, Claire St. Pierre and Maureen Pineault. Also present: Ralph Souza, Building Commissioner and Jeff Souza, representing Kyle DeMelo and Theresa Ferreira, owner of the property. Mr. Sullivan stated Mr. DeMelo has been before the Board twice and it was decided to go through the process of meeting with Planning Board again, which allowed for a public hearing to allow for input from the abutters. Mr. Sullivan also acknowledged and reviewed Police recommendations for this area in regards to signage. Mr. Vieira asked that the "cutting of brush recommendation" from the Police Dept. be verified by the Highway Department before any cutting is done on Hillside Avenue to make sure it is not on private property. Mr. Vieira stated he would like consideration given to the future should Mr. DeMelo decide to close his business, consider whether another license should go there because this is located in a residential area. Mr. Ouellette questioned ventilation and oil/grease traps. Mr. Souza stated ventilation is okay and there are oil/grease traps installed; there is no repairs to be done at this site. Mr. Sullivan called for any input from abutters; a lengthy discussion ensued.

Motion made by Ms. Shufelt to approve a Class II License for SoMa Imports, Inc. with the following conditions: vehicle limit is six (6); vehicles are to be stored inside only; no parking of the transport trailer on the road; hours are to be Monday 8am to 6pm; Tuesday thru Friday 5pm to 7pm; Saturday 8am to 6pm; and Sunday 12pm to 5pm with Sunday hours by appointments only; two weeks prior to commencement of business, all Fire Department issues have to be addressed and a parking plan is to be submitted delineating the parking spaces; and to forward the Police recommendations regarding street signage to the Highway Department for installation. Second by Mr. Vieira. The Board voted 4 in favor, 1-opposed (Ouellette). The public hearing is closed at 7:15PM.

Public Hearing – RE: An application request from Norwest Auto Sales to transfer the location of a Class II License to sell used motor vehicles from 237 State Road to 1052 State Road. Requested vehicle limit for sales is 68. The property is shown on Assessor's Map 12, Lot 21B. Owners: Wayne Medeiros & Dominick Plourde.

The public hearing was opened at 7:20PM. Present: Wayne Medeiros and Dominick Plourde. The Board reviewed the application and parking plan. No abutters were present. Recommendation received from the Town Administrator was for approval of the request. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to approve the request to transfer the location of a Class II License for Norwest Auto Sales from 237 State Road to 1052 State Road and to approve the limit of "for sale" vehicles at 68. Second by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted unanimously in favor. The public hearing is closed at 7:25PM.

Ralph Souza, Building Commissioner – RE: Request for an increase of inspection rate for Wiring, Plumbing and Gas Inspectors.

Present: Ralph Souza. Mr. Souza explained the last time there was an increase of inspection rate for the Inspectors was back in 2012. Mr. Souza stated he surveyed surrounding communities and Westport is the lowest. Mr. Souza requested the increase of inspection rate go from \$25.00 to \$30.00.

Motion made by Mr. Dutra to increase the Wiring, Plumbing and Gas Inspectors rates to \$30.00 per inspections effective July 1, 2017. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Noah Gagnon, Life Scout of Troop 3 – RE: Request for permission to build a Veteran's memorial at Powder House Square.

Present: Noah Gagnon and Mrs. Gagnon. Also present: Veteran's Agent Brad Fish and representatives from the various Veterans' groups. Mr. Gagnon explained his proposed project of building a Veteran's Memorial at the Powder House Square as an area of reflection. It would consist of a walkway with three stone benches, a small patio and a 20 ft. flagpole (illuminated by a solar light), all of which will be handicap accessible. Mr. Gagnon stated he has had help from his mother who dropped off his proposal to all the neighbors in the area. Mr. Ouellette stated to Mr. Gagnon, that at the Library on April 13th there will be a meeting regarding traffic safety around the Head Landing, which would be a

good meeting to attend. Mr. Ouellette stated this is a good project to go forward on. Mr. Gagnon anticipates that construction will take 4-6 weeks; he is collaborating with BM&C, Inc., Resendes & Associates and the Veteran's Agent to gather donations and materials. Mr. Millham, Landing Commission stated his understanding is that the Powder House is under the Landing Commission's control. Mr. Gagnon stated he actually did meet with Mr. Tripp of the Landing Commission about a month ago. Mr. Millham stated at the meeting we recommended that Mr. Gagnon go to all the other organizations first and then to come back to the Landing Commission. It was requested that Mr. Gagnon also speak with the Historical Commission. Mr. Gagnon stated the cost should be somewhere around \$6,000; he already has \$2,000 coming in donations, that he was told by Mr. Fish. Mr. Gagnon stated he has quotes coming and there will be fundraising by Troop 3. Mr. Gagnon stated he is looking to finish this project by Veteran's Day. Mr. Sullivan stated he would like a progress report in four weeks and letters of support and/or approval from Mr. Fish and the various Veteran's organizations. **Motion** made by Mr. Vieira to support the proposed project moving forward. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Westport Economic Development Task Force – RE: Specialty Crop Block Grant Application.

Present: Maury May. Mr. May explained the grant program to the Board and was looking for support to apply for \$90,000; of course, this would be contingent upon going before the Agricultural Commission on April 12th. Mr. May stated the successful application consisted of research and output. Mr. May stated he would like to do genetic testing of the Macomber Turnip seeds, to understand it and to find a common strain. Mr. May stated the benefit would be knowing what the turnip is comprised of and increasing the marketability of a true Macomber Turnip, which would benefit farmers as a specialty crop. Mr. Vieira stated he has spoken with Mr. Maury on this and he is all for marketing and quality assurance. Mr. Vieira stated he has not seen the grant application yet, so at this time, he can't support it; however, he does support Economic Development having a role in this but the people involved don't have the background for quality assurance for marketing. Mr. Vieira felt this proposal could not be ready in two weeks and he disagreed with the appropriateness of it. Mr. May stated he expected push-back from the Selectmen and some farmers but there is support from active farmers. Discussion ensued regarding the proposal. Mr. May explained the scope of the grant, the guidelines and other competitive proposals. Mr. Sullivan stated the Board could revisit a letter of endorsement after seeing the competitive application. Ms. Shufelt stated we can brand it and market it as a specialty product for Westport; she saw no downside. Mr. Vieira stated he felt this was boondoggling for research; he felt the Economic Development Task Force would be better with the marketing of this. **Motion** made by Ms. Shufelt to approve of the grant application contingent upon the application being approved by the Agricultural Commission. Second by Mr. Dutra. The Board voted 3 in favor, 2-opposed (Sullivan, Vieira).

Police Station Building Committee – RE: Discussion regarding new Police Station bids and costs; and recommendation of vote by Committee.

Present: Chief Pelletier, Neil Joyce, Jeffrey McElravy, William Gifford, Troy Spirlet. A presentation was given by the Police Station Building Committee of the proposed design. Mr. McElravy stated the Committee looked at opportunities to tailor the proposal for bidding, cutting the alternates out of the base scope. The building was scaled down from 18,680 sq. ft. to 15,279 sq.ft. The bidding only drew two general contractors. The lowest bid came in at \$7,584,000. We are over budget at the base bid and have made substantial cuts. Mr. Joyce reviewed the options based on the lowest bidder's numbers. Chief Pelletier stated he was here tonight, going on the recommendation of the committee; he promised the public he would not ask for additional funding and it was difficult for him to ask or spend additional funding. Mr. Gifford stated if we are building, we need the basic structure; we have nibbled away at this and he could not see 3-4 years down the road, after stripping this building to begin with, to having to come back for all the necessary safety features to be in place. Discussion ensued regarding the options facing the Town and the possible funding. **Motion** made by Mr. Vieira to go with Option #4, identifying the Overlay for the funding of \$500,000. Second by Mr. Dutra. The Board voted 4 in

favor, 1-opposed (Sullivan). **Option 4: Project Scope includes base construction bid plus all alternates (training room, carport, cupola, epoxy flooring, Bi-Directional Antenna, Landscaping) with restoration of project contingency, furniture and communications, at a total project budget of \$10,429,800. Supplemental funding of \$1,849,800 would be required for this option.

Action Items

1. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to approve of the letter of support to name the travel circle at the end of Route 88 in honor of the late Governor Paul Cellucci and for the letters to be sent to Senator Rodrigues and Representative Schmid. Second by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
2. **Motion** made by Mr. Ouellette to approve a request from Amy Davis and Nelson Batista to park 10-15 cars at the Knubble on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 for the exchange of wedding vows for about one hour. Second by Mr. Vieira. The Board voted unanimously in favor. *Tim St. Michel, Chairman of the Beach Committee will be on hand to oversee the parking.
3. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to approve the request received from Westport High School Student Government for the 5K Wildcat Color Run on Saturday, April 29, 2017 per Police Department recommendation. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
4. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to approve the request received from Patricia Swain Rice to use the Town Hall rear parking lot on Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 9:30AM to 3:30PM for up to 10 vehicles for a previously approved field trip to Cherry & Webb; participants will be carpooling. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
5. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to approve the request received from New England Race Events, LLC for the Horseneck Half Marathon on Sunday, May 21, 2017 per Police Department recommendations. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
6. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to table, per Town Administrator request, the request received from Marine Services Director Christopher Leonard for approval of the contract for the Relay of Contaminated Quahogs. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
7. Present: John O'Rourke, Good Energy Aggregation Consultant. Mr. O'Rourke explained the past experience and the process to move into the next round of Energy Aggregation, if the Town was interested. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to continue to participate in the Energy Aggregation and to authorize the Town Administrator to attend the bid opening day as the Town's representative and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the Electric Service agreement. Second by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
8. **Motion** made by Mr. Vieira to approve the FY'18 Budget as presented with the changes suggested by the Board and modifications made by the Town Administrator. Second by Mr. Dutra. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
9. **Motion** made by Ms. Shufelt to approve of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as presented with the inclusion of the Police Station article (seeking \$1,849,000 of which \$500,000 from available funds and the borrowing of \$1,349,800). Second by Mr. Dutra. The Board voted 4 in favor, 1-opposed (Vieira).

Licenses – None.

Town Administrator Report

No actions were taken regarding the Town Administrator's report.

Discussion Items – None.

Minutes

1. **Motion** made by Ms. Shufelt to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2017. Second by Mr. Dutra. The Board voted 4 in favor, 1-abstention (Sullivan).

Selectmen Liaison Committee Reports – None.

Question and Answer Period

1. Wayne Sunderland asked, is the Cemetery Department going to be funded for the help they need to continue the great job they do? Mr. King stated the position has been posted, advertised and interviews will be next week. Ms. Shufelt stated we have budgeted for 2.5 positions.

Boards/Committees/Commissions Vacancy List – Item was passed over..

Board Members Suggestions for Future Agenda Discussion / Action – None.

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

1. Mr. Dutra stated the School Building Committee voted to support the custom-design building and explained why that vote was taken. Mr. Dutra stated a vote was now needed by the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee. **Motion** made by Mr. Dutra to ratify the vote of the School Building Committee and to stay with the Jonathan Levi proposal. Second by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted unanimously in favor.
2. Mr. Sullivan also announced that under the 48 hours unanticipated was a public records request which would be addressed in Executive Session.

Other Business

1. Ms. Shufelt reminded everyone of Annual Town Election on April 11, 2017.
2. Mr. Sullivan reminded everyone that this would be the last meeting for Selectman Vieira. The Board wished Mr. Vieira the best of luck and thanked him for his contributions that he has made to the Town over the years.

9:40 PM Executive Session

Motion made by Mr. Vieira to enter into Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of MGL c 30A section 21(a) to approve Executive Session Minutes of March 20, 2017; PEC negotiations; Employment Agreement negotiations; and LAW negotiations; and AFSCME employee grievance hearing. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Vieira-aye. Mr. Dutra-aye. Mr. Ouellette-aye. Ms. Shufelt-aye. Mr. Sullivan-aye.

Mr. Sullivan announced the Board would be adjourning from Executive Session and not returning to Open Session.

Executive Session ended at 11:00 PM.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Pelland
Administrative Asst/Confidential Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

APPROVED: Shana M. Shufelt, Clerk