



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 3, 2023

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

Also Present: James Hartnett, Town Administrator

6:00 p.m. Call To order & Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearings - none

1. Licenses/Permits - none

2. Appointments and Resignations

- a. Request from the Cemetery Department to hire Ian Johnson as a Seasonal Laborer. Mr. Hartnett stated that Ronald Porte interviewed Mr. Johnson and is recommending hiring as a seasonal employee.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to appoint Ian Johnson as a Seasonal Laborer, effective April 10, 2023, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

3. Action Items

- a. Request from the Westport River Watershed Alliance to hold their Spring Activities:
- Electronic Recycling Day, behind the Town Hall, April 29, 2023, from 9am-12noon
 - Beach Clean Up Day, Cherry & Webb, Saturday, May 13, 2023, from 10am – 12noon
 - Dune Hike, Saturday, June 17, 2023
 - River Day, Head Landing, Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 10am-12noon

Deborah Weaver from the Westport River Watershed Alliance (WRWA) was present to address the Board. Ms. Weaver stated that these events are similar to what has been approved in previous years. She noted that the time on River Day should be from 10am to 2:00 pm and is excited about River Day there will be a mishoon on display along with the traditional events. Ms. Weaver stated that the Landing Commission has already approved the request.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to approve the events subject to police recommendations for parking and details, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- b. Authorize Primary and Alternate Representatives to execute the contract for Community Electricity Aggregation.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to approve Hartnett as the primary and Pearsall as the alternate representatives to execute the contract for Community Electricity Aggregation, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- c. Request from Chris Leonard, Director of Marine Services to approve the following 3 year aquaculture license renewals

Lees Wharf Site #1	Kerian Fennelly Exp.	4/29/23
Lees Wharf Site #2	John Fennelly Exp.	4/29/23
East Branch Site #1	Kerian Fennelly Exp.	8/23/23
East Branch Site #2	Kristin Fennelly Exp.	9/20/23
East Branch Site #3	John Fennelly Exp.	8/22/23

Chris Leonard, Director of Marine Services was present to address the Board. Mr. Leonard was joined by Kerian Fennelly and Rick Smith from the Shellfish Advisory Commission. He stated that the previous approvals were probationary for one year but the renewals should be approved for three years and he would like them all to be on the same renewal schedule.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to approve the 3 year renewals, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- d. Request from Chris Leonard, Director of Marine Services to amend the Shellfish and Scallop regulations Booklet, Section II, Article 1, relating to the maximum quantity of scallops.

Chris Leonard, Director of Marine Services was present to address the Board. Mr. Leonard was joined by Rick Smith from the Shellfish Advisory Commission. Mr. Leonard stated that they would like to amend the shellfish regulations to limit the number of licenses per boat to 2 licenses. Mr. Smith stated that the commission was concerned about the weight of the shellfish and the two licenses would put a limit on the catch, this would make the scallop regulations consistent with other types of shellfish licenses. Mr. Ouellette asked if these were regulations or bylaws, Mr. Leonard stated that they were regulations.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to approve the changes, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

- e. Review and update Town Warrant Articles.

Mr. Hartnett reviewed the changes in the Town Warrant. He recommended deleting Articles 35 & 36, the transfers were now included in Article 3. At the request of the Finance Committee and the Town Moderator he also recommended deleting Article 28. The Board agreed. Ms. Shufelt presented requested changes from the school department and noted that the \$3 million dollar override would not be enough to cover the additional costs related to the school department. Mr. Valcourt noted that the changes requested by the school department could save the school money in the future by keeping kids in district. Ms. Shufelt recommended meeting the school department's request by appropriating \$1.1 million dollars to the school in FY24, \$345,000 to the Town and \$250,000 to the stabilization account.

Ms. Slade was present and addressed the Board, she stated that the numbers for Article 6 have to be appropriated the first year. She noted that the school is changing and the number of students attending Westport Schools has increased. The number of students attending other schools through school choice has also leveled off. Suggested a \$3 million dollar override and could always request more in the future if needed.

Tony Viveiros from the Westport School Committee was present and stated that some of these proposed positions would save the district money by keeping students in Westport, he also stated that Special Education is now 25% of the budget where it was previously 17%.

MOTION by Ms. Shufelt to amend Article 6 to include \$1.1 million dollars for the school in FY24, seconded by Brewer. The Board voted 4-0 in favor. Mr. Ouellette abstained.

Ms. Boxler recommended amending the Town Budget in Article 6 to include an additional police officer, firefighter and grant writer.

MOTION by Ms. Boxler to amend Article 6 to include \$581,000 dollars for the Town to include a grant writer and police officer for \$85,000 each and a firefighter for \$66,000, the remainder into stabilization, seconded by Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

MOTION by Ms. Shufelt to approve the warrant as amended, seconded by Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

4. Discussion

- a. Diman Ballot Question – Mr. Brewer stated that Diman would be on the ballot question on April 11, 2023 and stressed the importance of this being approved. If it is not approved for excluded debt it will have a serious impact on the operating budget.
Mr. Valcourt noted the quality of the Diman programs and the marketability of the students that have graduated from Diman.
- b. Proposition 2 ½ Override Discussion – Discussed under item 3e.
- c. Budget Update – Discussed under item 3e.

5. Town Administrator Report

Mr. Hartnett read his April 3, Bi-weekly report into the record.
Carli Nickelson, a local 8th grade student attending Tecca Connections Academy has set up donation boxes at the Town Hall Annex and at the COA as part of her class project. She's looking for toys, food, leashes, and collars, blankets and towels, treats, beds, and cleaning supplies so she could give them to the local shelters.

The Route 177 Roundabout project has just been approved for the 25% design submittal. These design projects take 3-6 years, there should be a public hearing later this summer with 100% submittal during the spring of 2024.

Preliminary field work has started on the Drift Road Bridge at Kirby Brook, this is being done by Pare Engineering under the direction of MassDot. Ms. Shufelt asked if the

neighbors have been updated, Hartnett stated that they have been very involved in the project.

The HVAC project for the Town Hall has started, a request for qualifications for a Comprehensive Energy Management Services contract for all municipal buildings has been filed. This is a prerequisite for the Green Communities Grant and will also help with some additional grants being applied for by the school department.

Governor Maura Healey signed the supplemental 2023 budget bill that includes extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining

6. Approve Minutes

a. March 6, 2023

MOTION by Mr. Brewer to approve the March 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

b. March 20, 2023

MOTION by Mr. Brewer to approve the March 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor, with Ms. Boxler abstaining.

7. Report on Bill Warrant

Ms. Boxler noted the Bill Warrant was all set.

8. Selectmen Liaison Committee Reports & Suggestions for Future Agenda Discussion / Action

Mr. Valcourt stated that he had not had any recent committee meetings but noted that he had updated the old high school informational document for Town Meeting.

Mr. Ouellette stated that there have still been a number of accidents on local roads and requested that the Beach Committee attend one of the meetings to update the Board on the summer season.

Ms. Shufelt noted that the climate resiliency committee is still very active. She also discussed the recent letter sent to parents by the Superintendent of Schools regarding the SRO officer at the elementary school. She stated that the Town and the School work well together, that the Chief of Police made the decision to pull the SRO officer due to staffing shortages in the police department. The Town had presented an option to the school that would have made a detail officer available to the school but that was not presented in the letter that went out to the parents. The Town had no intention of making the schools unsafe and temporary funding is in place to fund the detail.

Mr. Brewer noted he had nothing to report, except there are future Audit Committee and ARPA Meetings.

Ms. Boxler noted she had nothing to report.

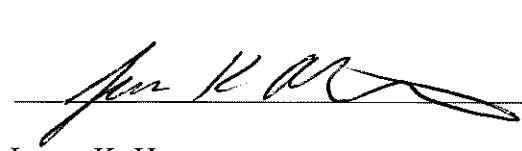
9. Comments and Statements - None

10. Boards/Committees/Commissions Vacancy List

11. Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting. - None

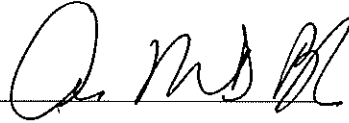
MOTION by Mr. Valcourt at 7:25pm. to enter into Executive Session for the reasons declared by the Chair, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor by roll call vote, Boxler aye, Brewer aye, Ouellette aye, Valcourt aye, and Shufelt aye.

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette at 7:45pm to adjourn the open meeting, seconded by Mr. Ouellette.
The Board voted 5-0 in favor.



James K. Hartnett
Town Administrator

Approved: _____



Ann Boxler, Clerk
Select Board Member

File Attachments:

2a Ian Johnson
3a WWRA Spring Activities
3b Bid Day Representative Form - Westport – 2023
3c 2023 Lees Wharf 1 and 2 East Branch 1,2,3
3d 2023 Shellfish Regulation Change
5-2-23 ATM Warrant 12th Draft
03062023 Minutes
03202023 Minutes
FY24 Budget 4-3-23