

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2018**

Members Present: Steven J. Ouellette, Chairman
Shana M. Shufelt, Vice Chair
Craig J. Dutra
R. Michael Sullivan
Brian T. Valcourt, Clerk

Also Present: Timothy J. King, Town Administrator

Chairman Ouellette opened the meeting at 6:08 p.m. with a salute to the flag and publicly announced under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(e) that the meeting was being recorded.

Action Items:

1). & 2). Coastal Healing, Inc. & Xiphias, Inc. - Mr. King noted that any Letters of Support or Non-Opposition given to either one or both would go to the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) for review and, if tentatively approved by the state, the Town would then have to negotiate a Host Agreement. The State will not issue a license until a Host Agreement is finalized. Chairman Ouellette stated that both facilities had made proposals to the Board of Selectmen at previous meetings. Selectman Sullivan made a motion that the Board of Selectmen approve giving Letters of Non-Opposition to both Coastal Healing, Inc. and Xiphias, Inc. because both have offered essentially the equivalent financial benefits for the Town of Westport. Selectman Valcourt seconded the motion. Selectman Sullivan went on to say that he wanted to clarify that Xiphias, Inc. had agreed to meet the framework of Coastal Healing, Inc. He then requested that Xiphias put that proposal in writing. Attorney Philip Silverman, on behalf of Xiphias Wellness, stated that they would be submitting a proposal matching the offer of Coastal Healing. Attorney Brian Corey, representing Coastal Healing, emphasized that their proposal also provided a guaranteed minimum payment beyond the \$50,000 of \$135,000 to the Town with a 3% cap as the maximum of sales. The motion was passed with Selectmen Shufelt, Dutra, Sullivan and Valcourt voting yes and Chairman Ouellette voting no.

3). BOS Recommendations for the 1/23/18 Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Selectman Shufelt made a motion to support Article 1. The motion was seconded by Selectman Sullivan and was voted unanimously. On a motion by Selectman Shufelt, which was seconded by Selectman Valcourt, the Board voted unanimously to support Article 2. Selectman Valcourt motioned to support Article 3. Selectman Shufelt seconded the motion – voted unanimously. Selectman Sullivan made a motion to accept the changes and endorse Article 4. The motion was seconded by Selectman Valcourt and was voted unanimously. Article 5 being a petition article, the Board took no action. On a motion by Selectman Shufelt, which was seconded by Selectman Sullivan, the Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the 1/23/18 Special Town meeting warrant as a whole and to post it.

4). After some discussion regarding the designation of one member of the Board of Selectmen to approve the Town's bi-weekly payroll and bill warrants, the Board of Selectmen agreed to pass on it at this time.

Town Administrator Report:

1). Hix Bridge Road Bridge Substructure Repairs – Selectman Sullivan said that he needed technical clarification because the top 12 inches are requiring a different approach because of the weather and it's not clear to him what they're changing. He requested that the Town Administrator contact the MA DOT and ask them for an explanation of what they're changing.

5). Charter Letter Rate Increase – Chairman Ouellette questioned whether the Board would like to respond to Charter or send it to the Cable Advisory Committee. He felt that it was not fair for people on fixed incomes. Selectman Sullivan stated that if they were going to send a letter to Charter he would suggest that the Cable Advisory Committee give the Board a comparison of our offering here in Westport as compared to some of the more competitive places where they offer their services. Also, to find out what Comcast and Cox charge and offer for their services. He noted that if the Selectmen were going to complain the Board might do so by specifically saying why the Selectmen feel that they are being shorted here in Westport versus a general complaint letter.

Question & Answer Period:

1). Kathy Feininger – Ms. Feininger questioned the amount of barn books inspections. She noted that at a previous meeting Mr. King had stated that there were 200 to be completed, 2 weeks ago he said 166 and tonight Mr. King had said that Donna Lambert (the Animal Control Officer & Animal Inspector) had completed 120 of 140 barn inspections. Chairman Ouellette responded that some of the barns or facilities housing animals listed were scratched off the list. There are going to be numbers that fluctuate as the Animal Inspector checks them out. Selectman Sullivan pointed out that the Board's responsibility was to appoint or recommend people to these positions that can get the job done and they were not privy to the actual data. Ms. Lambert shares her progress with the Selectmen and Town Administrator. Because of the proprietary nature of the information that is collected, the Board is not privy to a lot of that detail but in aggregate the Selectmen are satisfied that the Animal Inspectors are on a trajectory to get everything done. Constance Gee reiterated that they were concerned about the quality of the inspections and spoke about the need for an animal site registry.

Discussion Items:

1). FY'19 Municipal Budget – The Selectmen were in agreement that they should wait until the School Department submits their budget to find out what the Town portion would be. Mr. King noted that there were a number of positions that were requested and the Board could talk about prioritizing those. Selectman Dutra stated that he did not want to encourage departments who have already submitted their wish list that there may be funds available. Selectman Shufelt pointed out that the current draft of the proposed budget had the Town \$136,000 over budget.

Barn Books & the Animal Control Officer/Animal Inspector Continued:

Selectman Shufelt reported that the Barn Books had been received on September 27th. The Board agreed that the inspections should have begun in October and not December. Selectman Shufelt noted that there was some confusion and misunderstanding about if the current job description on file was the job description that the current Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector understood their job description to be. Selectman Shufelt stated that this needed to be resolved. She continued by saying that there was

another issue regarding the pay scale and pay rate for those positions. Those misunderstandings and miscommunication caused a delay in the barn inspections. There was lengthy discussion on the issue.

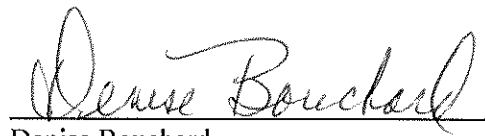
Selectmen Liaison Committee Reports:

Selectman Shufelt mentioned that the Town School Building Committee had held a public forum at the Library on January 6th to discuss and answer any questions regarding the proposed new school building.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Selectman Dutra, which was seconded by Selectman Valcourt, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Bouchard
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

APPROVED: _____



Brian T. Valcourt, Clerk