



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY- September 30, 2019**

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 6:02 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 is recorded.

**1. Acknowledgments & Recognitions.**

Ms. Shufelt acknowledged the passing of Anthony Connors on September 20, 2019 who served on the Energy Committee and was instrumental in the implementation of the solar array at the Town Landfill. He is informally known as the unofficial Town Historian. He was an asset to the community and the town has lost someone priceless.

**2. Senator Michael Rodriques and Representative Paul Schmid.**

Senator Rodriques spoke on the status of the State. The Senate is back in session. The local aid bill for K-12 education will be looking at a formula readjustment to make it a level playing field. He is now the Chair of the Ways & Means Committee. The State is in good financial shape with an anticipated \$700 million of free cash. The plan is to place the majority of this in the stabilization fund raising it to slightly more than \$3 billion – \$4 billion is the goal.

Representative Paul Schmid underlined the significance of a rainy day fund and complemented Westport for having reserves and for post-employment benefits. He added: the DCR, not MassDOT, is responsible for the paving of John Reed Road; earmarks for Water Resource Management is \$50K and \$20K for shellfish propagation; \$50K for Westport Housing Authority to help upgrade the units as State mandated; and Ch70 School funding \$4.5 million and unrestricted government aid of \$1.2 million.

The Senator, concerning Ch70 funding, expanded upon the reduced number of students and the accounting of low-income students. Westport school population continues to dip at the high school level. Special Ed transportation is covered. Charter school reimbursements are increased. Mr.

Ouellette asked if there is aid for Bristol Aggie High School and DIMAN Vocational High School. The Senator explained that the vocational schools would receive a blended rate.

The Representative stated that the Recall Bill passed in the Senate and is up for approval by The House very soon. He has been in discussion with the Harbormaster to see if there are funds in the Seaport grant for improvements. He noted the success of Noquochoke Village and urged more like this.

The Senator stated that \$500K is allocated to study the reuse of the current High School. The funds are from a bond bill, which still need to go before the Governor. He said that Ch90 funds have appropriated \$200K annually based on the road miles. This year \$666k will be allocated to Westport and he is looking to increase that number. The pilot for Horseneck beach – there was a reduction last year of \$200K and this was the case with other communities. In FY2020, Westport will be reduced only another \$166K based on the work he and the Representative have done.

### **3. Licenses/Permits.**

- a. Public Hearing - Marguerite's Inc. initiate cancellation of annual wine and malt liquor license. **Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to continue to 10/15 at 6:05pm. Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- b. Public Hearing – NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition request permission to locate underground cables, conduit and manholes, including necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, in, under, along and across the public way Old County Road, East of Green Street, two (2) 4" conduits. WO#2332872.  
Donna Rosa for Eversource was present. No abutters were present nor provided any comments. **Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to approve. Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 4-0-1 with Ms. Boxler abstaining due to conflict.

### **4. Appointments and/or Resignations.**

- a. Affordable Housing Trust reappointment of Warren M. Messier as Trustee (2-year term).  
**Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to appoint. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- b. Assistant Animal Control Officer, new hire, Nicholas Vidmar.  
Phil Weinberg, Chair of the Board of Health was before the Board to introduce Mr. Vidmar. The BOH is looking forward to having him come on board to help with the load. Mr. Vidmar spoke a little about his background and being a recent graduate from Unity College in Conservation Enforcement. **Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to approve the hire. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- c. Agricultural Commission Alternates: Sherilyn F. Mahoney and Katherine Nemeth (1-year term).  
Both candidates introduced themselves and gave a short introduction. **Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to appoint both candidates. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- d. Camping Ground Use Committee: Martin Costa (1-year term)  
Mr. Costa was before the Board for discussion. **Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to appoint. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.



- e Highway Department Seasonal laborer new hire, Brian R. Legendre.  
**Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to hire. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- f. Personnel Board: Greg Hardoby request appointment to Personnel Board (3-year term).  
**Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to appoint. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

5. **Action Items.**

- a. Economic Development Task Force request for approval of a Winter Farmer's Market at the Annex Gym from November 16-December 21 2019 from 9am-1pm and to place a banner on the north playground fence.  
Maury May and Ben Wolbach were before the board to ask approval of a winter market in the Annex gym. They have had requests from current vendors and customers to keep the farmer's market active. Ms. Shufelt asked if they have checked with the Recreation Department for use of that space. Mr. May stated that there is no conflict and that the EDTF will be paying \$100 to the Recreation Department for its use.  
**Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the request for the market and the placement of the banner. Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

Mr. May asked if Economic Development should be involved with what the Planning Board is working on in light of the \$50K earmarked by the Senator. He suggested that this could go towards a Mass-Works grant. Mr. Valcourt stated that several business owners contacted him recently to improve an area on Sanford Road to Route 6. Discussion ensued.

- b. Request from the Affordable Housing Trust to endorse the Conservation Restriction for Noquochoke Village. Ross Moran, Executive Director of the Westport Land Conservation Trust was present and provided a summary of the open space area of 25.43 acres that will connect land on either side already managed by the Trust. **Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to approve. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- c. Request from the Westport Land Conservation Trust for permission to park to conduct a dune walk on November 14 from 7- 8:30 am at Cherry and Webb Beach.  
The Beach Committee has approved this request. **Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to approve. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- d. Accept Bid Award to Advantage Truck Group for the Highway Department dump truck & plow.  
**Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to approve. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- e. Accept Bid Award to LHS Associates for Town Clerk voting units.  
**Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to approve. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.
- f. Approve the FY 2021 Municipal Budget Policies and Calendar  
Mr. King recommended that all departments budget within 2.5% including anticipated items over that. The interest for current investments, approximately \$300-\$400K, is reserved for unanticipated increases. There is some new growth plus anticipated solar pilot revenues. All bargaining units will be up for negotiations this year. Ms. Shufelt and Mr. Ouellette would like to see additional Police hires. Mr. King expects that in a recession, there will not be enough free cash nor enough one-time funding. For example, a Police cruiser is one-time funded. One-time

funding is also paying for highway equipment. Discussion ensued. **Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to adopt schedule. Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Ouellette would like to speak to Police and Fire before supporting level services.

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

## **6. Discussion Items.**

- a. Council on Aging Director, Beverly Bisch to discuss supportive day care staffing.

Ms. Bisch provided numbers on current lowest-salaried employees. She also spoke with other COAs to get more information. She recommended setting the hourly wage for the Level II aide at 14.02/hour; a \$5,500 increase per year, which they can cover in the budget. Discussion ensued. **Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to change Level II aide to 14.02/hr. Second by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor. Effective the next pay cycle.

Mr. Brewer asked if this was being done because of the change in minimum wage. The poll workers and cable operators will be impacted by the increase in minimum wage – it would be less than \$5k. Mr. Brewer sees \$10k as the financial implication. He asked if FinCom is aware of this. Mr. King stated that they are.

Ms. Bisch noted that the COA had their first elderly dental hygiene service offered today. They will plan for another the end of October.

She spoke with the registrar about the 2020 census – many seniors do not have the ability to go on line to fill out the census. She is planning a public service announcement with other departments so people know what it means to these departments and what it means to participate in the census.

- b. Renewal of Town Administrator's contract (9 months out).

Mr. King is willing and able to serve a one-year extension and will retire after that. **Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to approve a one-year extension at the end of the current contract subject to successful negotiations for compensation. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor. Mr. Ouellette was thankful for knowing ahead of time of the opening.

## **7. Town Administrator Report.**

Mr. King read his report. He discussed the preliminary process of assigning a task force for the search for a new treasurer and requested BOS approval to go forward. **Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to approve the Administrator's recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Brewer. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

Mr. King will be looking into the THM levels in the water from Fall River. Mr. King stated that he and Ms. Shufelt attended an event at the Blossom Road solar array and noted the land was not productive farmland and the reliable income which solar provides to the landowners benefits the environment and town. He noted the advisory ban on vaping. The MS4 general permit was submitted but funding will be needed to work on subsequent permitting. Mr. King noted demolition of the old police station bids are due this week.

## **8. Minutes.**

None.



**9. Bill Warrant and Payroll report to the Board.**

Noted and all in order.

**10. Selectmen Liaison Committee Reports.**

Ms. Boxler did not have any additional information from COA.

She stated that the Affordable Housing met with CPC and requested \$900K, which was too steep. Other options are being explored and the Trust will need to put funding aside for these alternatives. The Trust will return to CPC for a lower amount.

Mr. Valcourt noted the Camping Ground Committee is meeting October 10, 2019 at 6pm. He offered to be appointed as the Construction Rep. on the Capital Improvement Committee.

Mr. Ouellette noted: the October Marine Tech Symposium; Green Communities application; the Cable Advisory Committee meeting coming up will be discussing PEG funds - they are consulting with Fairhaven on how they are running theirs; Route 177 safety concerns were reminded to State officials; tax tile: he requested an update and what the status was of the water bills.

Mr. Brewer reported the Treasurer Consultant group met and all reconciliations are completed, reports to the State are on time, cash report was filed Friday and other reports due for September 30 are done. For FY2020, the cashbook is up to date and town has reconciled July and August. The Accountant will be able to file in a timely way. Mr. King met with the financial departments. Assessors are looking at setting the tax rate in November/early December; Monday Oct 7 will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Audit Committee; Bristol Aggie had their ground breaking ceremony. There is no information at this time on how much the Town would have to provide for FY2022.

Ms. Shufelt reminded the members that the conduit would be for department heads to go through the Town Administrator; October 8, 2019 at 9:30am is the ground-breaking ceremony for the new school. the first bids were under \$600k, per Agostini who are prioritizing where the foundation will go before the cold weather sets in; the bond package will be favorable because interest rates dropped; October 6 is the Great Pumpkin Fair at the Macomber School; the PTO 5K will take place on November 3.

**11. Boards/Committees/Commissions Vacancy List.**

As noted on line.

**12. Board Members Suggestions for Future Agenda Discussion / Action.**

None.

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

None.

**14. Question & Answers.**

None.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Lucy Tabit Administrative Assistant/  
Confidential Clerk

APPROVED:   
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Ann E. Boxler, Clerk, Select Board Member

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**Attachments to Agenda of 9/30/19:**

- 1 Tony Connors Obituary
- 3a Marguerites Liq License
- 3b NSTAR Petition east of Green on Old County
- 4a Messier letter
- 4b BoH Animal Control N VIDMAR
- 4c AgCom Appointments
- 4d Campground appointment
- 4e Seasonal hire Highway
- 4f G Hardoby for Personnel Board
- 5a EDTF Winter Market
- 5b Noquochoke restriction
- 5c WLCT Dune walk
- 5d Truck contract
- 5e Voting units contract
- 5f Municipal Budget policies and calendar
- 7 TA Report
- 6a COA supportive day care
- 9 Bill Warrant