



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY – January 13 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. Interview of Town Treasurer Candidate, Vasilio T. Efthimiades.**

Mr. Efthimiades introduced himself and answered questions by the Board. He noted that he does not have the tax experience that the requirements call for. He has been a resident for the last 15 years and was amenable to answering questions from the Board. He is one of two candidates for interview. The next candidate will be at the January 21, 2020 meeting to be interviewed.

**2. Acquisition of Westport Camping Grounds property (346R Old County Road).**

**Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to authorize the acquisition of real property known as the Westport Camping Grounds located at 346R Old County Road in accordance with the Purchase and Sale Agreement dated May 28, 2019, and to authorize the Selectmen and/or the Chair to execute an Acceptance of Deed and Promissory Note and any and all other documents that may be necessary in order to consummate the acquisition of the property. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

**3. Finalize and close Special Town Meeting Warrant.**

Members discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> draft:

**Article 1** is the petition article for the amendment to the Right to Farm By-law.

**Article 2** address paying past fiscal year bills.

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

**Article 3** addresses transfers from available funds to areas that require additional funds such as the expenses at the Town Hall Annex for the failed well.

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

**Article 4** is to raise \$10K for the study of the possible uses of the Westport Camping Grounds.

Board of Selectmen Professional Services has funding for this and Article 4 can be removed from the Special Town meeting warrant.

**Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to fund the Camp Ground Study from Board of Selectmen Professional Services and remove Article 4 from the warrant. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

**Articles 5-11:** Once Article 4 was removed, the remaining Articles 5-11 were renumbered 4-10. Ms. Shufelt read a summary of the articles that request the instatement of recreational marijuana alongside medical marijuana regulations.

None of the merits of Article 1 or Articles 4-10 (as renumbered) were discussed at this time reserving such discussion for the next BOS meeting on January 21, 2020.

**Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to renumber Articles 2 & 3 as 1 & 2 and Article 1 as number 3. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

Ms. Shufelt stated that she has invited Town Counsel for discussion on January 21 and will be asking if it is appropriate to act on zoning articles prior to Planning Board action.

**Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to refer the zoning articles to the Planning Board. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Vote was 5-0 in favor.

Sam Mundel asked if Town Counsel views some of these article as not legal, what is next. Ms. Shufelt stated if Counsel sees any as not appropriate, they can be passed over.

**Motion** by Mr. Valcourt to close the warrant. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 5-0 in favor.

#### **4. Budget workshop.**

##### **Police Department:**

Chief Pelletier explained the reason for his increase in budget is that the number of officers has been less than it was 30 years ago. Based on the population there should be 38 officers and they currently have 30 and are asking for 34. He noted Westport is the largest Town and the neighboring town has more than double the number of officers. The Chief further explained current personnel duties and what they are covering. He stressed the importance of the command structure to have a deputy chief, a canine officer, an accreditation manager, an evidence officer, etc. The proposed budget is for a full position for the full year. Members support this.

##### **Fire Department:**

Chief Legendre proposed the 2021 budget as Level Funded with increases as outlined. The total requested with one additional staff member is \$125,821.00. This includes a 2% increase in anticipation of negotiations and the staffing of one Firefighter/Paramedic. They are minimally staffed by 6 at one time and staffing is below NFPA requirements. He explained the total in a handout to the Board and noted they have had over 1,000 fire calls in one year and over 1,000 EMS calls as well.

##### **Marine Services:**

There will be an adjustment to each the Marine Services Budget and the Harbormaster budget where the Director of Marine Services's salary will be 50% funded from each.

##### **Library:**

Sue Branco, Library Director as well as members of the Library Board of Trustees. The library needs to increase the number of hours for personnel to meet the level of services. Two clerks help people for the resources and this takes all their scheduled time. Most patrons need help for electronic media and referencing information in the history room and library itself. The total requested is \$11K to address the additional 10 hours per week for each of the two clerks. They are also projecting forward when the new school will be operational and will require additional hours.

**Recreation:**

Dana Stewart, Director of Recreation being the sole staff is asking to increase hours to 30 from 19 hours for a total of \$82K vs \$59K as recommended by the Administrator. Ms. Stewart provided a report to members of this newly created department with many programs to include collaboration with the school and the Westport Land Conservation Trust to renovate the gym at the Westport Woods. She outlined contracting with Tiverton Schools for use of the tennis courts in the interim until the tennis courts are rebuilt on the new school campus. People from surrounding communities also attend programs in Westport. She outlined contracting for volunteers and the work she does on social media to promote the programs. She has volunteered over 230 hours of her own time to get the programs going. Discussion ensued.

The BOS will need to finalize the budget by February 20 and submit it to FinCom.

Gary Carreiro, Chair of the Finance Committee stated that in his opinion, public safety is a priority to fund this budget cycle and was thankful to the Town Administrator for building this into the budgets.

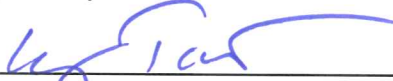
**5. Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.**

None.

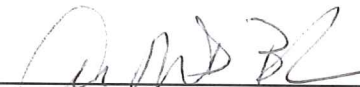
**Adjournment**

**Motion** by Mr. Ouellette to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:00 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 1/13/20:**

1. Resume and letter from Mr. Efthimiades
3. 4<sup>th</sup> draft of the Special Town Meeting Warrant
4. Police and Fire departments handout