



## BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 15, 2022

Members Present: Steven J. Ouellette, Richard W. Brewer, Ann E. Boxler, Brian Valcourt

Also Present: James Hartnett, Town Administrator

### **6:00 p.m. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mr. Brewer with the above members present, and commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Brewer read the notice advising the public that the meeting was being recorded. He also indicated that the executive session planned for the end of the meeting would be passed over. Mr. Valcourt arrived at 6:06 p.m.

### **Acknowledgments & Recognitions**

Mr. Brewer reported his attendance at the Aug. 7, 2022 Eagle Scout promotion ceremonies at Rachel's Lakesider, and offered public congratulations to the seven local Scouts elevated to Eagle Scout rank in the impressive ceremonies. Ms. Boxler noted that the annual Shellstock concert was held two days earlier; with over 800 tickets sold, the fundraiser was deemed a great success. It was noted that resident Dr. Michael Jusseaume, a veteran of the United States Navy, had passed; condolences were offered to the family.

**1. Public Hearings:** None.

**2. Licenses/Permits:** None.

### **3. Appointments and Resignations**

a. Request from Sean Leach to be appointed to the Long Term Building Committee.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to appoint Sean Leach to the Long Term Building Committee. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

b. Request from Gary Carreiro to be appointed to the Personnel Board.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to appoint Gary Carreiro to the Personnel Board. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

**4. Discussion:** None.

### **5. Action Items**

a. Chapter 61a Release, 559 Main Road, parcel B on Plan of Land dividing Map 69 Lot 12 as recorded at the Bristol County Registry of Deeds Book 9420, Page 183 (Parcel B). Mr. Hartnett indicated that the town's 120-day right of first refusal for the property would expire in mid-September. He reported that the Planning Board and Open Space Trust

Fund Council had both voted to ask the Select Board to exercise its purchase option or transfer those rights to a conservation agency.

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to table the matter until the Sept. 12 meeting. Second by Mr. Valcourt. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote. Property owner Mitchell Pettey told the Board that he had previously offered to sell the property to the Buzzards Bay Coalition or the Westport Land Trust, and both parties had declined the offer. He is now anxious to transfer ownership of the house and land to others because of the property tax burden. Mr. Valcourt told the owner that the Board's decision would be made within the 120-day window, and by the Sept. 24 action deadline. Planning Board Chair Jim Whitin said his board had voted unanimously to recommend a town purchase because the south fork of Snell Brook passes through the property, and the waterway and the nearby Angeline Brook watershed should be protected from development. Allen Decker of the Buzzards Bay Coalition was "potentially interested" in holding the conservation rights to the land, as it is an important natural resource worthy of protection. He pleaded for two weeks' time for the BBC to finish its due diligence research on the site. David Cole, representing the Open Space Preservation Council, said his board had also voted unanimously to recommend a town purchase of the land. He noted the site contains the headwaters of Snell Brook, one of six coldwater streams in Westport that supports the trout hatchery.

b. Request from Carol Freitas to accept a \$100 donation from Peter and Paula Brown, for discretionary use in memory of Aaron Brown.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to accept the \$100 donation for discretionary use by the Veterans Department. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

c. Request to approve \$40,000 of Town or County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the Comm-Tract Fiber Optic Contract.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the use of \$40,000 of town or county ARPA funds for the Comm-Tract Fiber Optic Contract. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

d. Request from the Council on Aging to accept the following donations: \$75; Ralph Urban for Best Use, \$25; Equipment Loan Best Use, \$50; Glenn Taylor In Memory of Madeline Sinclair, \$50; Richard Boyer In Memory of Helen Walsh, \$50; Denise Lariviere In Memory of Madeline Sinclair, \$50; Diane Baraby In Memory of Helen Walsh, \$20; Martha Reed In Memory of Madeline Sinclair; totaling \$320.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the COA acceptance of the donations as listed. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

e. Request to release Westport Housing Rehabilitation Program Lien recorded in Book 8600 Page(s) 164-166. Mr. Hartnett reported that the 15-year loan term has expired, and recommended that the lien be released. Mr. Valcourt noted that the housing rehabilitation program offers funding to income-eligible residents for home repairs.



**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to release the Westport Housing Rehabilitation Program Lien recorded in Book 8600 Page(s) 164-166. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

f. Request from Chris Gonsalves; Highway Surveyor to post the positions of Mechanic and Special Equipment Operator to fill vacancies.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the posting of the vacant Mechanic and Special Equipment Operator positions for the Highway Department. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

g. Request from Max Performance to hold the 16th Annual Buzzards Bay Triathlon on September 18, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., beginning and ending at Horseneck Beach.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the use of town roads by Max Performance for a triathlon event from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 18, conditioned on meeting Police Department traffic and safety recommendations. Second by Mr. Ouellette. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

h. Request from Chris Gonsalves, Highway Surveyor to approve the 2022/2023 Chapter 90 Project Request. The roads to be improved include: Tickle Rd. – Rte. 177 – Briggs Rd., Briggs Rd. – Tickle to house #490 and Kim Dr. – Oak Ave. intersections. Mr. Hartnett indicated that approximately \$537,000 in state Chapter 90 aid will fund the road work, with additional state aid helping to finance additional work scheduled for Charlotte White Road, Drift Road, and other public roads.

**MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the 2022-23 Chapter 90 Project List. Second by Mr. Ouellette.

## **6. Town Administrator Report**

Mr. Hartnett provided a full list of the roadways on the Chapter 90 Project List to be paved with the state aid money in late fall and early spring. He indicated that the new telephone system installation is 90 percent complete, with a few bugs remaining to be worked out. The Town Administrator also indicated that the installation of the fiber optic system network for town buildings is underway; the IT department is working with police and fire departments on finalizing network tower sites for public safety radio signal repeaters. He offered special praise for the town employees in the Police, Fire, Highway and Cemetery Departments for maintaining efficient operations despite the high temperatures experienced during the recent heat wave. The COA monthly report was included in the Board's meeting files.

## **7. Approve Minutes**

a. August 1, 2022

**MOTION** by Ms. Boxler to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2022 Select Board meeting as submitted. Second by Mr. Valcourt. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

## **8. Report on Bill Warrant**

Ms. Boxler reported all in order. As she is unavailable to sign next week's warrant, Mr. Brewer volunteered to handle that duty.

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

Mr. Brewer reported his attendance at the recent Bristol County Commissioner's Advisory Council meeting, where the Fiscal Year 2023 budget was formally approved. A copy of the county budget was being forwarded to the Finance Committee, he indicated, noting the County Agricultural High School budget was up 14 percent this year. Mr. Valcourt noted that the Long Term Building Committee will be meeting on Aug. 17 to discuss the options for the old high school's future use.

**10. Comments and Statements:** No public comments. Mr. Valcourt mentioned the next date for the Westport Recreation summer film series, and the Aug. 25 Recreation Dept. concert at which his band will be playing.

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

Mr. Brewer made note of the many current vacancies, and encouraged residents to apply to fill those volunteer opportunities.

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

**13. Executive Session** – pursuant to the provisions of MGL c 30A section 21(a), Chair declared an open meeting would have a detrimental effect to:

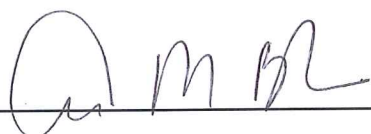
- a. Discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining – Westport Police Association.
- b. Approve Minutes – July 18, 2022 and July 25, 2022.

Mr. Brewer indicated that the executive session was unnecessary at this time, and this item would be passed over.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Second by Mr. Valcourt. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Barboza, Recording Clerk

APPROVED:  Ann Boxler, Clerk, Select Board Member

3a Leach – LTBC  
3b Carreiro - Personnel Board  
5a 61a 559 Main Road Pettey

5a BBC Response  
5c Fiber Project Town & Schools 2021-2022  
5d COA Donations  
5e Re-Hab Release of Lien  
5f Highway Department Posting  
5g Buzzards Bay Triathlon  
5g WFD Buzzards Bay Triathlon Rec  
7a 08012022 Meeting Minutes  
COA Directors Report Aug 2022  
LG FY23 CCC Kick Off MUNI Letter\_8-22  
Pettey  
WESP Municipal AFJ Endorsed by Court