



BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 20, 2023

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

Member Absent: Ann Boxler

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

Acknowledgments & Recognitions

Ms. Shufelt acknowledged the passing of Shirley Palmer, at home on her 99th Birthday, she was a lifelong resident of Westport, she had a long Nursing career going back to WWII. Shirley was very active at the Westport Point United Methodist Church, and was the unofficial secretary to the Westport Shellfish Constable and Conservation Agent. Betty Slade also acknowledged Shirley as being a Taber and her sister was a well-known Historian in Town. Ms. Shufelt offered condolences to the Palmer Family.

Public Hearings

6:05PM Application request from Bulldog's Performance Plus Holdco, Inc. for a Class I Motor Vehicle License and a Repair License, at 867 State Road, Westport, MA. Manager Glenn Silvia. Mr. Silvia addressed the Board, noting that this location was formerly Henry's Diesel Performance Plus, and in taking over the business as is, no changes to the operation.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to approve the Class I and Repair Licenses, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, the Board voted 4-0 in favor.

1. Appointments and Resignations

- a. Requests from Paula Gauthier & Martha Moffitt to be appointed to the Cultural Council. Ms. Gauthier addressed the board expressing her interest in serving on the Cultural Council.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to appoint Paula Gauthier and Martha Moffitt to the Cultural Council, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

- b. Request from Olivia Carreiro to be appointed to the Recreation Commission.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to appoint Olivia Carreiro to the Recreation Commission, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

- c. Request from Beverly Bisch, Council on Aging Director to accept the resignation of Jacalyn Saulnier as Transportation Clerk as of April 13, 2023.

Ms. Bisch addressed the Board stating that Ms. Saulnier has worked at the COA for 8 years, she has done a great job, but the time has come and she is ready to retire. **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to accept the resignation of Jacalyn Saulnier, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

2. Licenses/Permits

- a. Request to conditionally approve the 6 Month Trailer Permits for the East Beach Area. Mr. Brewer spoke to this item, stating that the permits will be issued in collaboration with the Conservation Agents recommendations. Ms. Shufelt added that this is a conditional approval, providing all paperwork and approvals are in order. **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to conditionally approve the East Beach 6 Month Trailer permits, Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

3. Action Items

- a. Request to ratify approval of the Settlement Agreement with the East Beach Improvement Association. Mr. Brewer addressed the Board, stating that the agreement is signed, it is a done deal with the exception of some wordsmithing. Mr. Curt agreed with Mr. Brewer, thanking the Board and adding that the meeting was productive and dialog was created, there is still work to be done with plans and Conservation and fine tuning on some language. **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to ratify the Settlement Agreement, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.
- b. Request from Kevin Curt, President of the East Beach Improvement Association for permission to begin moving trailers to the East Beach lots on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Mr. Curt addressed the Board that it is just easier to move on the weekend, this is something they request every year. **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to allow the residents to move their trailers on April 29, 2023, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.
- c. Request from Matt Armendo, Board of Health Director to approve the consent agreement for KP Law. Mr. Armendo addressed the Board stating that KP Law is requesting approval from the Board of Selectmen for the consent of representation of Westport in regards to the Southcoast Public Health Collaborative. **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the consent agreement, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.
- d. Request to approve the Employment Agreement for the Highway Surveyor. **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the Employment Agreement for the Highway Surveyor, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.
- e. Request from Bernadette Oliver, Temporary Town Clerk to approve the Warrant for the April 11, 2023 Election. **MOTION** by Mr. Valcourt to approve the Warrant for the April 11, 2023 Election, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

- f. Request to amend the Town Meeting Warrant to include the Board of Selectmen authorization to negotiate and execute Solar Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement and Old High School Article.

Mr. Hartnett's notes stated the laws in Massachusetts Laws changed in 2021 requiring Town Meeting to authorize the Board of Selectmen or some other person or board to negotiate and execute PILOT Agreements.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to amend the warrant to allow the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and execute Solar PILOT Agreements.

Mr. Valcourt began discussion noting that he liked the wording in Option 2, does the Town want to save the building and does the Town want to spend the money.

Ms. Shufelt added she agrees, the article answers both questions, what is the next step and should we spend the money. Mr. Ouellette questioned the \$500,000 bond authorization from Mike Rodrigues. Ms. Shufelt added there are some questions on the source of funding. Mr. Brewer added that he thought the wording was specific and clear.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to approve Mr. Hartnett's Option 2 Wording in regards to the Old High School Warrant Article:

OPTION 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow and/or transfer from available funds an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for a feasibility study and project manager, to evaluate municipal buildings and the use of the Old High School building and property, 19 Main Road, Westport, for new uses including but not limited to municipal use, educational use, school administration use and housing and/or take any other action relative thereto. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette, the Board voted 4-0 in favor.

- g. Request from the Buzzards Bay Coalition to hold their Annual Watershed Bicycling Event (Ride) on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to approve the Buzzards Bay Bicycle Ride on October 1, 2023, seconded by Mr. Ouellette, pending Police Recommendations. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

- h. Request from Beverly Bisch, Council on Aging Director to post the vacant position of Part Time Transportation Clerk.

MOTION by Mr. Valcourt to post the vacant position, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

4. Discussion

- a. Betty Slade presented the proposed CPC Projects on the Town Meeting Warrant
 - Snell Creek conservation restriction, 559 Main Road, \$150,000
 - WYAA Playing Fields Irrigation, \$180,000
 - Town Playground Project, \$350,000.
 - Affordable Housing Trust Housing Office and Officer, \$60,000
 - Town Hall Preservation, \$265,000
 - Historic Sanford School (American Legion Hall) Restoration and Rehabilitation,

\$180,000

Westport Town Farm El Apartment., \$36,625

Community Housing Reserves. CPA requires 10% of new funding must be used for the three categories of CPA funding in a fiscal year. These can be used as part of allocated spending and/or reserves. Since the above projects meet most of these requirements except for community housing, we are asking for \$34,000 in reserves to be set aside for that category.

Administrative Funds. \$35,000

Budgeted Reserves, This is a residual allocation to allow for the use of the rest of the FY24 funds within the FY24 fiscal year in case of new projects being recommended to a town meeting in FY24.

b. Diman Ballot Question – Update

The Board stressed the importance of the Ballot Question, and getting the word out.

Ms. Shufelt reiterated that the Town is committed to this project, and one way or another it needs to be paid for, she strongly encourages a YES vote.

Yes – would exempt the payment from the provisions of proposition 2 ½

No – would require the bond to be paid from the Town’s general operating budget and will be detrimental to Town services.

Mr. Valcourt added the importance of the trade schools, and without a project like this the there will be a shortage of Trades.

Mr. Brewer stated he was looking into obtaining signs to support the Diman ballot question.

c. Proposition 2 ½ Override Discussion – Update

Ms. Shufelt noted there is a Joint Meeting with the School Committee and the Finance Committee on Wednesday.

There is no Warrant Article for an Override at Town Meeting, and it is not on the April Ballot, and added that there is a supplemental budget going before Town Meeting.

Mr. Valcourt added that this way you won’t have to go back to town meeting to pass an override.

Mr. Brewer asked when the Override will be determined and he added that Diman was approved at a Town Meeting. Ms. Shufelt stated that the Project was approved, but excluded funding was not.

Ms., Shufelt advised the Board of Selectmen that a Special Election could be called at a later date.

Betty Slade addressed the Board asking if there is a choice of a 1yr or 3yr override. Ms. Shufelt answered that the Finance committee has asked to clearly explain how the override will be spent. Article 6 would be the contingency budget with appropriations for the override showing a \$1,000,000 increase in the levy limit each year and how the funds would be spent in FY24. The Finance Committee would like to see a plan for FY25 and FY26 as well. The total increase in the levy limit would be \$3,000,000, on the override. Part of the challenge at Town Meeting is that the town can only commit to what will be allocated during FY24, it cannot commit to future year funding, however the plan is to spend 1,000,000 a year for three years split 54/46 (School/Town).

Mr. Valcourt stated this way it will be in increments, not all at once

Ms. Shufelt noted that the positions being requested are not excessive.

d. Town Meeting Warrant Article Discussion – discussed previously

5. **Town Administrator Report**

Mr. Hartnett not present

6. **Approve Minutes**

a. March 6, 2023

Ms. Boxler not present

7. **Report on Bill Warrant**

Ms. Boxler not present

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

Mr. Valcourt – Energy Committee, with kudos to Kathy Stanley, and he expressed interest in staying on the Energy Committee, Long Term Building and CIPC

Mr. Ouellette – Bike Path committee moving along, met with Paul Schmid, and the recycling program continues.

Mr. Brewer – Audit Committee met, the FY22 Audit reports came the day after the committee meeting. The committee will get together again to review the report. Mr. Brewer stated that this is a good report, there are no material weaknesses.

Ms. Shufelt – Climate Resiliency continues to meet, the Internet Advisory Committee and Westport Fiber very productive, School Building still plugging along, still have bills.

8. **Comments and Statements**

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

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

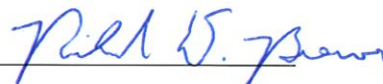
Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Ouellette at 7:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.



Paula M. Brown
Administrative Assistant

Approved: _____



~~Ann Boxler, Clerk~~
Select Board Member

File Attachments:

1a Gauthier & Moffit Cultural Council
1b Carreiro - Rec Commission
1c.3h COA Requests
3a East Beach Agreement
3b Kevin Curt Request
3c WPOR_ Conflict_ Determination Letter RE_ Southcoast Public Health Collaborative IMA
3d Contract - Highway Surveyor - Gonsalves -2-21-23
3e Election Warrant
3g Buzzards Bay Road Race
6a 03062023 Minutes
ATM Warrant 8th Draft
BUL-2021-3
Public Hearing - Bull Dog