



## BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Members Present: Richard W. Brewer, Chair  
Steven J. Ouellette, Vice Chair  
Shana Shufelt  
Manuel Soares, Clerk

Absent Member: Ann Boxler

Also present, James Hartnett, Town Administrator

### **5:30 p.m. Call To order & Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Welcome Comments from the Chair**

**Under MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f) – this meeting is being recorded.**

### **Acknowledgments & Recognitions**

#### **1. 5:30PM Police Chief Interviews**

- a. Christopher Dunn**
- b. Robert Rebello**

Mr. Hartnett addressed the Board stating that the search committee was appointed by the Board of Selectmen, the position was posted in house at the recommendation of the committee, the committee interviewed the two applicants, Christopher Dunn & Robert Rebello, and agreed that both candidates are qualified and should be considered for the position.

Mr. Brewer acknowledged the Police Search Committee and explained that in the absence of Ms. Boxler the Board of Selectmen will make their decision at a later date, he also explained the start date of the position is Monday, January 7, 2024.

Both Officers have years of experience on the force, Dunn with 25 years and Rebello with 10 years, the officers spoke to their accomplishments and addressed the questions asked by the Board in regards to budget, staffing, POST, speeding and issuing citations, diversity, respect of their peers, and what can be done to improve the department.

When asked about the budget Dunn answered using “creativity” to optimize the budget. Rebello answered to work smarter by cross training. Both officers stated they would work on community outreach and possibly re-instate the Explorer Program. When asked about crime in town, Rebello answered you don’t hear about the crime, the department is proactive and does a lot with a little. Dunn answered there is an opioid epidemic and the theft of catalytic converters is on the rise.



In closing Dunn stated his creativity, experience and respect of his peers make him the right person for the job. Rebello stated everything he does is with intention, he is 100% committed to the department and the respect of his peers make him the person for the job.

**2. Public Hearings – 6:05PM**

- a. Request from Jose Luis Roustand Cordero Owner/Manager of L and S Auto Mall Inc. for a Class II Motor Vehicle License and a Repair License at 1052 State Road, Westport, MA, with a total of 50 cars.

Postponed to next meeting

- b. Request for the Transfer of Liquor License from ADV Sanford Corp. dba Country Liquor & Variety to Ishan, Inc. dba Country Liquor & Variety, Saurabh Patel, Owner/Manager.

Atty. Peter Saulino addressed The Board on behalf of ADV Sanford Corp. stating that his client is in the process of selling the establishment to Ishan, Inc. which Saurabh (Sonny) Patel was also present and addressed The Board stating that he is purchasing the establishment and no changes will be made to the premises.

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to approve the license transfer, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

**3. Appointments and Resignations**

- a. Request from Kathy Lanier to be appointed to the Internet Advisory Committee.

Mr. Hartnett addressed the board stating that Ms. Lanier was involved with the internet issues of the Master Plan Update.

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to appoint Ms. Lanier to the Internet Advisory Committee, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

**4. Action Items**

- a. Request from the Planning Board for Board of Selectmen Comments and Recommendations regarding a Site Plan Approval application for property located at **435 Old Harbor Road** with a proposed use of an adolescent education and housing facility.

Mr. Hartnett addressed the Board stating that this is a zoning and planning board issue, this use falls under the Zoning exemption for Educational may be exempt from local zoning requirements and be considered a permitted use. There were a number of neighbors present at the November 1, 2023 zoning board meeting to appeal this use. The Board does not usually comment on these plans

Mr. Brewer added that this is a request from the Planning Board for comments from the Board of Selectmen. Public Comment will be allowed and comments will be taken under advisement and sent to the Planning Board at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen. Residents Kevin Mc Goff, Peter Scirulli, Melissa Gell, Marie Chardon, Brian Corey and Tim Reid all spoke in opposition based on Zoning, Usage, Safety and community impact. Attorney Burke and the buyer spoke in favor.

**ORIGINAL MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to send the Planning Board Comments regarding Zoning, Usage, Safety and Community Impact, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

It was suggested by Ms. Shufelt to amend the motion to include the presentation of the Building Department Letter that's circulating.

**AMENDED MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to amend the previous motion to include the presentation of the Building Department Letter that's circulating, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.



b. Approve the 2024 Board of Selectmen Meeting Calendar.

After a brief discussion the 2024 Meeting Calendar was approved.

c. Request to approve Pare Corporation Contract for design work for the intersection of Gifford Road and Route 177.

Mr. Hartnett stated that quotes were requested from three companies for this work, Beta Engineering did not respond, Westin and Sampson stated they were too busy and Pare agreed to complete the design for \$38,000. This would be funded from the \$150k earmark from Senator Rodrigues and the project will consist of designing an overhead flashing signal.

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to approve the Pare Corporation Contract, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

d. Request to expend up to \$60,000 of Perpetual Care Funds for Road Improvements at Beech Grove Cemetery.

Mr. Hartnett addressed The Board stating that the gravel roads surrounding the newer cemetery sections are in poor condition, the paving price under the current street contract is relatively low and it is recommended that these streets be paved under this contract. There is currently \$769,141 in the perpetual care account.

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to approve the use of the Perpetual Care funds, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

## **5. Discussion**

a. Recreation Department, Playground Improvement Project.

Recreation Director, Dana Stewart, Commission Members Cindy Wilson and Andrea Dunbar addressed the Board with a brief discussion of the Playground Improvement Project made possible by an anonymous \$500,000 donation. Ms. Stewart commended her commission for their hard work and dedication. Ms. Dunbar in turn praised Ms. Stewart and added how she is an asset to this Town. There was a brief discussion as to who can sign the contract when it is ready.

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to allow Mr. Hartnett to sign the contract, seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

b. Town Broadband Update

Postponed to the November 20, 2023 Meeting

c. Request to consider a Town Public Infrastructure Engineer

Mr. Soares addressed the Board, while the town is looking at fees, it may be time to create an Infrastructure Commission to help other departments. The town needs an engineer someone with a drain layers license. He would like to look into using ARPA Sewer and Water Money to do this. Mr. Brewer asked if this would be beneficial to other departments. Ms. Shufelt added she would be reluctant to add a new position, it is not fiscally responsible, however she would recommend a contract position, and this is where a DPW would come into play.

## **6. Town Administrator Report**

Diman Regional School Projects - Diman students are getting close to finishing up work on the cemetery garage, work included installing a new bathroom and break room, re-shingling the exterior of the building, installing a new electrical service and restoration of gates. This has been a great project for Diman students and the Town.



Manny Botelho from Diman was at Town Hall on Thursday, he is considering replacing the tables in the Select Board office as a class project. Hoping to have some preliminary designs within the next couple of weeks.

Drift Road – Kirby Brook Bridge Pare Engineering submitted the 25% Design Plans for the State Small Bridge Replacement Program on Drift Road. This design contract is being funded and administered by MassDOT and the new design must meet MassDOT standards. Mr. Hartnett will be contacting MassDOT to request more interaction with the neighborhood and to see if design elements can be modified to improve the aesthetic components of the bridge.

Budget - Town Departments have submitted their FY25 Budget Requests and they are currently being reviewed. Individual Meetings will be scheduled over the next two weeks to discuss the budgets with recommendations to the Select Board in December.

Veterans Days Update - Carol Freitas submitted the Veterans Day Schedule, she will be out of the office for an extended time due to surgery, and she has contacted the VSOs in surrounding communities to help out if needed.

**7. Approve Minutes**

a. October 23, 2023

**MOTION** by Mr. Soares to approve the October 23, 2023 Minutes, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

**8. Report on Bill Warrant**

No report – Ann Boxler absent

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

Shufelt – nothing to report

Brewer – attended the Diman Ribbon Cutting, great event, he was happy to have been invited to speak. The Bristol County Commissioners have presented their budget, page 54 in regards to Bristol Aggie is a bit alarming.

Ouellette – Bike path still plugging, SRPEDD has been busy.

Soares – Planning Board information meeting was held at the library, regarding zoning along Route 6.

**10. Comments and Statements**

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

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

**Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Mr. Ouellette to adjourn the meeting at 7:43p.m., seconded by Ms. Shufelt. The Board voted 4-0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Brown, Administrative Assistant/Confidential Clerk

**APPROVED:**

  
Manuel Soares, Clerk, Select Board Member

**File Attachments:**

1a Christopher Dunn  
1aa Westport Police Chief Questions  
1b Robert Rebello  
2a L& S Auto Mall, 1052 State Road  
2a L&S Auto Mall, 1052 State Road – WPD  
2b Country Liquors – WPD  
2b Country Liquors  
3a Internet Advisory – Lanier  
4a PB - Harbor - Adolescent Home  
4b BOS 2024 Meetings  
4c PARE -Gifford Road  
4d Cemetery Paving Limits  
5a Packet for BOS - Playground, 11-6-23  
5a Playground Improvement Project, present to BOS on 11-6-23, final  
5b BOS Memo Broadband 10-30-23  
7a 10232023 Minutes  
TA Westport Drift Road 25% Progress Plans\_combined