



**Office of the Board of Selectmen  
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Andrew M. Jolda, Chairman  
Randall V. Becker, Vice Chairman  
Donald D. Bourque, Secretary  
Mark G. Dowgiewicz, Selectman  
Robert J. Miller, Selectman

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, January 14, 2019, 7:00 P.M.**

Webster Town Hall, Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570

**MEETING OPENING:** At 7:00 p.m., Chairman Andrew Jolda called the meeting to order. The following individuals were present: Chairman Andrew Jolda, Vice Chairman Randall Becker, Selectmen Donald Bourque, Town Administrator Doug Willardson, and Executive Assistant Courtney Friedland. Selectman Mark Dowgiewicz and Selectman Miller were absent. The Board stood and took the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SWEARING IN NEW OFFICERS:** Andrew Jolda called Police Chief Michael Shaw Police Deputy Chief Toby Wheeler and Lieutenant Gordon Wentworth forward. Town Clerk Robert Craver swore in the new officers who were then congratulated by the Board of Selectmen. Chief Shaw thanked everyone for their support. He stated it is a historic day. He stated he is very humbled and thanked Chief Bent for his leadership and guidance. He stated the Department is very young. He thanked his wife and daughters for the sacrifices they have made.

**PROCLAMATION FOR RETIREING POLICE CHIEF:** Andrew Jolda read the proclamation to Chief Timothy Bent. Chief Bent stated is respected the Board of Selectmen for doing the right thing. He stated the job as chief was easy due to incredible staff. He stated he put trust into the men and women who have served and continue to serve.

Selectman Miller entered the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

**WATER SEWER COMMISSION APPOINTMENT:** Mr. Willardson stated Water Superintendent Gregory Woods and himself interviewed Rick Neeser last week. They both recommend his appointment to the Commission.

**Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Miller, to approve Rick Neeser to the Water Sewer Commission. The motion passed unanimously.**

**NEW VOTING MACHINES:** Town Clerk Robert Craver came forward. He stated he researched voting machines and only two companies make machines allowed in Massachusetts. Selectman Miller asked how long it would take these machines to come in. Mr. Craver stated it will take roughly sixty (60) days and they will come in and train staff how to use them. Selectman Miller asked how old the old machines were. Mr. Craver stated he doesn't know how old they are but they can't even buy parts for them anymore.

**Motion by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Becker, to move that the Town of Webster is to start using the Image Cast Precinct Optical Scan Tabulator and discontinue the use of the Accuvote Tabulator. The Image Cast Tabulators are to be utilized for the first time at our Annual Town Election held on Monday, May 6, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.**

**QUARTERLY REPORTS:** Mr. Willardson passed out the Oct-Dec 2018 Quarterly Report. He stated every Department has been very busy.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:** Mr. Willardson stated article one is to amend the overlay district to add 173 and 173R Thompson Road. He stated it is close to the freeway. He stated the broker to K-Mart Plaza has reconsidered allowing recreational marijuana. Selectman Miller asked if there was going to be a traffic study done to the proposed parcel on Thompson Road. Mr. Willardson stated a traffic study has not been done. He stated this will happen at another point in the process. Selectman Miller asked if abutters were notified. Mr. Willardson stated abutters within three hundred feet were notified. Mr. Becker stated there is a Planning Board Hearing on January 22, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. on this article. He stated the buses would have to relocate. Mr. Willardson stated the demand will be less when it opens because more shops will be open. He stated article two is to acquire property around the Riverwalk. He stated there are three parts to this article which are easements, ground lease, and fee interest. Selectman Becker stated he is going to recuse himself from the discussion because Mapfre is affected by this article. Mr. Willardson stated Carol Cyr has spoken to all of the owners. He stated article three is to appropriate \$192,981.00 from retained earnings to fund an infiltration and inflow program required by DEP.

**Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Chairman Jolda, to recommend approval of article one. Selectman Becker stated he is going to recuse himself because of his family property near the location. Selectman Miller voted no; Selectman Bourque and Chairman Jolda voted yes. The motion passed.**

**Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Miller, to recommend approval of article two. The motion passed unanimously, Selectman Becker reused himself.**

**Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Miller, to recommend approval of article three. The motion passed unanimously.**

**SURPLUS PROPERTIES:** Mr. Willardson stated the Board received a letter from the Conservation Commission regarding the property located at 0 Lower Gore Road. He stated he would like to put together a list of properties to declare surplus at May's Town Meeting.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Willardson stated the Town Hall is closed Monday, January 21, 2019, in observation of Martin Luther King Day. He stated we have a list of all vacant properties in the town. He stated the Town hosted great holiday events. He stated the Town Webster rolled out with the Powerup Program. He stated the rate is 10.928 cents per kWh. He stated the tax rate and Schedule A are complete. He stated Free Cash was certified at \$698,987.00. He stated the Water & Sewer Department will start implementing the Shot Off Policy in March. He stated the entire \$330,000 cost for the streetlight LED replacement has been covered by grants. He stated he is currently working on a Joint Purchase Group for Health Insurance. He stated new signage has been proposed for the exit two off-ramps. He stated the Highway Department's roof project has started.

**Motion by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Miller, to approve the Town Administrator's Report. The motion passed unanimously.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:02 p.m.,

**Motion by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Bourque, to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares for the cases: Sgt. Tom Ralph vs. the Town of Webster, Mark Dowgiewicz vs. the Town of Webster, et al. – MCAD Complaint, Henry Bounphasaysonh vs. the Town of Webster, et al. – MCAD Complaint Roll aye. Call Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Bourque – yes, Selectman Becker – aye, Chairman Jolda – yes.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Courtney M. Friedland, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen