

**TOWN OF WEBSTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DONALD BOURQUE, CHAIRMAN
RANDALL BECKER, VICE CHAIRMAN
ANDREW JOLDA
MARK DOWGIEWICZ
ROBERT MILLER**

A Board of Selectmen's Meeting was held in the Cafeteria at the Senior Center, 5 Church Street, on Monday, January 23, 2017. Selectman Bourque called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Robert Miller, Mark Dowgiewicz, Andrew Jolda, Randall Becker and Don Bourque

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Bourque led the Selectmen in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the December 5, 2016 meeting minutes.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - abstain and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the November 21, 2016 meeting minutes.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – abstain, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the November 17, 2016 meeting minutes.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the November 7, 2016 meeting minutes.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the November 2, 2016 meeting minutes.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker – yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the September 12, 2016 meeting minutes.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the November 17, 2016 executive session meeting minutes.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Chief Hickey – Announcement of New Firetruck

Chief Brian Hickey stated he was pleased to announce the arrival of the new tower truck. He stated the apparatus manufacturer is providing a full two year standard warranty. He stated there is a lifetime frame warranty and a 10 year/100,000 mile structural warranty. He stated the truck is working great. He stated it is a massive truck. He stated it will take some time to get used to setting up and driving the new truck. He stated Chris Jolda spent countless hours on researching the truck. He stated the Fire Department will hold a ceremony on Sunday morning to officially welcome the new truck. Selectman Becker thanked townspeople and the Fire Department for their dedication.

Mike Pinto – Proposed Spring Carnival at Memorial Beach

Mike Pinto and John Flynn came forward. Mr. Pinto stated he would like to hold a spring carnival at Memorial Beach to help raise funds for the Fire Department. He stated they are looking at the dates of June 22-25, 2017. Chairman Bourque asked if everything was covered by Fiesta Shows. Mr. Flynn stated Fiesta Shows carries a five million dollar policy. He stated he would work with all the necessary town departments and would also have it inspected by the State. Mr. Pinto stated they are looking to hold the event on the dirt area at Memorial Beach. Mr. Flynn stated he would rely on the Police Chief to say what is needed for security. Mr. Pinto stated he would also like to do fireworks. Mr. Willardson stated the Town's insurance provider stated the event would be fine as long as they carry insurance. Mr. Pinto stated they would use the funds to cover the equipment. Chief Hickey stated they would like to see this event grow each year.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Miller to approve Mike Pinto's request for a spring carnival at Memorial Beach on June 22-25, 2017.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Doran Crouse & Bill Burke – Water/Sewer Abatements

Doran Crouse stated the property owner of 4 Raleigh Road installed a new lawn and watered the grass during the last billing cycle. He requested an abatement for the sewer portion of the bill because it did not flow into the sewer system. Robert Walsh came forward. Mr. Walsh stated he was the property owner and did not know that he would need a second meter to water his grass. He stated he started watering before the Town's water ban. He stated he went through the right channels to request the abatement. He stated he already paid the bill. He stated this was a unique situation and that Mr. Burke should have looked at the situation before recommending denial. Mr. Crouse stated he ran the numbers and Mr. Walsh is 22,000 gals above his normal use. Mr. Burke stated the Abatement Policy and the 2nd meter information is on the Town's website. Selectman Becker asked if the residents have a lawn watering system is the policy clear enough to let people know they need a second meter. Mr. Crouse stated he would like to update the policy.

Motion: made by Selectman Becker, seconded by selectman Jolda to approve the abatement for \$351.62

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Mr. Crouse stated the property owner of 34 Freeman Avenue was granted an abatement for the sewer charges because the owner thought they were irrigating her well but, in fact, were using town water. The abatement was granted conditionally upon the physical disconnection from the town's system. This disconnection was completed and verified by the Water Department. The water usage from the town was not identified until approximately six weeks into the current billing cycle. He recommended the Board grant an abatement for the sewer portion of her bill in the amount of \$154.56.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the sewer abatement in the amount of \$154.56.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Mr. Crouse stated the property owner of 7 Negus Street called the Water Department concerned over the increase usage. He stated the property owner requested and received an abatement for sewer from a leaking toilet in the last billing cycle. The furnace was identified as leaking each time it fired up. He stated he would defer to the Board on this request. He stated the owner of the property has some memory issues.

Motion: made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Miller to approve the sewer abatement in the amount of \$695.62.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Kenny Pizzetti – Safety Committee Recommendations

Mr. Pizzetti stated the Safety Committee met on January 18, 2017 to conduct its quarterly meeting. He stated the Committee had three recommendation for the Board to review. He stated they are requesting permission to place “No Parking Either Side” 200ft from the entrance of the Beacon Park Condos to continue pass the second entrance. He stated they are requesting permission to place “No Parking Here to Corner” sign at North Main Street. (Across the street from Slater Street) He stated they are having problems with cars parking on the side of the road. He stated they are seeking permission to place a “One Side Parking Only” sign on Harris Street. He stated he had a couple request to make this one side parking. He stated emergency vehicles would have a difficult time getting down there.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to approve the request to place “No Parking Either Side” 200ft from the entrance of the Beacon Park Condos to continue pass the second entrance.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the request to place “No Parking Here to Corner” sign at North Main Street. (Across the street from Slater Street)

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Miller to approve the request to permission to place a “One Side Parking Only” sign on Harris Street.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Vote to Approve the General Contractor Contract for the Library Building Project as Approved by the Library Building Committee on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 and by the Board of Library Trustees on Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Jean Travis stated this contract has been approved by the Library Building Committee and the Board of Library Trustees.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the General Contractor Contract for the Library Building Project as Approved by the Library Building Committee on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 and by the Board of Library Trustees on Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Vote of Support - Proposed Samuel Slater Museum at the Webster Armory Building located at 31 Ray Street

Chris Robert and Paul Kujawski came forward. Mr. Kujawski stated the Armory building was given to the town in 2004. He stated there has been some challenges with the building and it has not been utilized for all of these years. He stated Mr. Roberts has a very exciting proposal for the building. Mr. Roberts stated as the Board mat be aware he is putting a new restaurant in at Indian Ranch called the Samuel Slater Restaurant. He stated he would like to have a Samuel Slater museum here in Webster. He stated he looked at many building in town but would love to utilize a building that would benefit the town. He stated he would like the Board support to having the museum in the Armory building. Mr. Willardson stated the town would have to declare the property as surplus and then go out to bid. He stated he already has a call into DCAM. Selectman Miller started he thought it was a good idea and would bring people into town. Selectman Jolda stated the only concern he would have would be parking. He stated a local school hold a large festival and they use the space for parking. Mr. Robert stated the museum would be accommodating the event going on throughout town.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Miller to support the proposed Samuel Slater museum.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Doug Willardson stated the Board was meeting at the Senior Center tonight because the elevator is being repaired. He stated it will be Inspected and operational tomorrow.

He stated National Grid will be holding a meeting and Q & A session with their CEO at Park Ave Elementary School on February 9, 2017. He stated residents can learn about their utilities.

He stated Winterfire will take place on January 28, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Memorial Beach.

He stated under Public Health and Safety he is meeting with regional resouces this Friday to discuss opioid response options.

He stated under Financially Responsible the DOR has begun their review of the FY15 free cash. He stated the FY15 audit is expected by the end of the month. He stated he is reviewing the FY18 documents that were received by the Department heads. He stated he is reviewing revenue projections. He stated State aid will be released this week. He stated he received a health insurance premium quote which is a 4.6% increase from last year. He stated he is looking into alternatives.

He stated under Economic Development that the first customer attended the pre-application meeting for developers/residents. He stated the secretary of Housing and Community Development, Jay Ash, visited and discussed the economic development progress and goals with staff/elected officials. He stated he is reviewing a historical commission grant to determine if it is appropriate for downtown. He stated the grant is due March 24, 2017. He stated the Samuel Slater restaurant was approved by the Planning Board.

He stated under Maintain Infrastructure that he is developing a capital improvement plan. He stated he received all of the department requests. He stated me het with Tighe and Bond to review the water & sewer operational and capital needs. He stated the water filtration system design is 30% complete. He stated he wrote a letter of support for WCAC for grant application funding. He stated the final School Street lease is being reviewed by WCAC counsel.

He stated under Effective Delivery of Services/Operations that he reviewed vacant position. He stated he is developing job descriptions and advertisements. He state he is conducting Executive Secretary interviews this week. He stated the Planner position job description has been revised. He stated that Town Counsel is reviewing the draft Charter changes. He stated he received department goals and performance measures from Department Heads. He stated he discussed LED streetlight conversion with National Grid.

He stated under Clean and Beautiful that he continues to work on code enforcement efforts.

He stated under Transparent, informative, engage and customer friendly government that he submitted a grant application for full municipal services delivered online. He stated Greg has researched the software and outlines the platform. He stated the online permitting is in its final stages.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Miller to approve the Town Administrator's Report.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker - yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

New Business

Mr. Willardson passed out his top ten goals. Selectman Dowgiewicz asked to have time to review them. Chairman Bourque stated he would like to do a status update in April.

Chairman Bourque stated the Board received three choices for the Town Report cover.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda to use the lifeguard chair at Memorial Beach as the Town Report cover.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker – yes and Chairman Bourque - yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Bourque to make Selectmen Miller the Board of Selectmen’s alternate to the South Worcester County Communication Center Board of Directors.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker – yes and Chairman Bourque - yes.

Mr. Willardson stated the last DOR audit was done here in Webster in 2004. He stated he is requesting a fill audit. Selectman Becker asked the timeframe for the audit. Mr. Willardson stated they will not be out until spring. Selectman Becker stated that Ms. Leduc was working two jobs and out of fairness they should give her some time to catch up.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda to request a DOR audit and the authorize Chairman Bourque to sign the request letter.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker – yes and Chairman Bourque - yes.

Informational Mail

Selectman Becker asked for a legal update. Mr. Willardson stated it is free of charge and they will schedule it for the next meeting.

Paula Carmichael came forward. She stated she would like to get on one of the Selectmen’s agendas to talk about the proposed Clear Rive Gas/Oil Power Plant in Burrillville. Mr. Willardson stated he would reach out to them in the next couple of week to schedule a time to meet.

Chairman Bourque stated the Board received a letter from a resident who would like to be appointed to the Finance Committee. He requested that this get put on the next agenda.

Chairman Bourque read the election schedule.

Adjournment

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Becker to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Vote: Selectman Miller – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Becker – yes and Chairman Bourque - yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney M. Friedland
Executive Secretary