

**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 Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town Hall on Monday, March 13, 2017. Chairman 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.

Michelle Sherillo – Appointment to the Conservation Committee

Michelle Sherillo came forward. She stated she has lived in Webster for over twenty years. She stated the Town's natural resources are very important to her. Mr. Willardson stated he spoke with Chairman Franas and he fully supports her appointment.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Miller to appoint Michelle Sherillo to the Conservation Committee for a three year term.

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

Burrillville Rhode Island's Resolution against the Clear River Energy Center Proposal – Discussion

Selectman Dowgiewicz stated he has read through all of the information provided to the Selectman and believes this bring no use to the community and surrounding towns.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Miller to approve the Resolution against the Clear River Energy Center Proposal.

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

Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor – Update on Activities

Bill Reid came forward. He stated he was a Chief Ranger of The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. He stated Webster is one of the 35 towns that comprise the Heritage Corridor. He stated he would like to present the Town with a new plaque to be installed at Town Hall or another location in Town. He stated the Last Green Valley helps celebrate and plan activities along the Heritage Corridor. He stated people need to get out and appreciate nature. He stated there has been over one million hits on their website. He stated there are over 100 walks and hikes planned for spring. He stated they offer historic preservation grants. He stated they have partnered with 19 other organizations. He stated they actively seek funds through membership programs.

Glenn Krevosky – Mill Brook Raceway Restoration

Glenn Krevosky came forward. He stated he has been working on the Mill Brook Raceway every weekend. He stated he is committed to getting the brook finished for use. He stated they are taking out all of the human debris. He stated they would like Canoe and Kayak access to the brook. He stated the brook is three and a half inches deep. He stated he would like to make this a piece of history and wants to make it usable again. He stated it has been severely neglected for years.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Doug Willardson stated the beach and compost stickers are now available in the Town Administrator's Office for purchase.

He stated the Town Hall, Senior Center and library will be closed due to the weather tomorrow.

The Board of Health will be holding a hearing for United Medical Waste transfer station March 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. He stated written comments on the application must be received by the Board of Health no later than March 16, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

He stated the Town is working on a summer recreation program for school-age children. He stated they will offer archery, boating, hiking, soccer, football and baseball.

He stated the FY15 Free Cash is waiting for further review. He stated he has asked a vendor to assist the Town with the process. He stated he received a draft management letter for the FY15 audit. He stated he will provide comments to the auditor.

He stated he met with representatives from MassDevelopment to review programs available to local businesses. He stated Carol Cyr has contacted potential participants. He stated he is meeting with the Chamber President this week. He stated CME weekly status report is attached to the Town Administrator's Report.

He stated repairs to the Fire Station roof are currently out to bid. He stated the WCAC lease is in its final stages.

He stated he appointed Steven Wilber to the maintenance position in the Sewer Department. He stated he interviewed candidates for Town Planner/Economic Development Director. He stated there is a Personnel Advisory Board on March 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. He stated he met with a firm that assists towns manage energy costs and usage. He stated there is potential for savings on our rates and assistance with other programs.

He stated he has invited local business owners, the chamber, business alliance and residents to provide input on how to spend monies downtown. Open office hours on Monday the 20th at 6:00 p.m. He stated there is also new signage notifying traffic of French River Park and local business on the backside of Main Street.

He stated there have been some allegation in recent newspaper articles. He stated this has been reported to the appropriate state authorities. He stated after this matter has been investigated the Board can act on findings, if any. He asked that the Board retain all documents that may be applicable and refrain from any actions that could interfere with an investigation.

He stated the Finance Committee Meetings will be posted on YouTube.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda 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

Motion: made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Miller to appoint Ellie Doros to the Retirement Board.

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

Motion: Made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Miller to approve the Flags at Half Staff Policy.

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

Chairman Bourque read the timeline for the Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to open the May 8, 2017 Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants.

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 Dowgiewicz to re-appoint Wayne Lawson to the Cable Advisory Committee.

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 Dowgiewicz to approve the “one Day” liquor license for the Webster-Dudley American Legion Post # 184 for May 6, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Ted Avlas and Richard Lind came forward. Mr. Avlas stated the Bartlett Boys Basketball lost their game today. He stated they played hard all season and he is very proud of all the work they have done.

FY18 School Budget Overview

Mr. Avlas stated the work began in October. He stated the back in October they proposed an 8.69% increase. He stated the School Committee requested they go back and try to lessen the proposed increase. He stated they went back to the School Committee with a 6.08% increase which involves new staffing. He stated they focused on social and emotional learning. He stated they addressed class size issues and growth areas. He stated they reinstated the Middle School athletics and extracurricular activities.

FY18 Town Budget Overview

Mr. Willardson stated there is a \$364,000 difference in the proposed budget. He stated he put the school at level service. He stated they are looking to hold a tri-board meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. He stated they will be able to work out all of the differences during that meeting. Chairman Bourque asked if they could be given time to review the budget. He stated all documents are available online and are updated.

Informational Mail

Mr. Willardson went through each informational mail item.

He asked to have the Class III License Application on the next agenda. Selectman Becker asked that Mr. Tetreault attend the meeting.

He stated the Board received a notice for an Open Meeting Law Violation. He stated KP Law is responding.

Adjournment

Chairman Bourque adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 8:17 P.M. in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(6) – To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value to real-estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Jolda to go in executive session at 8:30 p.m. and not come back into open session.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney M. Friedland
Executive Secretary