

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date of Meeting: November 5, 2019
Date of Transcription: November 13, 2019
Transcribed by: Cassandra Slaney

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

2. ROLL CALL

Selectmen Present: Patrick G. Tropeano, Chairman
Mary Bruce, Clerk
Peter W. Teitelbaum
Alan H. Slavin
James M. Munise

Also Present: Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meet Ben Franklin will be taking place at the Wareham High School on November 8th at 7:00 p.m. Robert DeVitis will be giving a tribute to one of America's greatest patriots. This event is sponsored by the Wareham Minutemen and Militia Companies.

There will be a holiday fair on Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wareham Free Library.

There will be a used book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Wareham Free Library. All proceeds will benefit the library.

Friends of the Wareham Free Library will be sponsoring the New England Irish Harp Orchestra concert on Sunday, December 15th at 2:30 p.m. at the Redmen Hall, 758 Main Street, Wareham. Tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased at the door or at the main or Spinney branch of the library.

5. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Present before the Board: Sandy Slavin

Ms. Slavin wanted to thank the person that cleared the fallen trees in the Minot Forest Trail.

Ms. Slavin also commented that she was disappointed at the Transfer Station for allowing trash to be thrown that shouldn't be there.

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-11-5-19 (CONT'D)

6. TAX LEVY HEARING 7:15 P.M.

Selectman Teitelbaum moved to open the hearing. Selectman Bruce seconded.

Poll Vote: Selectman Slavin-yes, Selectman Munise-yes, Selectman Teitelbaum-yes, Selectman Bruce-yes, Selectman Tropeano-yes.

Present before the Board: Jacqui Nichols, Director of Assessment and Steven Curry
Ms. Nichols explained they have received preliminary certification of the values. The final values have been submitted and they are under review at this time. The hearing will need to be kept open and reaffirm vote when the final certification has been received.

Ms. Nichols feels that it would be best to keep the tax rate the same and explained that the shift in the tax rate would have an adverse effect on businesses in town as well as summer residents. At the highest shift of 1.5, the residential savings would be \$325.00 at a cost of \$3848.00 for commercial. Ms. Nichols also provided community comparisons and said that Wareham has one of the lowest town tax rates in Plymouth County and is one of the lowest in the entire state.

Selectmen Tropeano stated that he would like to see some changes made to help tax payments made by senior citizens. Ms. Nichols stated she would put something together to see what can be done to do this.

MOTION: Selectman Slavin moved to continue the hearing until the next meeting. Selectman Bruce seconded.

VOTE:

5-0-0 (Unanimous)

7. BOARDS COMMENTS

Selectman Teitelbaum thanked Town Moderator, Claire Smith and Selectman Slavin for how well town meeting went with the electronic voting.

8. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS/INTERVIEWS

a. Police Building Study Committee

Present before the Board: Claire Smith

Ms. Smith explained that she is interested in becoming a member of the Police Building Study Committee because she was involved in the last two Feasibility Study Committees in 1995 and 2005. She has a very good understanding of what needs to be done and would like to see this through.

Present before the Board: David Heard

Mr. Heard would like to see this brought to a conclusion. His background includes engineering and was a project manager for years. He feels this Town deserves a good police station.

Present before the Board: Paul Girard

Mr. Girard is interested in becoming a member of the Police Building Study Committee because he feels the Police Department is too small and deserves more space.

Selectman Tropeano wants to appoint members at the next meeting.

b. Road Commissioners

Present before the Board: Judith Whiteside and Jacqui Nichols

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-11-5-19 (CONT'D)

MOTION: Selectman Slavin moved to appoint Judith Whiteside to the Board of Road Commissioners for a term to expire no later than June 30, 2022. Selectman Teitelbaum seconded.

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Selectman Munise abstained)

8. LICENSES AND PERMITS

9. TOWN BUSINESS

- a. Any other Town business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting.

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan thanked the 190 members of the community who attended town meeting to vote. He also thanked the employees and committee members involved as well.

11. LIAISON REPORTS/INITIATIVE REPORTS

Selectman Slavin said that the School Committee met and went over the budget and phases of the school.

Selectman Slavin also said the Charter Review Committee met on November 4th. Judith Whiteside was voted Chairman, Holli Van Nest was voted Clerk. Six out of the eight members were in attendance and meetings will be four times a month until May. There is still one more opening for this committee.

Selectman Slavin and town planner, Ken Buckland went to Mass DOT regarding controlled gates across Merchants Way. Mass DOT has agreed to work with them.

Selectman Slavin has filed a discussion with Mass Municipal Association for next week before the annual meeting concerning Chapter 90 funding and the Chapter 70 proposed school budgeting process and the effect it will have on town budgeting.

Selectman Slavin talked about Zoning changes regarding an article which requires a 2/3 vote and changing it to simple majority.

Selectman Slavin stated that Gatra is having their annual meeting on November 6 and he will provide an update on any changes.

Selectman Munise attended the CMW sub committee meeting and discussed proposals on how to continue operation and looking at budgets. There will be a meeting on the 20th.

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-11-5-19 (CONT'D)

Selectman Tropeano attended the School Building Committee meeting. The site work is going well and 47% of the site is equalized. The bid packages will be going out in January.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he has been speaking with businesses in the industrial park and their concern regarding signs taken down advertising their business. Selectman Slavin stated he would start the process to put a sign on state property by providing a letter of request to the Mass DOT. Selectman Tropeano said he would have the Selectmen's office provide the letter.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Authorize payment to the Law Office of Richard P. Bowen.

MOTION: Selectman Bruce moved to authorize payment to the Law Office of Richard P. Bowen. Selectman Teitelbaum seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

- b. Authorization to sign bills and documents, etc.

- c. Approval of meeting minutes: September 17, 2019.

MOTION: Selectman Bruce moved to approve the meeting minutes dated September 17, 2019.

Selectman Teitelbaum seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Selectman Teitelbaum moved to adjourn. Selectman Slavin seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

14. SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Respectfully submitted

Cassandra Slaney

Department Assistant

The foregoing minutes were submitted to the Board of Selectmen on:

Attest:


Mary Bruce, Clerk

Date Signed: 12-3-19

Date sent to the Town Clerk: 12-4-19