

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

A Board of Selectmen's Meeting was held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: William Starzec, Mark Dowgiewicz, Andrew Jolda, Don Bourque and Robert Miller

Pledge of Allegiance: Selectman Miller led the Selectmen in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the meeting minutes of January 20, 2015.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – abstain, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to approve the executive session meeting minutes of January 20, 2015 and hold until the issue is resolved.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Worcester County Sheriff's Office

Chairman Miller stated months back the Board voted to defund the Coping Center proposed here in Webster. He stated at that time the Board wanted more information. He stated he asked Sheriff Evangelidis to come to the Selectmen's Meeting to explain what is going on down at the center. Sheriff Evangelidis thanked the Board for the invitation. He stated he evaluated the situation in Webster. He stated there is a very high addition rate here in Webster. He stated the Worcester County Sheriff's Office in Webster shut down a couple of years ago after being open for 15 years. He stated the new center helps people cope and give them a program to follow. He stated he now has funding in place to reopen the center permanently. He stated the Coping Center will be very involved in the community. He stated the program will also have a public driver to get people involved in the program back and forth to various places. He stated they will be working closely with the judge in placing who qualifies for this program. He stated they will be providing job training, programs and community partners. He stated the people in these programs are already in our community. He stated they are putting together the final pieces to fully open. He stated they will be offer programs to low level offenders. He stated the Coping Center wants to be a very active part of the community. Chairman Miller stated the Board received a letter from DCAM with a RFP for lease space. He stated they are temporarily opening up the center here in Webster but are looking for a permanent location. Sheriff Evangelidis stated the Webster office is operational but because of the funding source they had to go out for proposals. He stated the location could change. He stated substance abuse is a big problem here in Webster. Selectman Dowgiewicz asked who the program would service. Sheriff Evangelidis stated the program would service Webster, Oxford and Dudley. Selectman Dowgiewicz asked about Southbridge. Sheriff Evangelidis stated that Southbridge would also be included. He stated it would depend on the recommendation of Judge Bibaud. He stated Webster would be the host community but would source out work programs throughout the Towns. Chairman Miller stated that there are rumors that they program would take down the old Anglo Factory and build public housing. Sheriff Evangelidis stated there are allegations circulating and will answer every question. He stated he is only looking out for the good of Webster. He stated Webster residents and surrounding communities need to try another alternative. Selectman Starzec asked if it was possible to hold an open house. He stated this would be a great opportunity to show residents what is happening at the Coping Center. Sheriff Evangelidis stated that would be a great idea. He stated he would love to show the Board first and then put it out to the public. He stated they are making a big investment. He stated they have new classrooms and equipment. He stated this needed to be taken head on. He stated most crimes are driven by addiction. He stated this is an issue that is starting to affect every family. Sheriff Evangelidis introduced Byron Titus; who is Webster's Program Director.

Mr. Titus stated he has over 15 years' experience in this kind of background. He stated this program provides structure to help addicts become productive in society. Sheriff Evangelidis stated they are moving the ball forward. He stated this program will not cure everyone but as many as they can reach will be worth it. Mr. Titus stated the Coping Center will provide transportation and will be able to transport people to programs and jobs. Selectman Dowgiewicz stated he supports the program one hundred percent. He stated he only concern would be the location. He stated Webster is trying to rebuild the downtown area. He stated tax payers have invested a lot of money in the area and it would be a shame to have an eye sore in the middle. Sheriff Evangelidis stated the Coping Center might increase the activity in the area. He stated the Board needed to have an open mind. Selectman Dowgiewicz stated this facility needed to be in another location. Mr. Titus stated having the Sheriff's Office in the downtown area would advance the public security. Selectman Dowgiewicz stated he doesn't want people hanging out on the outside of the building. Mr. Titus stated people in the program will be working or taking classes. He stated there will be no hanging out. Selectman Dowgiewicz asked if there was going to be sex offenders in the program. Sheriff Evangelidis stated there will be no sex offenders. Selectman Dowgiewicz asked what happened if someone fails a drug test. Mr. Titus stated it would be reported to the courts. He stated the Coping Center will be open Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sat/Sun on a random basis. Sheriff Evangelidis stated drug testing will be done by a color system. Selectman Bourque quested Sheriff Evangelidis about the budget. Sheriff Evangelidis stated he will live within the budget. Sheriff Evangelidis thanked the Board for inviting him.

Chairman Miller stated the Board of Health - Opening Position Appointment has been tabled until the next meeting.

Police/Fire Building Committee – Budget Discussion

Brian Perry and Andrew Pellegrini came forward. Mr. Perry stated he was before the Board to give them an update on the Fire Station renovations. He stated they have made some revisions to the project and have scaled down the amount of upgrades. He stated bids came in on the new project and with all of the alternate bids they would have a negative balance of \$597,834. He stated they would need some additional funding to complete the project. Mr. McAuliffe stated this is a great project. He stated they are looking to use the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds to get this project up and going. He stated they are seeking \$80,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund and \$60,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund. He stated they might also seek a generator through Town Meeting approval. Mr. Pellegrini stated there were very competitive bids. Pam Regis stated there is sufficient funds available.

Motion: made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to provide additional funding to the Fire Station Project budget from the Water Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$80,000.00 and from the Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$60,000.00

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. McAuliffe stated he held his Financial Team Meeting. He stated the Accounting Department is almost done with the FY14 audit. He stated they are working on a balance sheet for submittal to the Department of Revenue. He stated they are estimating the Snow and Ice Deficit at \$50,000 to date. He stated Veteran's Services costs for direct services is growing substantially. He stated he is working with the Treasurer on a methodology to enhance reconciliation of the Health Insurance Trust Fund.

He stated the Treasurer's Office continues on health insurance renewals with Blue Cross Blue Shield and the consulting firm. He stated the Town has backfilled the vacant clerical position in that office. He stated this individual was selected from a list developed from a previous advertising.

He stated the Assessor's Office is working through the abatement process for real estate bill and auto excise.

He stated the Town Clerk is working with the Town Meeting Review Committee. He stated they will be seeking a new Registrar soon.

He stated the Water Department is conducting their off-cycle maintenance program. He stated they are in the process of seasonal meter inventory and updates, cleaning and painting projects. He stated they are also working on a Capital Improvement Plan. He stated they are reviewing any lingering issues with the Administration Consent Order from D.E.P. He stated they Town has also completed the background check on a potential new hire. He stated this will raise the staffing level to the equivalent of 4 ½ full time positions.

He stated the Sewer Department is continuing their efforts towards the design of a new SCADA System. In the meantime, they have contracted with a new company to service the Town's existing system.

He stated the Highway Department is dealing with extreme conditions related to storm preparation, storm response and snow removal. He said the Town has received 73 inches of snow in just over a two week span.

He stated Code Enforcement is busy during the storm season. He stated they had a spike of power and heating fuel issues. He stated some of these complaints seem to be deliberate shut offs by landlords during this most recent event. He stated the Board of Health Agent and Building Inspector are investigating.

He stated he met with Carol Cyr and a NOAA Representative. He stated they are working through a mutually satisfactory process to develop a punch list and close out procedures for the A.J. Sitkowski building. He stated he completed a short walk through with Carol.

He stated the Dock and Lake Policy Committee held a meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2015. He stated he was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict with a Finance Committee Meeting.

He stated there is an open vacancy on the Board of Assessors.

Chairman Miller stated he has become aware of a problem with the delivery of salt. He asked Mr. McAuliffe if he could look into this. He stated these companies are not giving the Town salt. Mr. McAuliffe stated he had a discussion with the Highway Superintendent and would be reviewing the contract. Chairman Miller stated the Town needed to make the higher up people aware.

He stated he did have a need for Executive Session.

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

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Old Business

Chairman Miller stated Mr. Pizzetti attended the last Selectmen's Meeting and was seeking to declare a 4-wheeler surplus property. He stated Mr. Pizzetti provided the Board with a detailed description of the 4-wheeler.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Starzec to declare the 1985 Suzuki 2x4 Quad Sport 230 surplus property.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Selectman Starzec stated he asked to have the Town Employee Review Form on the agenda. He stated he would like to look at this as a guideline and was looking for the Board's feedback. He stated this would be an anonymous form and would give insight to how town employees think things are running. He asked to have this on the next agenda in order to let the Board review the questions. Mr. McAuliffe stated he has no problems with the review form. He stated he takes great pride in the relationship he has with employees. He stated he does not believe union employees should be involved.

New Business

Mr. McAuliffe stated he mentioned this before in his Town Administrator's Report that the Town was over their budget in Snow and Ice. Pam Regis stated the Highway Department is doing a great job. She stated they have tried their hardest to keep within a reasonable budget. Mr. McAuliffe stated the Highway Department has done a great job. He stated the roads looked great this morning.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Jolda to vote to approve the payment of liabilities incurred during fiscal year 2015 in excess of available appropriations for snow and ice removal pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, § 31D

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Mr. McAuliffe stated they are starting to form the Chester C. Corbin Public Library Planning and Building Committee.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to appoint Selectman Jolda as the Board of Selectmen's Representative on the Chester C. Corbin Public Library Planning and Building Committee.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Chairman Miller stated the Board received the 2015 Webster Sailing Association schedule. He stated this is an annual event.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Bourque to approve the 2015 Webster Sailing Association schedule as proposed.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Chairman Miller stated the Board received a "One Day" liquor license request from Laurel and Russell Smith for August 7, 2015 at the Killdeer Island Club.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the "one Day" liquor license for Laurel and Russell Smith for August 7, 2015 at the Killdeer Island Club.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Informational Mail

Chairman Miller stated the Board received a hand written letter regarding snow conditions. He asked if Mr. McAuliffe could address this issue.

Other Business Unknown at the Time of Posting

Selectman Bourque stated he attended the MMA Meeting and it was very beneficial. He stated Deborah Keefe also attended the meeting. He stated Ms. Keefe is still very involved. He stated she attended the trade show and the seminars. He stated it would be a good gesture to compensate Ms. Keefe's expenses for attending the MMA Meeting since she is still very much active in the community. Selectman Jolda asked if this was deemed an approved expense from the Town Accountant. Mr. McAuliffe stated yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to reimburse Deborah Keefe in the amount of \$709.23 for her expenses incurred while attending the MMA Meeting.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Selectman Starzec stated it was announced that Thai Cuisine was closing. Selectman Bourque stated he spoke with Alec and that he was closing the restaurant in order to spend more time with his ailing mother in Thailand. He stated two people are interested in purchasing the restaurant.

Selectman Starzec stated he would like the Board to send a Proclamation to Thai Cuisine.

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Bourque to send a Proclamation to Thai Cuisine for their years of service within the Town.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Adjournment

Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 8:32 P.M. in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21a, Item 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to go into Executive Session and to come back into open session.

Vote: Mr. Starzec – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Jolda – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Miller – yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Friedland