

**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 Monday, April 6, 2015. Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: William Starzec, Andrew Jolda and Robert Miller

Absent: Mark Dowgiewicz, Don Bourque

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 March 23, 2015.

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

Chairman Miller asked to take Michael Costen out of order.

Michael Costen – Appointment as Registrar

Chairman Miller stated Michael Costen has been very active in the community and has been around for many years.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to appoint Michael Costen as Registrar.

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

Webster/Dudley American Legion Post – “One Day” Liquor License Request – Entertainment License Request

Chairman Miller stated the Webster/Dudley American Legion Post had submitted a very organized plan for an event they were planning for June 6, 2015. He stated it seemed as though everything was in place and that this was going to be a great event.

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the “One Day” Liquor License Request and Entertainment License Request for the Webster/Dudley American Legion Post.

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

**School Department – Budget Discussion
General Government – Budget Discussion
Potential Override – Discussion**

Ted Avlas and Shawn Collins came forward. Mr. McAuliffe stated they have had many discussion concerning the FY16 budget. He stated it is going to be a very tough year. He stated with the new Police Department now online there has been some added expenses. He stated the General Budget looks challenging. He stated Bay Path, Health Insurance and Veterans Services expenses have all increased. He stated they are still actively looking for a third community to join the Regional Dispatch which would help defray some cost. Ted Avlas handed out two packets. He stated Webster is in a very unique situation. He stated they are going to be opening three brand new schools with the grade refrigeration. He stated this will be a great asset to the community and the school children. He stated the proposed budget reflect the opening of three new schools. He stated staffing and enrollment could affect the budget. He stated the staffing has been relatively flat. He stated they decreased staffing the last couple of years and the technology has been behind. He stated special education is also a costly expense. He stated the Town of Webster has invested heavily into creating a new school and would like to keep all the school up to par. He stated they will adjust the budget as time goes on. He stated the school district is

headed into the right direction. He stated the schools are improving. He stated the community is at a cross roads because it can't cut anymore positions. He stated the Town needs to start a discussion on what direction it needs to go in. He stated they should start thinking about a Proposition 2 ½ override. Mr. McAuliffe stated four years ago the School Department had a very bad year and had to cut over 25 positions. He stated it is time to start having a candid conversation. He stated nuisance properties are Webster's number one priority and didn't want to see this slip away because of the lack of funding. Chairman Miller stated the Town doesn't have the money to fund these items then it should be brought up for discussion. He stated the new school system will bring people into Town. He stated this should be left up to the voters to decide. Selectman Jolda asked if the Board of Selectmen should call for a public hearing. Mr. McAuliffe stated the board should schedule a follow-up with the School Committee and Finance Committee. Selectman Starzec asked what would happen if the proposed Proposition 2 ½ did not pass. Mr. McAuliffe stated they would have to cut the new positions and will not have level service.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to hold a public hearing on April 27, 2015 at Bartlett High School in the Auditorium to discuss a proposed Proposition 2 ½ override.

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

Scott Charpentier – Update on Water Department Furniture

Scott Charpentier stated he sought a cost estimate from W.B. Mason scratch and dent. He stated he cut the cost down by half. He stated the furniture needed to be sturdy.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. McAuliffe stated since Mr. Charpentier was still present he would like to address the rusty water complaints. He stated the Town has had a good stretch with rusty water complaint until recently. He stated there was a larger area this past Saturday. He stated it was in the area of School Street and Fifth Street. He stated there is no known cause as of yet. He stated crews responded right away. Chairman Miller stated he received calls regarding a strong chlorine order coming from the water. Mr. Charpentier stated they test the water every two weeks. He stated there has been no change on the Water Department's end. He stated there might be a smell even though there was no change. Mr. McAuliffe asked residents to call if they are experiencing unusual water. He stated all calls are logged and are used to trace disturbances. He stated crews will address the situation immediately. He stated they are going to begin the third round of flushing. He stated this time shouldn't be as bad as the first time.

Mr. McAuliffe stated he held the Financial Team Meetings.

He stated the Accounting Department has certified free cash. He stated Free Cash was certified at \$425,363 for the General Fund, \$1,627,430 for the Water Fund and \$568,000 for the Sewer Fund.

He stated the Treasurer's Office is continuing work on the health insurance renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Town's consulting firm. He stated he would like to congratulate Linda Slota on her retirement.

He stated the Assessor's Office is working on the budget estimates for Fy16.

He stated the Tax Collector's Office continues its ongoing collection efforts.

He stated the Town Clerk's Office is preparing for the Town Meeting and the May 4th election.

He stated he held the DPW Team Meetings.

He stated the Water Department had a break out of rusty water. He stated a flow test was conducted on Harris Street.

He stated the Sewer Department is seeking to re-mobilize on the landfill leachate system and the clarifier tank improvements.

He stated the Highway Department is working on street sweeping. He stated they are continuing their efforts on the pre-beach season. He stated the Compost Facility opened today.

Mr. McAuliffe stated he received a phone call from a gentleman that lived on Thompson Road. He stated he would like to get a beach sticker but his truck was a commercial vehicle. He stated he received numerous forms of verification of residency from the gentleman. He stated he is only looking to launch his boat.

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve a beach access sticker only for the gentleman on Thompson Road providing he submits proof of residency.

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

Selectman Jolda asked if there could be an exception for current employee who live out of Town. He stated it would be a great benefit for the Town's employees. Selectman Starzec stated when a person works for a business they usually get a perk. He stated he would support giving current non-resident employees' beach access for the resident's price.

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve a beach access sticker only for current non-resident employees.

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

He stated he attending a meeting with Carol Cyr regarding the new Senior Center. He stated a punch list of items are being review by NOAH.

He stated he met with the School Department regarding the FY16 budget.

He stated he met with the School Department regarding the Gy16 budget.

He stated he did not have a need to go into Executive Session.

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

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

Chairman Miller stated they table "Town Administrator Screening Committee" and "Executive Session" because Selectmen Dowgiewicz asked to have these items on the agenda and he wasn't present at the meeting.

Informational Mail

Chairman Miller stated the Board received an email from Sheriff Lewis G. Evangelidis announcing a Public Open House for the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Regional Resource Center (RRC), Tuesday, April 14, 2015 from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM at 562 Main Street Webster, MA 01570

Adjournment

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Jolda to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Friedland