

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

A Board of Selectmen's Meeting was held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town Hall on Monday, September 28, 2015. Chairman Bourque called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Randall Becker, William Starzec, Andrew Jolda, Mark Dowgiewicz and Don Bourque.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Bourque 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 August 31, 2015.

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

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the executive session meeting minutes of August 31, 2015.

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

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the meeting minutes of September 1, 2015.

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

Officer Spencer Donovan – Introduction

Pamela Leduc stated the Webster Police Department had a recent retirement. She stated she has appointed Spencer Donovan as the replacement. Chief Bent stated Spencer Donovan is currently on a waiver and will attend the Police Academy in December. Chief Bent stated Officer Donovan was born and raised in Webster. Spencer Donovan thanked the Board of Selectmen for their support. He stated his family has strong roots in Webster and looks forward to serving the community.

Officer Aaron Suss – Introduction of Police K9 Bandit

Officer Suss introduced Police K9 Bandit to the Board of Selectmen. Chief Bent stated he was proud to introduce Bandit to the Board. He stated it was a long wait to find the perfect fit. He stated Bandit's sister, Dafne, did not make it through the academy. Officer Suss stated Bandit is nationally certified. He stated Bandit caught his very first bad guy a couple of nights ago. Chairman Bourque stated he is very happy to have Bandit on board. He stated he looks forward to seeing Bandit get a lot of bad guys. Ms. Leduc presented Bandit with a welcome basket.

Chief Bent stated he would like to make a brief announcement. He stated Joshua Collins will be receiving the George Hanna Medal of Valor Award for his actions during a shooting he was involved in in February 2014 while on a mutual aid call in Dudley. He stated it was a very dangerous situation and Officer Collins' actions were brave. He stated Officer Collins will be honored at the State House tomorrow.

Toby Kramer & Philip Giffie – Proposed Amendment to the Age Restriction for the A.J. Sitkowski School Apartments

Toby Kramer stated they are continuing to lease the building. She stated NOAH is looking to change the age restriction for the property. She stated there is currently thirty people living in the building. She stated 71% of those residents are Webster residents. She stated they need to have the building fully leased by the end of the year in order to receive tax credits. She stated they have received a lot of phone calls. She stated some couples do not qualify because of the age restriction. She stated 44% of the current residents are over the age of seventy. Carol Williams

stated she has managed other properties and has never ran into a problem with lifting the age restrictions. Selectman Dowgiewicz stated the only problem he has with lifting the age restrictions is if they have a younger child that lives with them who brings in problems. He stated he would support lowering the age restriction to fifty so that married couple could apply. Ms. Kramer stated they couldn't adopt that restriction. She stated it is all or nothing. She stated NOAH felt they could rent all of the units without having any issues. Selectman Dowgiewicz stated he is concerned the Board voted to have this restriction in place in order to have a nice elderly housing in the downtown area. He stated he does not want this to turn into something that is out of control. Ms. Kramer stated they could lose tax credits. She stated the lenders have asked them to approach the Board to consider lifting the age restriction. Chairman Bourque asked where NOAH missed the mark. Carol Cyr stated a lot of the applicants cannot afford the rent. Philip Giffie stated he is happy to support the 55+ age restriction but it is very difficult to fill the units. Mrs. Cyr stated it is the spouse not meeting the age requirement that is the most common scenario. Mr. Giffie stated there are a lot of good people that could fill the building. Chairman Bourque stated there is not a lot of parking. Ms. Kramer stated they limit the number of vehicles per unit. Chairman Bourque stated he is worried that residents will start parking in other lots. Selectman Dowgiewicz asked if the Board could do an exemption for handi-capped. Selectman Becker stated there are two units that have two bedrooms that are still available for rent. He stated that should reduce the concern that the Board has concerning lifting the age restriction. Ms. Kramer stated once seniors are in the apartments they tend to stay in that unit. Selectman Dowgiewicz stated he is looking at this situation as what will happen in the future. He stated moving forward he doesn't want there to be any problems. Selectman Backer stated Winn Management is a very professional management company and the Board needs to take that into account.

Motion: made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Starzec to lift the 55+ restriction to one person in the household.

Vote: Selectman Becker - yes, Selectman Starzec - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – no and Chairman Bourque - yes.

Suzette Raun – Indian Ranch – Noise Complaints

Chairman Bourque stated the Board asked a representative from Indian Ranch to come to the Board of Selectmen's meeting to address a couple of noise complaints the Board received. He stated the Board was a little upset that no one attended the last meeting. Attorney Sullivan stated people have harassed Indian Ranch and the Indian Princess. He stated this harassment had caused unnecessary expense and delay to the Indian Princess project. Selectman Starzec stated that being good neighbors also involved being good for the residents. He stated residents also need peace. He stated he does understand sound travels but would like to see what steps can be taken to come to a solution. Suzette Raun stated there was false information given at the last meeting by Faith Rubin. She stated she has a letter from Huey Lewis and the News stating the information given by Ms. Rubin was false. She stated the speakers face Rt16. Chairman Bourque reads the letters given to the Board by Ms. Raun. Selectman Dowgiewicz stated the Board put restriction on Indian Ranch in 2012. He stated the Board has not received any complaints since then. He stated DEP oversees the noise for outdoor gatherings. Selectman Jolda asked what time do concerts end. Ms. Raun stated most concerts end at 4:30 p.m. Selectman Becker stated he would still like to see if WPI would like to study the sound levels. Selectman Starzec stated he has been approached personally from people that have not filed a formal complaint but have been effected by the noise. Ms. Raun stated she definitely wants to work with the neighbors. Chairman Bourque stated he would like to thank Indian Ranch for contributing to the repair of the Fire Department's boat. Ms. Raun stated Indian Ranch has paid for the engine repair to the boat. Chairman Bourque stated he appreciated them keeping Indian Ranch in Webster. Ms. Raun stated Indian Ranch brought over 4,220 people into Town. She stated next year will be their 70 year anniversary.

Acting Town Administrator's Report

Acting Town Administrator Leduc stated she attended a Trustees of Soldiers Monuments meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

She stated she attended the Retirement Board meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

She stated she attended the PERAC Emerging Issues Forum held at Holy Cross College on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

She stated she met with Spencer Donovan, Chief Bent and Deputy Chief Budrow on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

She stated she met with Recreation Committee members on Monday, September 21, 2015 to discuss their plans for the 2015 Harvest Festival.

She stated she facilitated the organization of the Memorial Beach Advisory Committee on Monday, September 21, 2015.

She stated she held a Department Head meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

She stated the Chief of Police has scheduled Trick or Treating for Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

She stated she has attached the notice from the Water Department that is scheduled to be mailed to our customers on Wednesday morning. The notice will also be posted on the Town's website.

She stated she would like to remind everyone that there will be a Public Hearing on Water Quality Issues on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium.

She stated the School Street Senior Center is now closed. The Senior Center has suspended its operations for the week of September 28 thru October 1st and will remain closed on Friday, October 2nd. The Senior Center will reopen at their new location, 5 Church Street, on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

She stated the Recreation Committee is hosting Webster's 5th Annual October Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 25, 2015 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

She stated she is requesting the Town Owned Facilities Use Policy be postponed until October 14, 2015.

She stated there are several open Board, Commissions and Committee openings.

She stated she attached the memorandum from Lieutenant Michael Shaw in response to the Board of Selectmen's concerns.

She stated the Association of Town Finance Committees' 2015 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at The Host Hotel in Sturbridge from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

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

Old Business

Chairman Bourque asked that Brett Condon attend the next meeting for appointment to the Personnel Board.

New Business

Frances Brown came forward. She stated she is very interested in joining the Webster Cultural Council. She stated she attended their last meeting and was excited to be involved.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to appoint Frances Brown to the Webster Cultural Council.

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

Chairman Bourque stated the Board received a letter from sacred Heart of Jesus Parish requesting a "One Day" liquor license for Saturday, October 17, 2015.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the “One Day” liquor license request for Saturday, October 17, 2015.

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

Selectman Dowgiewicz stated he asked that Davis Street/Main Street Park be put on the agenda. He stated people sit and drink down there. He stated it is starting to be a very bad area. Chief Bent stated people started to sit over in that area when the benches were taken away from Dunkin Donuts across the street. He stated the people that sit there are Webster residents. He stated people sit there and wait to board the bus to Worcester. He stated people will just congregate in another area. Selectman Becker asked if there was a bus stop there. Chief Bent stated when he was on the CMRPC he was told that Webster is a wave down community. He stated people just wait for the bus at this location. Selectman Starzec stated there needs to be enforcement if people are up to no good. Chairman Bourque stated it is a gateway into Webster and it doesn't look good when there is a large group of people hanging around down there. Chief Bent stated they will move somewhere else. Chairman Bourque stated they are looking to clean up the area and want to see the area looking nice and clean. Deputy Chief Budrow stated he would suggest contacting the WRTA to see if they would make any upgrades. Nancy Healy stated if they remove the benches they will go behind Matte's where you don't know what they are doing.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Jolda to remove the benches at the Davis Street/Main Street Park and to store the benches or place them at Memorial Beach.

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

Ms. Leduc went through the October Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Jolda to recommend approval of articles 1 thru 32.

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

Motion: made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Bourque not to recommend approval of article 33.

Vote: Selectman Becker - yes, Selectman Starzec - no, Selectmen Jolda – yes, Selectman Dowgiewicz – yes and Chairman Bourque – yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Jolda to refer to sponsor for articles 34 thru 41.

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

Other Business Unknown at Time of Posting

Chairman Bourque stated he would like to thank Ron Mathieu and Charlotte “Ginger” Costen for all their years of service.

Adjournment

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney M. Friedland
Executive Secretary