

**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 Tuesday, October 13, 2015. Chairman Bourque called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Mark Dowgiewicz

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Bourque led the Selectmen in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Old Business

Chairman Bourque stated he would like to address the vote the Board of Selectmen took at their last meeting regarding the age restriction for the A.J. Sitkowski School Apartments. He stated the Board did not mean to upset the residents. Selectman Becker stated it was very unfortunate that it got to a point where residents were in fear. He stated he spoke to several people that thought it was unfair for people already living in the apartments. Selectman Starzec stated he echoed Selectman Becker's comment about it was unfortunate that it got to this point. He stated he did hear from several residents and does respect their concerns. Chairman Bourque stated the Board did not want to cause anyone headaches. He stated they were just trying to help NOAH rent the units out so that they wouldn't lose their tax credits.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to rescind the vote taken at the September 28, 2015 meeting approving the wording change from "occupied entirely by persons 55 years of age or older" to "occupied by at least one person in the household who is 55 years of age or older" found in the following documents as indicated:

- Affordable Housing Restriction – Agreement between the Town of Webster and Sitkowski Limited Partnership – Section 3.A page 3
- Tenant Selection Plan – Agreement with Sitkowski Limited Partnership, MassHousing, and Winn Residential, - Section 3 (c) page 20

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

Doran Crouse/Bill Burke – Water/Sewer Abatements

Mr. Crouse stated 9 Deslaurier Avenue submitted a request for an abatement. He stated the owner found a leaking toilet after he received his bill. He stated the water did enter the sewer system. He stated he recommended denying the request. Selectman Becker asked how they determine whether to approve or deny a request. Mr. Burke stated it all depends on if they have a dirt basement or a sump pump. He stated if the water enters the sewer system they should pay the sewer charges.

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Jolda to deny the abatement request from 9 Deslaurier Avenue because the water passed through the meter and the water went into the sewer.

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

Mr. Crouse stated 31 Whitcomb Street submitted a request for an abatement. He stated the owner found a water pipe leak in the basement. He stated the water did not enter the sewer system. He stated he would recommend approving the abatement in the amount of \$911.90 plus demand and interest charges.

Motion: made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the abatement request from 31 Whitcomb Street for sewer charges plus demand and interest charges in the amount of \$911.90.

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

Mr. Crouse stated 24 South Point Road submitted a request for an abatement. He stated the new owner turned the water on to the house without knowing a faucet to an old pump house was open. He stated the water did not enter the sewer system. He stated he would recommend approving an abatement in the amount of \$44.62.

Motion: made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Starzec to approve the abatement request from 24 South Point Road for sewer charges in the amount of \$44.62.

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

Mr. Crouse stated 202-204 North Main Street submitted a request for an abatement. He stated the owner found a leak in the basement and immediately had it repaired. He stated the water did not enter the sewer system. He stated he would recommend approving an abatement in the amount of \$309.12.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the abatement request from 202-204 North Main Street for sewer charges in the amount of \$309.12.

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

Mr. Crouse stated 5 Negus Street submitted a request for an abatement. He stated the owner called after receiving his high water bill claiming it was caused by flushing dirty water. He stated he would recommend refunding/abating only a portion of the bill. He stated they would have had to flush more than two hours a day to get the amount of water they used. He stated the Water Department only received one phone call to complain about dirty water during this timeframe. He stated they don't have enough evidence to determine they were flushing their water that much to grant a full abatement.

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the abatement request from 5 Negus Street for water charges in the amount of \$25.00 and sewer charges in the amount of \$25.00.

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

Acting Town Administrator's Report

Acting Town Administrator Leduc stated she attended a CodeRED emergency notification system presentation on Tuesday, September 29, 2015.

She stated she attended the Library Planning and Building Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2015.

She stated she held a Department Head meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

She stated she met with the Finance Committee's Town Hall Subcommittee on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

She stated she participated in Dispatch contract negotiations on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

She stated she attended the Firefighters Memorial Sunday activities on Sunday, October 4, 2015.

She stated she assisted the Senior Center staff and volunteers with serving lunch to the seniors in their new location on Tuesday, October 6, 2015.

She stated she attended a Town Meeting Review Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2015.

She stated she attended a Police/Fire Building Committee meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2015.

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

She stated she would like to remind everyone that the fall Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bartlett High School Auditorium.

She stated the FY16 2nd quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due on Monday, November 2, 2015. She stated the Town Hall will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

She stated our Public Health Nurse will be holding a flu clinic on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Irene Martel Conference Room. She asked that everyone bring their insurance cards.

She stated the Recreation Committee will be hosting Webster's 5th Annual October Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 25, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

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

Informational Mail

Selectman Becker stated the Board received a letter of resignation from Natalie Morin for the Memorial Beach Advisory Committee. He asked if the Memorial Beach Advisory Committee could be added to the next agenda in order to choose another member.

Selectman Jolda reminded everyone that the Park Avenue School will be holding an open house on Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Bourque called for a 10 minutes recess in order for the Board to move in to the auditorium for the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING – Town Hall Auditorium - Complaints, Concerns or Issues Related to the Town's Water Quality

Senator Ryan Fattman stated Representative McKenna and himself were in attendance for the Public Hearing along with Mass DEP to get information about what resources were available to address the Town's water quality. He stated he has also been affected by the water quality problems and would like to see what improvements can be made for all residents dealing with these issues. Mary Jude Pigsley, Regional Director for Mass DEP, stated she has worked very closely with the Town on other projects. She stated Mass DEP and the Town has a very cooperative relationship. Steve McCurdy stated the next application process will begin next summer. He stated Webster has a fairly high public health concern. He stated the State can move as quickly as the Town wants to once the application has been approved. He stated the design phase is not covered by the State. Ms. Pigsley stated Mass DEP does support the Town of Webster's decision to move forward with a water filtration plant. Senator Fattman stated Representative McKenna and himself have committed to help out in next year's budget with the cost of the water filtration plant.

Mike Schrader presented the PowerPoint presentation.

Neil Dixon stated he didn't believe the figures seemed right. He asked why the Town isn't looking to do everything at once. Mr. Schrader stated it all depends on how much of a tax burden the Town residents can take on. Mr. Charpentier stated they presented the Board with a Capital Improvement Plan. He stated they have recently made shifts due to the concern. He stated pipes are being addressed. Selectman Starzec stated there seems to be a distinct difference between private vs. public. He stated the velocity is very different. He stated he has seen documented concern. He stated data shows they are going in the right direction. Earl Gabor stated he would like to make sure that whatever the Town puts into place will last the Town the next several years. Frank Sampson asked how much piping can be done. Mr. Charpentier stated that would all depend on the diameter of the pipe. He stated this year's funding would probably cover around

two miles. Selectman Starzec asked what the filtration plant staffing looks like. Mr. Schrader stated a new Water Treatment Plan will most likely be completely automated. He stated there might be two to three people required to oversee the functions. He stated DEP will ultimately determine the required staffing levels. He stated it will not need to be staffed full time. Selectman Jolda asked if DEP had a fact sheet on manganese. He asked that if they do if it could be uploaded to the website. Diane Mandile stated there are a lot of gray areas. She stated someone has the numbers and it would help residents out if they were supplied those numbers. She stated Town residents need to know the impact that this will have.

Adjournment

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Jolda to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney M. Friedland
Executive Secretary