

**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, November 9, 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 Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to approve the meeting minutes of October 26, 2015.

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

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to approve the meeting minutes of October 13, 2015.

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

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to approve the meeting minutes of September 28, 2015.

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

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to approve the meeting minutes of September 14, 2015.

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

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to approve the executive session meeting minutes of September 14, 2015.

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

Gerald & Marilyn Fels – Proclamation – Community Cat Connection

Chairman Bourque thanked Mr. & Mrs. Fels for all that they do for the Town of Webster. He stated the Board wanted to give the Fels a proclamation to recognize their funding the construction of a new facility for the Community Cat Connection. He read the proclamation. Mr. Fels thanked the Board of Selectmen for the recognition. He stated anyone can donate money but the real thanks needs to go to the volunteers at the Community Cat Connection who run the non-profit organization. He stated it is a very big effort on their part to ensure the safety of these cats. Selectman Dowgiewicz thanked the Fels very much for all that they do for the Town and that the Community Cat Connection was a valuable asset to the Town. Selectman Starzec stated the Fels' funding of the new facility was remarkable and, as an animal lover himself, he believes that it is very beneficial to the community. Selectman Jolda thanked them for everything they do for the Town. Michelle Lafleche came forward as President of the Board for the Community Cat Connection and stated that she would like to thank the Fels on behalf of all of the volunteers. She stated without their generosity this wouldn't be possible.

Mark Mason – Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Mark Mason came forward. He stated he had served on the Zoning Board of Appeals in the past. He stated he was a lifelong resident. He stated he graduated from Nichols College and owns a local insurance & investment business.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Jolda to appoint Mark Mason to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

Christopher Pastoreck - Classic Motor Car Company – Class II License – Change of Owner

Christopher Pastoreck came forward. He stated he was taking over the business after his father's death.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the change of owner for Classic Motor Car Company Class II License.

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

Kenny Pizzetti – Safety Committee Recommendations

Mr. Pizzetti stated the Safety Committee conducted its quarterly meeting on October 14, 2015 at which they voted to bring forward the following recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for their approval/consideration. He stated the Committee is requesting permission to repost “No Parking Either Side” from Birch Island Road to Cedar Drive. He stated there have been some safety concerns from residents regarding the parking in that area.

Motion: made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the request to repost “No Parking Either Side” from Birch Island Road to Cedar Drive.

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

Mr. Pizzetti stated the Committee is also requesting permission to upgrade the safety signage already in place with new reflective visibility/caution signs at Gore Road (Rte. 16)/Lower Gore Road. Selectman Starzec asked if these upgrades would be for both directions. Mr. Pizzetti stated yes, both directions would get the upgraded signs. Selectman Becker asked if the Town could reduce the speed in that area because there are a lot of accidents. Mr. Pizzetti stated he did get feedback from MassDOT regarding that stretch of road. He stated they would need approval from MassDOT to change the speed limit. He stated that would also be a separate process. Selectman Becker stated people are coming down the hill very fast. He asked if the Town could use the radar unit to help reduce the speed. Mr. Pizzetti stated it wouldn't hurt to the put the sign out in that area.

Motion: made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Starzec to approve the request to upgrade the safety signage already in place with new reflective visibility/caution signs at Gore Road (Rte. 16)/Lower Gore Road.

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

Mr. Pizzetti stated the Committee received a couple of inquiries about safety concerns on Point Pleasant. He stated Chief Bent will have his department survey the area.

Kenny Pizzetti – Cemetery Rate Change Proposal

Mr. Pizzetti stated the Town of Webster hasn't had a rate change since 2009. He stated he wanted to stay at a reasonable rate but also make it feasible for the Town. He stated at the current rate the Town is losing money. Ms. Leduc stated they surveyed several other communities' rates. She stated Webster's proposed rate changes are very competitive. She stated if there is a weekend burial or overtime paid out then the Town is actually losing money. She stated the current proposal would require the Administrative Assistant to provide the funeral home with a quote for actual labor costs based on the day and time requested in addition to the hourly rate of the staff member working the service.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the cemetery rate change as proposed effective December 1, 2015.

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

Acting Town Administrator's Report

Acting Town Administrator Leduc stated she participated in Dispatcher contract negotiations on Thursday, October 27, 2015.

She stated she attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Friday, October 30, 2015.

She stated she attended a Police/Fire Building Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

She stated she attended a Library Planning and Building Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

She stated she met with the Finance Team, the Building Commissioner, and Mr. Paul Zekos of The Zekos Group on Wednesday, November 4, 2015. She stated the Town Treasurer has spearheaded the movement to get Town owned properties back on the tax rolls. She stated they have identified eight properties that will go up for auction in mid- January.

She stated she attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2015.

She stated she attended the Sitkowski School Apartments and Webster Senior Center ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, November 6, 2015.

She stated the auditors have been on site performing the FY15 annual audit. She stated field work should be complete by the end of the year.

She stated the Treasurer's office mailed 127 letters to delinquent taxpayers on Friday, November 6, 2015.

She stated the FY16 2nd quarter utility bills are scheduled to be released on Friday, November 13, 2015 with a due date of Monday, December 14, 2015.

She stated the Webster Police Department will be sponsoring a Gun Buy Back program on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

She stated the Town's compost facility will be closing for the season on Saturday, November 14, 2015. She stated the facility is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She stated the facility will be closed Wednesday, November 11, 2015 in observation of Veterans Day.

She stated the Utility Service Group has begun ice pigging operations on Eddy Street. She stated she observed the operation for a period of time and emailed the Board pictures of the water samples that were taken. She stated the samples will be tested.

She stated the Veterans Day Parade will begin at the Dudley Municipal Complex with a brief ceremony at 11:00 a.m. She stated parade participants will then march to the Webster Veterans' Court of Honor where a similar ceremony will take place.

She stated the 2nd Annual Big Old Turkey Bowl will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2015 in Southbridge. She stated they are seeking players.

She stated she has attached a draft of the Damage to Private Property Policy for the Board's review. Mr. Pizzetti came forward. He stated with the winter months coming the Town needed to consider adopting a policy that will protect the Town from unwarranted claims. He stated other communities have similar policies. He stated if the Highway Department backs into a mailbox then they would be at fault but if damage is done during the snow plowing/removal operations of the Highway Department then they would not be at fault. Selectman Becker asked what happens now if a mailbox is damaged. Mr. Pizzetti stated they replace the mailboxes. Mr. Pizzetti also

stated that many of the mailboxes they replaced last year were rusted or rotted prior to the winter season. Selectman Becker stated he would support the proposed policy as long as the damage was done during snow removal operations. Mr. Pizzetti stated most of the items damaged are located within the public way.

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to approve the Damage to Private Property Policy as presented.

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

Ms. Leduc stated she attached a memo from Assistant Town Planner Meagen Donoghue regarding the MEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant. She stated they are seeking a vote of the Board to support a 25% matching grant not to exceed \$25,000 required in order to move forward with applying for the second round of Hazard Mitigation Grant funding. She stated this grant would fund a new generator for the Highway garage.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to support the 25% matching grant not to exceed \$25,000 for the MEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant application to replace the generator at the Highway garage.

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 Acting Town Administrator's Report.

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

Other Business Unknown at Time of Posting

Chairman Bourque stated Brian Perry and Fire Chief Hickey were in attendance to give everyone an update on the Fire Building Renovation Project. Mr. Perry read through the hand out. Selectman Starzec stated they have done outstanding work and can't wait to see the ribbon cutting. Chairman Bourque thanked Mr. Perry and Chief Hickey for all of their hard work.

Old Business

Chairman Bourque stated Pam Leduc has done an amazing job as Acting Town Administrator. He stated as long as it was okay with her he would recommend holding off on establishing a new Town Administrator Screening Committee until after the holidays.

Selectman Dowgiewicz stated at the last Selectmen's meeting he brought up three motions that he would like to see move forward regarding the ice pigging program. Ms. Leduc stated the ice pigging program would not qualify for a low interest loan because it is classified as maintenance. Selectman Dowgiewicz stated he would recommend the money be used for cleaning and lining.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Chairman Bourque to sponsor an article on the next town meeting warrant to transfer \$250,000 from retained earnings to fund the ice pigging program; to sponsor an article on the next town meeting warrant to borrow \$500,000 from the Water Resource Low Interest Loan Program to be used for cleaning and lining of the water pipes; and to petition Representative McKenna for a budget amendment in the amount of \$250,000 to the Town of Webster to address our water quality issues.

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

Adjournment

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Starzec to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 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