

**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 23, 2015. Chairman Bourque called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

Memorial Beach Advisory Committee – Update

Ray Mullins came forward. He stated the Memorial Beach Advisory Committee has so far held four meetings. He stated they have devoted their time to brainstorming ideas that could possibly benefit Memorial Beach. He stated there are twenty suggestions that the Committee will prioritize. He stated they will also be discussing the fee structure. He stated he has personally visited other area beaches to get ideas on what they have in place for fees and recreation. He stated the Committee is looking to make fair suggestions to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration for the 2016 season. He stated the Committee has requested the cost and income breakdown for Memorial Beach. He stated having this information will allow them to see what is feasible. He stated a representative from the ADA Committee attended their last meeting and had some suggestions on ADA handicap access at the beach. He stated Deborah Keefe has been appointed to the Master Plan Committee as their liaison. He stated the Committee is also looking to work with Department Heads. He stated he goes down to the beach almost every day and he would like to know why the Memorial Beach sign is laying on the ground. Ms. Leduc stated she would look into having the sign put back up. Selectman Becker stated that the Committee is off to a great start and thanked Mr. Mullins for all of his hard work.

Marc Becker – Water/Sewer Betterment Abatements – Town Owned Properties

Mr. Becker stated it was a pleasure to be in front of Ms. Leduc and brother Selectman Becker. He stated there are five properties that have outstanding water/sewer betterments. He stated the property on Killdeer Island Road has an outstanding sewer betterment of \$1,241.50. He stated the Town took ownership of the property over a year ago through tax title. He stated Sunny Avenue is a corner vacant lot. He stated there is a stream that runs through the lot. He stated there is an outstanding sewer betterment in the amount of \$2,167.60 and a water betterment in the amount of \$739.60. He stated Wakefield-1, Wakefield-2 and Lower Gore Road are separate lots that make up one big area. He stated Wakefield-1 has a sewer betterment in the amount of \$1,814.05 and a water betterment in the amount of \$829.90. He stated Wakefield-2 has a sewer betterment in the amount of \$1,684.20 and a water betterment in the amount of \$823.90. He stated Lower Gore Road has a sewer betterment in the amount of \$10,838.00 and a water betterment in the amount of \$3,698.00.

Motion: made by Selectman Starzec, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the Town owned property betterment abatements as presented for Killdeer Island, Sunny Avenue, Wakefield-1, Wakefield-2 and Lower Gore Road.

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 held a Finance Team meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

She stated she participated in Veterans Day ceremonies held at Memorial Beach, the Dudley Municipal Complex and the Webster Town Hall on Wednesday, November 11, 2015.

She stated she attended a Police/Fire Building Committee meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2015.

She stated she attended a SWCCC Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2015.

She stated she participated in a press conference on Thursday, November 12, 2015 promoting the 2nd Annual Big Ole Turkey Bowl charity football event.

She stated she participated in Dispatch contract negotiations on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. She is pleased to announce that they have a tentative agreement.

She stated she attended a Retirement Board meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2015.

She stated she attended a Library Planning and Building Committee meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

She stated she attended the SWCCC 1st Anniversary Open House on Friday, November 20, 2015. She stated representatives from State 911 attended the celebration.

She stated she attended the 2nd Annual Big Ole Turkey Bowl charity football event on Saturday, November 21, 2015. She stated Chairman Bourque lost the bet she made on his behalf and that is why she and Chairman Bourque were wearing Southbridge red and white during tonight's meeting.

She stated all Town administrative offices will close on Wednesday, November 25, 2015 at noon and reopen on Monday, November 30, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. The DPW's Highway/Parks and Water divisions will suspend normal operations at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 25, 2015 until 7:00 a.m. on Monday, November 30, 2015. The employees of the Town of Webster join her in wishing all of our residents a very happy and safe holiday.

She stated the FY16 2nd quarter utility bills are due on Monday, December 14, 2015. The Town Hall will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

She stated the WPD is currently conducting their annual coat, hat and gloves drive. All sizes from children to adult are accepted. Articles of clothing should be clean and wearable. Winter coats, hats and gloves may be dropped off at the WPD anytime during the winter months. Donated items will be brought to the Webster Food Share for distribution.

She stated to participate in the WPD's annual toy drive, please drop off a new, unwrapped toy to the WPD anytime or to the Assessor's office located on the 1st floor of the Town Hall during regular business hours. The collected toys are packaged and delivered by local police officers to families in need residing in our community. This outreach program is greatly appreciated by many of our local families experiencing hardship and cannot be successful without your generosity.

She stated the Holiday Tree Lighting is scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

She stated Winter Wonderland is scheduled for Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Memorial Beach.

She stated on December 12, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the WPD, in conjunction with District Attorney Joe Early and UMass Hospital, will be conducting a "gun buy back" to be held at the Webster Police Department. The purpose of this event is to give the public an opportunity to get rid of unwanted, under-used or even illegal firearms. There are no consequences for turning in guns and those that do will receive a Price Chopper or Market Basket gift card for \$25.00 for a rifles or shotguns, \$50.00 for a pistol or revolver, and \$75.00 for a semi-automatic or automatic firearm.

She stated the fall flushing and the inaugural ice pigging operations are complete. She urges residents to continue to contact the Water Department to request assistance with any water quality issue they might be experiencing.

She stated she would like to propose that the Board of Selectmen hold a brief ceremony on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of dedicating three (3) of the perpetual trees located adjacent to the Church Street parking lot to the Town's public safety agencies.

She stated one (1) of the trees will be decorated in blue lights representing the Police service, one (1) in red lights representing the Fire service, and one (1) in orange lights representing the Emergency Medical service. A plaque engraved with dedication language provided by the Chief of each organization will be installed at the base of each tree.

She stated Debilitating Medical Conditions Treatment Center, Inc. (DMCTC) has decided to pursue their previously proposed business venture in another community. She stated Mass Organic Therapy, Inc. has also decided to pursue their previously proposed business venture in another community. Selectman Starzec asked if the reason why both medical marijuana groups decided to pursue other communities was because the host agreement was too aggressive. Ms. Leduc stated yes.

Selectman Starzec thanked Southbridge Town Council Chairman Shaun Moriarty for putting the 2nd Annual Big Ole Turkey Bowl together. He stated they raised a lot of money for a couple of causes.

Selectman Becker asked if the Town should invite the Chairman of the Oxford Board of Selectmen to see the dispatch operations here in Webster. Ms. Leduc stated the Board of Directors are currently discussing future possibilities. She stated both Webster and Dudley would love to see another community involved. She stated another community is needed to make this affordable to all parties. She stated the current situation doesn't work financially for Webster.

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

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

New Business

Ms. Leduc stated the 2016 ABCC liquor license renewals needed to be signed by the Board of Selectmen. She stated two establishments did not seek renewal this year. Thai Cuisine and The Colonial Club did not sign their renewals. She stated Thai Cuisine is a beer and wine license and will be available for another establishment. The Colonial Club's all alcohol license will expire because the Town is over its quota.

Chairman Bourque stated the Board received a copy of future meeting dates.

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to approve the future meeting dates as proposed.

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

Other Business Unknown at Time of Posting

Chairman Bourque stated he would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to travel safely.

Adjournment

Motion: made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Starzec to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney M. Friedland
Executive Secretary