

**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, December 21, 2015. Chairman Bourque called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Absent:** William Starzec

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the meeting minutes of October 30, 2015.

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

**Motion:** made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the executive session meeting minutes of October 30, 2015 not for release.

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

**Motion:** made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the meeting minutes of November 4, 2015.

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

**Motion:** made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the meeting minutes of November 9, 2015.

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

**Motion:** made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the meeting minutes of November 23, 2015.

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

**Town Treasurer – Town Owned Property Auction**

Pam Leduc stated the Town Treasurer is proposing that the Town of Webster hold an auction to get some of the surplus properties back on the tax roll. She stated The Zekos Group has been used by the Commonwealth frequently. Mr. Chauvin stated The Zekos Group will be taking care of everything. He stated it will be a live auction. He stated they are scheduled to hold the auction during the second week of February. He stated he has also sent out over one hundred and twenty letters notifying people that their properties could be taken through the tax foreclosure process if their back taxes are not paid. He stated fifteen to seventeen people have come in and paid off their back taxes owed. He stated the Treasurer's Office has collected \$167,000 in back taxes this fiscal year to date. He stated a second letter will be sent out. Ms. Leduc stated taking a property through tax foreclosure process is time consuming. She stated it also takes money.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the contract with The Zekos Group to auction off six pieces of Town owned property on February 5, 2016.

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

### **Thai Lemongrass MA, LLC – Wine & Malt Pouring License Application – 129 East Main Street**

Ms. Leduc stated Thai Lemongrass MA, LLC is seeking the Wine & Malt Pouring License that was not renewed for 2016 by Thai Cuisine. She stated the vote of the Board would be contingent that a Certificate of Good Standing received from the Department of Revenue before the application is sent to the ABCC.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the Wine & Malt Pouring License Application submitted by Thai Lemongrass MA, LLC contingent on receiving their Certificate of Good Standing.

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

### **Thai Lemongrass MA, LLC –BYOB Application – 129 East Main Street**

Ms. Leduc stated the Board will need to table Thai Lemongrass’s application for a BYOB permit until the establishment has an active Common Vic License.

### **Webster Gas Corp. – Denial of Utility Abatement Appeal – Discussion**

Chairman Bourque stated he has asked to have Webster Gas Corp. on the agenda to discuss his request for an abatement. Mr. Crouse stated the water went through the meter. He stated abating this bill would put a burden on other rate payers. He stated there had been a leak for a long time. He stated that water was going into a drain that flowed into the sewer. Chairman Bourque stated his usage went up significantly during this timeframe. Mr. Khozami stated he called the Water Department when he received the high bill. He stated Mr. Khozami’s repairman found a bad pressure regulator. He stated the water pressure would not affect the usage. Selectman Becker asked what would prevent this from happening again. Mr. Crouse stated he believed an annual inspection done by the owner would reduce the risk of this happening again. Mr. Khozami stated his repairman told him this leak was caused by high water pressure on the Town’s side. Selectman Dowgiewicz stated he was under the impression that the water did not enter the sewer system. Chairman Bourque stated he would like to see if Mr. Crouse could do an inspection to see if the water ran into a drain or went into the ground. He stated he would also like to know when the last time the valve was replaced. He stated he would like to table this to the next agenda in order to get the inspection done.

### **National Grid – Continuation of the Pole Hearing – South Main Street**

Ms. Leduc stated National Grid came before the Board at the last meeting to discuss the pole in front of the Police Station. Steven Soucy came forward. He stated he was from National Grid and had been assigned to design the replacement or relocation of Pole 1 (South) Main St, which is at the driveway entrance to the new Police Station. He stated he can move the pole back three feet. He stated Verizon has agreed to this move. He stated this would also benefit Jimmy’s Convenience Store. He stated this would give him a primary at no cost to him. Ms. Leduc stated Chief Bent has approved this.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Jolda to accept the amended Pole Hearing Petition as presented.

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

### **Acting Town Administrator’s Report**

Ms. Leduc stated she attended a Trustees of Soldiers Monuments meeting on Tuesday, December 8, 2015.

She stated she attended a SWCCC Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2015.

She stated she attended a retirement reception on Thursday, December 10, 2015 in honor of Dispatcher James Fersenhiem, who retired on December 12, 2015 after 28 years of service to the Town of Webster.

She stated she met with Police Chief Bent, Highway Superintendent Pizzetti and a representative from National Grid on December 15, 2015 regarding the South Main Street pole relocation.

She stated she met with School Superintendent Malkas and Assistant School Superintendent of Business Avlas on December 15, 2015 regarding the FY2017 budget.

She stated she attended a Library Planning and Building Committee meeting on December 17, 2015.

She stated she attended a meeting with representatives from Webster, Dudley and Southbridge on December 17, 2015 regarding the Quinebaug River Trail Bikeway.

She stated the FY16 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter actual real estate and personal property tax bills are scheduled to be mailed on Tuesday, December 29, 2015 and are due on Monday, February 1, 2016.

She stated the WPD is currently conducting their annual coat, hat and gloves drive. All sizes from children to adults 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 that Water Superintendent Crouse reports that as of Friday, December 18, 2015, the department had received a total of five water quality complaints since December 1, 2015. The Memorial Beach Station is expected to be back online tomorrow, December 22, 2015, and the Town anticipates the receipt of formal notification from Mass DEP that the Town is in full compliance with the current Administrative Consent Order (ACO) shortly after.

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

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

## **Old Business**

Mr. Pizzetti stated the Board received a letter from Mr. Humphrey regarding gas leaks in Webster. He stated the letter was sent by an organization and it was very fictional. He stated National Grid has been very aggressive addressing any gas leak issues. He stated all leaks are monitored and addressed immediately. Mr. Pizzetti passed around a letter from National Grid responding to Mr. Humphrey allegations.

Selectman Dowgiewicz asked how the Gun Buyback Program went. Ms. Leduc stated the program went very well and will get more information for the next meeting.

## **New Business**

Ms. Leduc stated that the Board needed to sign a new IMA between the Town of Sutton and the Town of Webster for Public Health Nurse Services. She stated this is a renewal. She stated unfortunately this needs to be signed each year.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Jolda to approve the IMA between the Town of Sutton and the Town of Webster for Public Health Nurse Services.

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

## **Informational Mail**

Chairman Bourque stated Deborah Keefe will be on the next agenda to talk about the Memorial Beach Advisory Committee and her resignation from the Board of Directors for the South Worcester County Communication Center.

Chairman Bourque stated the Board received a letter from the Council on Aging looking to appoint Dolores O'Donnell and Barbara Steiger. He asked to have this added to the next agenda.

Selectman Becker stated the Board received a letter regarding 8 Day Street. Ms. Leduc stated she will speak with Chief Bent to see if fines can be implemented.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Becker to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Courtney M. Friedland  
Executive Secretary