

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF WEBSTER  
ANDREW M. JOLDA  
RANDALL V. BECKER  
MARK G. DOWGIEWICZ  
DONALD D. BOURQUE  
ROBERT J. MILLER**

A Board of Selectmen's Meeting was held on in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town Hall on Monday, June 19, 2017. Chairman Jolda called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Jolda adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 6:01p.m. in accordance with G.L. c. 30A sec. 21 (a) (1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Bourque to go into executive session at 6:01p.m. and to come back into regular session.

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

Chairman Jolda called the regular session meeting back to order at 6:10 p.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion:** made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Miller to approve the executive session meeting minutes of May 22, 2017.

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

**Motion:** made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Becker to approve the meeting minutes of May 22, 2017.

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

**Swearing-In Ceremony – Deputy Chief Michael Shaw**

Town Clerk Robert Craver swore in Deputy Chief Michael Shaw. Mr. Willardson stated he has been in Webster for six months and have gotten to know Deputy Chief Shaw very well. He stated Deputy Chief Shaw is very dedicated to the Webster Police Department. He stated he makes Webster safer place to live and work. He stated he knows Deputy Chief Shaw will continue to do great things. Chief Bent stated Deputy Chief Shaw started with the department in 1996 and was full-time in 1997. He stated he knew right away that Deputy Chief Shaw was going to be someone special. He stated Deputy Chief Shaw is well respected and he couldn't be happier with Mr. Willardson's appointment. Deputy Chief Shaw thanked the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen. He stated he wouldn't be here without his family. He stated he considers all of his fellow officers' family. He stated they have the best department in Central Massachusetts. Selectman Becker stated the Town is very proud of him.

## **Library Stat Presentation**

Mr. Willardson went through the PowerPoint Presentation. Selectman Becker asked the Library Director, Amanda Grenier, how they are going to fill the new library with books since the size will triple. Mrs. Grenier stated they had to put a lot of books into storage when they moved in to the auditorium. She stated they will have plenty of books.

## **Doran Crouse & William Burke – Water/Sewer Abatements**

Doran Crouse stated the Water Department left a notice of high usage for the property located at 40 Union Street. He stated upon site inspection they could not identify any leaks. He stated the consumption was 12,000 CF over historical average. The owner claimed he had an intermittent leaking toilet which was repaired and is requesting an abatement for water and sewer. He stated they are recommending the request be denied because the water passed through the meter and flowed into the sewer.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to deny the abatement request for 40 Union Street as recommended.

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

Doran Crouse stated the property owner of 28 Hill Street called due to a high water bill. He stated the Water Department left a tag on the door but the owner did not receive it. The Water Department checked the property and found water use of the six family, non-owner occupied dwelling to be continuing even though all taps were expected to be shut off. The Water Department replaced the existing meter with a new one but the water use continued. After testing the old meter, it was determined that it was running 3.5% faster than a new meter. The owner is requesting a two-fold abatement. The first is for high usage. This high usage cannot be tied to any leaks but is potentially caused by a disgruntled tenant. The second portion of the abatement request is to compensate for the 3.5% overcharged from the high reading meter. They are recommending the first portion of the request be denied. The second portion of the request is recommended for approval for water and sewer for a period of one year to compensate for previous bills being overcharged. The recommended abatement for water is \$133.09 and the recommended abatement for sewer is \$215.03 for a total of \$338.12.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Bourque to deny the first portion of the request and to approval for water and sewer for a period of one year to compensate for previous bills being overcharged. The recommended abatement for water is \$133.09 and the recommended abatement for sewer is \$215.03 for a total of \$338.12.

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

Selectman Becker asked if notice could be sent to the property owners mailing addresses when high usage is determined. He stated with non-owner occupied dwellings the tenant could easily disregard the notices put on the door. Doran Crouse stated this could be done.

**Continuation of Liquor License Violation Hearing dated September 12, 2016 for the Polish American Citizens Club, 37 Harris Street – Discussion of Letter Received by Lt. Shaw dated May 10, 2017 Regarding the Blood Alcohol Results.**

Mr. Willardson stated each of the Selectmen received Deputy Chief Shaw's letter in their packet. Chairman Jolda stated the Board heard from both sides and they voted to wait until the blood alcohol level was released. Mr. Willardson stated the driver's blood alcohol level was .23%. Sergeant Wentworth stated he investigated the incident in which a motor vehicle crashed into a house. He stated the driver of that vehicle was intoxicated. He stated the criminal case against the driver is proceeding. He stated the driver was serve shortly before the accident at the Polish American Citizens Club. Attorney Erlich stated the Polish American Citizens Club have implemented new procedures. He stated they have a new Manger, who acknowledged that the accident was bad. Sergeant Wentworth stated there was only twenty two minutes form the time he left the club to when the accident occurred. He stated the bartender acknowledges that they sat in the parking lot and talked. He stated there was only thirteen minutes from the time left the parking lot and the accident. He stated that is not enough time to consume that much alcohol. Deputy Chief Shaw stated the evidence speaks for itself. He stated the Board should consider that the house has been inhabitable since the accident. He stated the driver caused significant property damage. Attorney Erlich stated they don't have any records of the event and don't have any evident to refute the claim. Selectman Becker stated he applauds Mrs. Gargo's efforts to improve the club and she has been doing an excellent job. He stated the Board could work with the PACC with this violation. Selectman Miller stated he recused himself during the last hearing because he believed he was still a member. He stated he is not a member. He stated a horrible thing happened to the family but Mrs. Gargo has been trying her best to improve the club. He stated the Board could look at some sort of leniency. Selectman Becker stated they are looking to make alteration to the policy at the next Selectmen's meeting. The homeowner of the house that was effected came forward. She stated they have been out of their house for over a year. She stated the PACC should serve the whole seven days consecutively. She stated they are always trying to get off the hook. Attorney Erlich stated the bartender no longer works for the PACC. He stated five days is a lot of revenue lost. He stated the Manger is looking to make a better club. Selectman Miller stated the Board is currently reviewing the policy. He stated with people outside and children getting in the car nearby the accident the events could have been worse.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Becker to find the Polish American Citizens Club in violation and to suspend their liquor license for seven consecutive days.

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

**Town Administrator's Report**

Town Administrator Doug Willardson stated he would like to thank all the Veterans that organized and participated in the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony.

He stated the Firefighter Summer Carnival; June 23-25. Fireworks on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at dusk.

He stated the Library Summer Reading Program starts today for both children and adults. He stated to visit the website/Facebook page for more information.

He stated the beach will be staffed weekdays starting June 26, 2017.

He stated the Independence Day Fireworks will be July 1<sup>st</sup> at dusk.

He stated Webster's Wednesday Markets start July 5<sup>th</sup> through August 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

He stated the Summer Concert Series follows the market each Wednesday.

He stated under Public Health and Safety the Opioid Taskforce has been meeting. He stated there has been 21 overdoses in the past three months. (March: 6; April: 6; May: 9) Roughly half of those contacted by the Webster Resource Center have accepted help and are in rehabilitation programs. He stated the shooting victim of May 20<sup>th</sup> has been uncooperative, but with the help of surveillance video, members of the Worcester Police Department Gang Unit, Webster Police Department have identified the shooter and will be requesting a warrant for his arrest. The victim is a Worcester resident with known gang ties. The shooter has no known gang affiliation. The two were arguing about this when the shooter shot the victim in the ankle. The shooter is originally from Fall River. He stated on May 29<sup>th</sup> a male walked into the police station reporting he thought his car had been shot in retribution of an altercation that occurred the previous night. State Police Ballistics have searched the vehicle and there are no signs of a bullet. No gun casings were found. He stated this appears to be vandalism/destruction of property rather than a firearm. He stated Directive Proactive Patrols (DPPs) have been developed and implemented. The goal is to be highly visible, aggressive and productive. He stated operations include group traffic assignments, warrant round ups, cross walk stings, ect. He stated a recent traffic stop found 40 bags of weed packaged for street sale. He stated they are coordinating with other regional resources including the State Police. He stated they did an internal investigation into a December 2<sup>nd</sup> incident. He stated he received an email from someone that appears to be using an alias. He stated the email claimed that there was excessive use of force during an incident on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. He stated there was claims that the incident was not followed up on and there were attempts to cover up the incident. He stated the investigation cleared Officer Perry of any wrong doing and found the reports of a cover up unfounded. He stated the report determined that someone within or very close to the department was the original sender of the email. He stated the report identified actions of the officers that violated department policies and procedures. He stated appropriate disciplinary measures are underway. He stated the redacted report is available on the Town's website.

He stated under Financially Responsible the FY17 Budget for Snow and Ice is currently at a \$155,000 deficit and Legal is currently \$85,871 spent out of \$100,000 budgeted. He stated he is currently working on a five year forecast. He stated the independent audit draft is expected this week. He stated the ADA Committee received a \$22,000 grant for beach improvements.

He stated under Economic Development he is in discussions with two downtown property owners for TIF. He stated the Mass Organic Therapies is now operational. He stated the CME weekly status report is attached.

He stated under Maintain Infrastructure the Davis Street construction is underway. He stated the Water Treatment Plant has the SRF vote of the trust on June 21, 2017. He stated it has been previewed and is all set.

He stated under Effective Delivery of Services/Operations the next performance review will be the Senior Center on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

He stated under Clean and Beautiful the downtown signs have been installed. He stated the Town has foreclosed on 28 Mechanic Street. He stated the Town's Attorney is making a motion to foreclose on 34 East Main Street. He stated they are currently developing Nuisance Property/Slumlord By-Laws.

He stated under Transparent, Informative, Engaged and Customer Friendly Government the citizen's survey is available on the Town's website or paper copies at the Town Administrator's Office.

Selectman Dowgiewicz asked if there was going to be kayak rental at Memorial Beach. Mr. Willardson stated yes they are starting this weekend. He asked if there was any information on a potential marina. Mr. Willardson stated that will take several months. He stated that will probably be operational next spring.

Selectman Miller stated he received two emails and forwarded them to the Town Administrator. He stated he needed his computer for work and could not relinquish it. Selectman Becker stated he would like to have this on the next agenda for discussion. He stated he would like the DA to do an investigation. He stated this needs to be investigated. He stated this is a violation and needs to be addressed.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Miller to have this situation further investigated.

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

**Motion:** made by Selectman Bourque seconded by Selectman Miller to approve the Town Administrator's Report.

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

Selectman Becker stated he would like the Town Administrator to speak with the Police Chief and get a list of the top 20 problem properties in town. He stated he would like to draft a policy in which the Town Departments could enforce some standards.

## **New Business**

Mr. Willardson stated the Board met in Executive Session to discuss the Executive Secretary for the Board of Selectmen's position. Selectman Miller stated he was very impressed with Jennifer Cederberg's resume and thinks she would be a great asset to the Board.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Becker to appoint Jennifer Cederberg to the Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectmen's position.

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

Mr. Willardson stated the Board received a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the Town of Webster. He stated this agreement would save the town money. He stated there would be an estimated \$167,000 in savings. He stated the cost to purchase the street lights would cost an estimated \$300,000 total. He stated the lights would be natural. He stated the next step would be to request the money to fund the estimated total.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Becker to re-appoint Paul LaFramboise to the Planning Board for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

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

**Motion:** made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Becker to re-appoint William Keefe as Constable.

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

Mr. Willardson stated the Polish American Citizen's Club appeals their first liquor license violation issued by the Board. He stated there will be a hearing on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Jolda stated he will attend.

Mr. Willardson handed out the Fire Union Contract. He went through the proposed changes. He stated it is a fair agreement and both sides are happy.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Bourque to approve the Fire Union Contract as presented.

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

Selectman Becker stated he asked to have the Selectmen Code of Conduct on the agenda for discussion. He stated it is a good policy for the Board to have. He stated he would like to have this on the next agenda in order to give the Board more time to read the policy.

Doran Crouse came forward. He went through the Powerpoint presentation on the water quality.

Mr. Willardson stated he is looking to create an Open Space and Recreation Committee. He stated their main focus would be Memorial Beach. He stated he would like to have Webster be looked at as a whole.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Miller to create a Open Space and Recreation Committee.

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

Mr. Willardson stated most surrounding Towns have decided to close early on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July in order to give families an early start to the holiday. He stated with the Board's approval he would like to have the hours of Friday.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Becker to open 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 3, 2017.

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

Mr. Willardson stated the Board received copies of the draft Senior Tax Work-off policy. He stated unless the Board have any changes or suggestion they would like to make he would like to move forward.

Mr. Willardson stated he would like to transfer \$40,000 for the Town Administrator's Executive Secretary Salary line to the Inspectional Services Nuisance Property line for the demolition of the structure at 34 East Main Street.

**Motion:** made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Miller to transfer \$40,000 for the Town Administrator's Executive Secretary Salary line to the Inspectional Services Nuisance Property line for the demolition of the structure at 34 East Main Street.

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

Mr. Willardson stated the Board will vote on the FY17 end of year transfer at their next meeting.

Mr. Willardson read the informational mail.

## **Adjournment**

**Motion:** made by Selectman Miller, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to adjourn regular session at 8:07 p.m.

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