

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 24, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **Also Present:** Town Manager Gaudette.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None

PUBLIC HEARING/None

APPOINTMENTS: By the Town Manager (Vote to nominate): Scott Schofield, Animal Inspector/Present: Jeanne Gniadek, Board of Health Administrator. Mrs. Gniadek explained that our former Animal Inspector, Maurice Guilbault, has given his notice to resign and Mr. Schofield, who works with Mr. Guilbault in other communities and was highly recommended by him. The Board of Health did meet with him and felt he would be a good fit. She further explained that the nomination from the Board of Selectmen will be forwarded to the Department of Agriculture for further approval. Mr. Schofield stated that he lived in Whitinsville the first 14 years of his life, went to school here, then went to Norfolk County Agricultural High School where he graduated with a major in farm and livestock management. He currently works there full-time as an Animal Science staff person taking care of all the animals. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to nominate Scott Schofield as the Animal Inspector for the Town of Northbridge. Vote yes/Unanimous.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT:

Annual Town Election [May 16, 2023]/Vote to sign Election Warrant/Present: Linda Zywiec, Town Clerk. Mrs. Zywiec stated that this is a yearly request for the Board to vote to sign the Election warrant. She pointed out that this year's warrant only has the list of offices as there are no ballot questions. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to sign the Annual Town Election Warrant [May 16, 2023]. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Spring Annual Town Meeting [May 2, 2023]/Vote position on all warrant articles - Presentations from Petitioners/Present: Attorney Rob Knapik. Town Manager Gaudette explained that there are two petition articles [Articles 24 and 25] that Mr. Knapik will be presenting prior to the Select Board voting their positions on the warrant articles. He noted that both the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Finance Committee voted to support both articles. Mr. Knapik pointed out that Article 25 deals with property on Providence Road and explained that passing this article would extend the B-2 zoning district about 900 feet southerly from Union Street. This would include the Dollar General property, which is owned by the Giannopoulos family, who are the ones who have come forward with this petition. If approved, Dr. Sawyer would like to use a portion of the property for a veterinary clinic, which would need to be approved through a special permit in a B-2 zoning district. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to support article 25 (petition article). Vote yes/Unanimous. Mr. Knapik then moved to Article 24 and explained that this is a rezoning of land that lies westerly of Providence Road and southerly of Wing Road. The petitioners are seeking to rezone this land from B-3 to R-3. When the purchaser bought the land, it was divided into vacant land that became Milford Federal Savings and Loan and a second parcel became Wing Building, which is where his offices are located. The third parcel was intended to be developed for commercial purposes and is zoned for that, but they think because there is no frontage and its size it does not have potential for commercial development or business uses. They are hoping that by rezoning it, it will aid in

the land being used. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to support Article 24. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 1:** Prior year bills- This is a standard article for this time of year and there is one for National Grid for DPW which was due to the shuffle of ownership from the School Department to the Town. **Article 2:** FY '23 Budget Adjustments- Town Manager Gaudette stated that transfers include the Snow and Ice budget, additional funding for the landfill analysis, and Fire and Ambulance overtime fill-ins for an employee out on Injured on Duty. **Article 3:** FY 24 Omnibus Budget Article – based on the Governor’s budget. **Article 4:** FY '24 Sewer Enterprise Fund. **Article 5:** FY'24 Water Enterprise Fund. **Article 6:** Chapter 90. **Article 7:** Compensated Balance Agreements. **Article 8:** Annual reauthorization of BOH & Playground and Recreation Accounts. **Article 9:** FY24 Pine Grove Cemetery budget. **Article 10:** Use Community Preservation Fund revenues for Community Preservation Projects FY24. **Article 11:** \$10K for Community Preservation Commission Expenses. **Article 12:** Pine Grove tree and stump removal. **Article 13:** Retained Earnings (Sewer Ent) - \$150K for CWMP work, \$150K for 3 raw sewage pumps and \$200K retrofitting the entire UV system. **Article 14:** Retained earnings from water - \$60K to replace fire hydrants. **Article 15:** Capital Projects. **Article 16:** Unexpended funds from prior appropriations- \$115,846.01 for public sewer conversion (Police Station), and purchase of 2 motorcycles and a trailer (Police Station). **Article 17:** School Committee - \$193,775 from Town Building Maintenance Fund: \$19,500 (Ride on Floor Scrubber); \$70,300 to replace doors/frames at NMS; \$24,975 to replace clocks at NMS; and \$79,000 to refinish gym floors at NMS and NHS. Selectman Collins asked how many doors and door frames they would be replacing. Town Manager Gaudette read aloud the description provided by the School from the Annual Town Meeting Booklet. Selectman Ampagoomian asked where the account stands from the money that we are getting from the solar farms. He explained that the building maintenance fund can only be used for certain items, and we get about \$300,000 dollars a year and we have been spending pretty much all of that over the last few years, but this year they are only spending \$190,000 dollars of the proposed \$300,000 this year. Next year we would expect the same \$300,000 in addition to the new project that will come on for McQuade’s Lane and the left over surplus. Town Manager Gaudette explained that the PILOT agreements go for 20 years so there are probably a few of them that are in the 15 -18 year range, so they are trying to get as many of the Building Maintenance projects done as possible. **Article 18:** Dispose of the Main Street Fire Station (Map 2/Parcel 44). **Article 19:** Dispose of the former Elementary School (Map 14A/Parcel 160). The Finance Committee voted to pass over the article. They suggested that they would like to have the project that is selected come to the Town Meeting and bring it forward for the voters to make the decision. **Article 20:** Dispose of town-owned vacant land on Providence Road (Map 14/Parcel 17). **Article 21:** Grant an easement to Nat’l Grid for electric service and to Eversource for propane service at the new Fire Station. **Article 22:** Transfer remaining balance of \$1,001,117.37 from the Health Ins. Stabilization Fund to the General Stabilization Fund. **Article 23: Finance Comm.** Transfer \$297,940 from Free Cash to the General Stabilization Fund. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to support articles 1 through 23 of the May 2, 2023 Spring Annual Town meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

George Marston Whitin Community Association Inc. dba Whitin Community Center/1) Gala Event on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 5:30 PM to 10 PM / Request for a one-day entertainment license; 2) Picnic in the Park event on Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 10 AM to 2 PM: a) Request for a one-day entertainment license; b) Request for a one-day wine and malt license; 3) Cars in the Park event on Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 10 AM to 4 PM: a) Request for a one-day entertainment license b) Request for a one-day wine and malt license; 4) Greenway Challenge event on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 11 AM to 6 PM: a) Request for a one-day entertainment license, b) Request for a one-day wine and malt license; 5) Haunted Trail event on Friday, October 27, 2023 from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Present: Heather Elster. Ms. Elster explained that they planned all of their events out for the year since they are celebrating their 100-year anniversary. She noted that the Gala Event will take place from 5:30 – 10:30 at the Community Center. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian/seconded Mr. Melia to approve the above requests for 1) one-day entertainment license for the Gala event on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 5:30 PM to 10 PM; 2a) one-day entertainment license and b) one-day wine and malt license for the Picnic in the Park event on Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 10 AM to 2 PM; 3a) one-day entertainment

license; b) one-day wine and malt license for the Cars in the Park event on Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 10 AM to 4 PM; 4a) one-day entertainment license; 4b) one-day wine and malt license Greenway Challenge event on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 11 AM to 6 PM; 5) Haunted Trail event on Friday, October 27, 2023 from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Vote yes/Unanimous.

2023 Annual License Renewals [Junk Dealers, Bowling & Billiards]/Vote to approve subject to the payment of all monies due the Town. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the 2023 Annual License Renewals [Junk Dealers, Bowling & Billiards] subject to the payment of all monies due the Town. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Village Congregational Church [Harvest Festival, Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 9 AM to 3 PM [Rain date: Sunday, September 24, 2023] / 1) Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, September 10, 2023 to Sunday, September 24, 2023; 2) Request to close Church Street from Park Street to Main Street from 8 AM to 4 PM. 3) Request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 8 AM to 4 PM; and 4) Request for a One-Day entertainment license. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the request to 1) hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, September 10, 2023 to Sunday, September 24, 2023; 2) to close Church Street from Park Street to Main Street from 8 AM to 4 PM; 3) to use Memorial Park on Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 8 AM to 4 PM; and 4) One-Day entertainment license. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Sky Community Services/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from June 18, 2023 to July 2, 2023 to advertise their Summer Concert Series Event to take place Thursday evenings June 29 – August 31 from 6 PM – 8 PM. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia too approve the request to hang a banner across Church Street from June 18, 2023 to July 2, 2023 to advertise their Summer Concert Series Event to take place Thursday evenings June 29 – August 31 from 6 PM – 8 PM. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Minutes (March 15, 2023) / Vote to accept the recommendations. Town Manager Gaudette reviewed the recommendations provided in the minutes. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to accept the recommendations of the March 15, 2023 Safety Committee meeting minutes. Vote yes/Unanimous.

DISCUSSIONS/None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Town Manager Gaudette noted that the Spring Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7 PM at the Middle School.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: **Selectman Melia** offered condolences on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to the Massey family for their loss of Diane Massey who passed away over the weekend. **Selectmen Paulhus** asked if the painting of the water tank on Hill Street would have any disruption to traffic. DPW Director Jamie Luchini noted that there should not be any disruption as it is off site and it is all exterior painting. **Selectman Ampagoomian/1)** asked about the ornamental lights on Church Street and in Rockdale. Mr. Luchini stated that the lights for Church Street are scheduled to be delivered on May 5th and should be installed sometime thereafter. The light in Rockdale does not have an eta yet. **2)** asked about the paving that Whitinsville Water Company will be doing. Mr. Luchini stated that they did a walk through and met with the contractor and it should be completed over the summer. **3)** asked about the intersection of Sutton Street, Route 122, School Street, and Upton Street, noting that the State wanted to put in a roundabout. Mr. Luchini clarified that the state does not want a roundabout but requested that the parameters that were submitted for the TIP project include an option for a roundabout. Our consultant sent in what they felt were the best options, which did include a roundabout, but nothing has been approved yet. **4)** reminded everyone that today, April 24th is Martyrs Day.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:42 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Paulhus, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

April 24, 2023

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**
- II. PUBLIC HEARING/None**
- III. APPOINTMENTS: A. By the Town Manager (Vote to nominate): Scott Schofield, Animal Inspector/Present: Jeanne Gniadek, Board of Health Administrator**
 - Copy of memorandum regarding the appointment of Scott Schofield as Animal Inspector
 - Copy of nomination of inspector of Animals form
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT**
- V. DECISIONS**
 - B. Annual Town Election [May 16, 2023]/Vote to sign Election Warrant/Present: Linda Zywiec, Town Clerk/No documentation**
 - C. Spring Annual Town Meeting [May 2, 2023]/Vote position on all warrant articles - Presentations from Petitioners/Present: Attorney Rob Knapik**
 - Copy of Spring Town Meeting Positions form
 - Copy of Spring Town Meeting Warrant
 - Copy of memo from the Planning Board recommendation for article 24
 - Copy of proposed zoning changes for article 24
 - Copy of memo from the Planning Board recommendation for article 23
 - Copy of proposed zoning changes for article 23
 - D. George Marston Whitin Community Association Inc. dba Whitin Community Center/1) Gala event on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 5:30 PM to 10 PM - request for a one-day entertainment license; 2) Picnic in the Park event on Saturday, June 10 2023 from 10 AM to 2 PM 2a) request for a one-day entertainment license; 2b) request for a one-day wine and malt license; 3) Cars in the Park event on Saturday, August 19, 2023 from 10 AM to 4 PM 3a) request for a one-day entertainment license 3b) request for a one-day wine and malt license; 4) Greenway Challenge event on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 11 AM to 6 PM 4a) request for a one-day entertainment license 4b) request for a one-day wine and malt license; 5) Haunted Trail event on Friday, October 27, 2023 from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM/Present: Heather Elster or Jennifer Castro**
 - Copy of Application for a one-day entertainment license for the Gala Event
 - Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
 - Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
 - Copy of License Routing Slip
 - Copy of application for a one-day entertainment
 - Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
 - Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
 - Copy of application for one-day entertainment license for Picnic in the Park
 - Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
 - Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
 - Copy of Hold Harmless Agreement

- Copy of License Routing Slip
- Copy of application for a one-day entertainment license for the Cars in the Park Event
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
- Copy of application for a one-day wine and malt license for the Cars in the Park event
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
- Copy of Hold Harmless Agreement
- Copy of License Routing Slip
- Copy of one-day entertainment license for the Greenway Challenge
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
- Copy of application for a one-day wine and malt license for the Greenway Challenge
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
- Copy of Hold Harmless Agreement
- Copy of License Routing Slip
- Copy of application for a one-day entertainment license for the Haunted Trail event
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
- Copy of License Routing Slip

E. 2023 Annual License Renewals [Junk Dealers, Bowling & Billiards]/Vote to approve subject to the payment of all monies due the Town

- Copy of 2023 Annual license renewals listing

F. Village Congregational Church [Harvest Festival, Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 9 AM to 3 PM [*Rain date: Sunday, September 24, 2023*]/1) Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, September 10, 2023 to Sunday, September 24, 2023; 2) Request to close Church Street from Park Street to Main Street from 8 AM to 4 PM. 3) Request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 8 AM to 4 PM; and 4) Request for a One-Day entertainment license.

- Copy of email requesting a banner and to close Church Street
- Copy of email from the DPW Director approving the closure
- Copy of Memorial Park Request Form
- Copy of application for a one-day entertainment for Harvest Festival
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Certificate of Liability Insurance
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Affidavit
- Copy of Hold Harmless Agreement
- Copy of Certificate of Exemption

G. Open Sky Community Services/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from June 18, 2023 to July 2, 2023 to advertise their Summer Concert Series Event to take place Thursday evenings June 29 – August 31 from 6 PM – 8 PM

- Copy email requesting to hang a banner across Church Street

H. Safety Committee Minutes (March 15, 2023) / Vote to accept the recommendations

- Copy of March 15, 2023 Safety Committee meeting minutes

- VI. DISCUSSIONS/None**
- VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None**
- VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation**
- IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**
- X. CORRESPONDENCE/None**
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**