

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**June 17, 2019**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Thomas Melia at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Present: Board Members: Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan. Also Present: Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager. Selectwoman Cannon was absent, and it is duly noted.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

**1) Town Manager asked for Nominations for Chairman.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to nominate Selectman James Athanas as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan. Chairman Athanas thanked the Board. **2) Chairman Athanas asked for Nominations for Vice-Chairman.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to nominate Selectwoman Alicia Cannon as Vice Chairman. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan. **3) Chairman Athanas asked for Nominations for Clerk.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to nominate Selectman Daniel Nolan as Clerk. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**

**PUBLIC HEARING/None**

**APPOINTMENTS/By the Board of Selectmen: 2019 Annual Reappointments/Vote to appoint.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the Board of Selectmen's 2019 Annual Reappointments as indicated on the list provided in the agenda packets. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan.

**APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager: 2019 Annual Reappointments/Vote to affirm.** A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to affirm the Town Manager's 2019 Annual Reappointments as indicated on the list provided in the agenda packets. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan.

**RESIGNATIONS: Melissa Dognazzi, Cultural Council.** A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to accept the resignation and send a letter of appreciation. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT:** Keri Bigness, 192 Mason Road, requested the Board of Selectmen's assistance in resolving a dispute with the School Building Committee in regard to the design of the athletic field for the new Balmer School and its effects on both the environment and abutting residents. Mrs. Bigness stated that her main area of concern is the rear woods primarily between the wetlands and the Mason Road residents. She explained that from her understanding a certified letter and a detailed environmental impact plan should have been sent to all abutters within three-hundred feet of the proposed clearing and to her knowledge it was not completed. She also mentioned another concern is the pooling of water caused by the clearing of the woods and the construction of the U10 soccer field. Mrs. Bigness explained that the engineer-stamped survey has caused a two-foot property line dispute. She noted that after 2 years of attending the School Building Committee meetings, they were verbally notified that there is a property line concern, where residents were told they had until June 28, 2019, to remove their personal property that is allegedly located on the town's property. Continuing, Mrs. Bigness stated that Mr. Strazzulla of the School Building Committee, made an appearance at her door stating that they needed to move their shed by June 28<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned that at a meeting with the Town Manager she was informed that this was not the process when

abutters to Town property are claiming to be over the line, rather an actual certified letter would have to be sent to the resident giving them 28 days from the receipt of notice to either remove personal property or dispute the claim. Mrs. Bigness said that the Town Manager indicated that the residents cannot claim adverse possession, which according to Attorney Hubbard of the law firm Murphy and Rudolf out of Worcester, Massachusetts is inaccurate. She further mentioned that other false claims made by the School Building Committee include telling an unaffected neighbor that his planned fence must be installed 10 feet from the property line, which was confirmed with the Building Inspector to also be inaccurate. She explained that abutters are still awaiting a buffer zone confirmation and description. Mrs. Bigness stated that the budget has been requested and the School Building Committee replied that the Architect and Engineer are working on it, which means they do not even have a budget in place to know what amount will be affected by the 8% site cap. She added that the School Building Committee declined the neighbors' request for consideration and Mr. Strazzulla stated he cannot support this proposed change and they have worked diligently over the past few years to share the design with the public and gather input. Mrs. Bigness stated that monies allocated back to the School Building Committee could provide numerous benefits such as smart technology, upgraded utilities, teaching supplies and even nature walkways. John Armstrong of 202 Mason Road, stated that his biggest concern in regard to the new Balmer School, is that he has a rock wall at the back of his property line, some parts are outside, others are inside, and some are right on. He stated that the rock wall has been there for 30 years, and to remove the rock wall would be a costly process and very timely to move the rock 3 feet. He also mentioned that he has concern that if the rock wall is removed, since the land beyond the wall is lower than his yard, it would wash out.

**Bond Anticipation Notes (Department of Public Works Facility)/Vote to Sign. Present: Julie Harris, Treasurer/Collector and Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant.** Mr. Vaidya explained that these are bonds for the DPW Facility for the second year. Ms. Harris stated that the bid was held this morning and Oppenheimer was awarded the bid at 2% with a bond premium of \$450 dollars. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to award the sale of \$2,250,000 bond anticipation notes dated June 28, 2019 and payable June 26, 2020 to Oppenheimer and Company at a rate of 2%. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan.

**St. Patrick's Parish/1) Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, September 8, 2019 to Sunday, September 22, 2019 to advertise their annual Fall Festival event.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve St. Patrick's Church's request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, September 8, 2019 to Sunday, September 22, 2019 to advertise their annual Fall Festival event. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan. **2) Request to close East Street from Cross Street to the entrance of the Christian Reformed Church parking lot on September 21, 2019 from 7 AM - 5 PM.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve St. Patrick's request to close East Street from Cross Street to the entrance of the Christian Reformed Church parking lot on September 21, 2019 from 7 AM - 5 PM, subject to the safety requirements of the Police Department.

**Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (April 25, 2019)/Vote to accept recommendations.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of April 25, 2019. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan.

**Blackstone Valley Veterans' Services District/Vote to approve Inter-Municipal Agreement.** Town Manager Gaudette explained that we are currently involved in a Veteran's Service District with the Towns of Uxbridge, Douglas and Sutton, with Uxbridge being the host. He noted there are two changes; the first change is to add the Town of Blackstone to the agreement, which will change our contribution rate from 33% to 29%. He said the second change would be to have the Assistant Director become a full-time position based on the growth of the program. Mr. Gaudette recommends moving forward with this agreement, which would be in place for 3 years. Selectman Nolan asked if the addition of another Town would have an effect on the number of hours worked in Town. The Town Manager replied that there have been no changes to

the duration of service hours. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the Inter-municipal Agreement for a 3-year term. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan.

Town Manager Gaudette explained that he received notice from Town Counsel that with the reorganization of the Board the Selectmen should re-vote to designate and authorize Mrs. Cannon to continue her role as the Selectmen's designee to the School Building Committee and to authorize her to sign on the Board's behalf. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to designate Mrs. Cannon as the Selectmen's designee to the School Building Committee and to authorize her to sign on the Board's behalf. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: 1) Key Meetings Attended:** Monday, June 3, 2019 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting. Tuesday, June 4, 2019 – Attended Workshop #3 with Open Sky regarding Community Arts. Tuesday, June 4, 2019 – Standard & Poor Bond Rating review with UniBank and staff. Wednesday, June 5, 2019 – Attended Workshop #4 with Open Sky regarding Community Arts. Thursday, June 6, 2019 – Meeting with the OPM and Architect for the Fire Station Feasibility Study to discuss the scope of services for the project. Thursday, June 6, 2019 – Conference call with MAPC, Tanko Lighting, staff and KP Law regarding potential resolutions to the Streetlight Construction delay. Monday, June 10, 2019 – Met with Jack Crawford regarding the Serve Program, for which 85 youth will be coming to the Town in July for 4 days to help on town/community projects. Monday, June 10, 2019 – Met with Bob Moran from National Grid to discuss the Streetlight Conversion Project. Tuesday, June 11, 2019 – Conference Call with Tanko Lighting and KP Law regarding the Streetlight Conversion Project. Tuesday, June 11, 2019 – Staff Meeting regarding Lovey's Marketplace, Main Street. Tuesday, June 11, 2019 – Conference Call with Cardinal (OPM) on the Fire Station Feasibility Study Project. Wednesday, June 12, 2019 – Met with MSBA at the architect Dore & Whittier's office in Newburyport. Thursday, June 13, 2019 – Met with Larry Green from WDA, a turf field project designer. Thursday, June 13, 2019 – Met with Chairman Melia to discuss the BOS meeting agenda. Thursday, June 13, 2019 – Met with Upton Town Manager Derek Brandisi regarding mutual projects. Thursday, June 13, 2019 – Met with Mason Road resident, Keri Bigness, to discuss concerns with the Balmer School project that abuts her property. Thursday, June 13, 2019 – Attended the BPCC Meeting to discuss the Fire Station Feasibility project and the Turf Field project. Friday, June 14, 2019 – Held a Department Managers Meeting. **2) Balmer School Building Project:** The Building Committee met this past Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> to continue the work on Design Development and Permitting with the architect Dore & Whittier and CM-at-Risk Fontaine Brothers. The Planning Board has approved the Site Plan Review and the Conservation Commission is in the process of reviewing the Notice of Intent. Also, the Town is conducting additional Sewer Flow Analysis through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant CDM Smith. A Design Status meeting with MSBA was also held this past Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at Dore & Whittier Offices. **3) Fire Station Project (Feasibility Study):** The BPCC has selected the firm Kaestle-Boos out of Foxborough to perform the study. The BPCC met this past Thursday, June 13, 2019 and voted to approve the scope of services agreement and fee with the architect. The project has officially kicked off and the Fire Programming Consultant is set to meet with Chief White on June 26<sup>th</sup>. **4) Lasell Field Turf Project:** The BPCC met this past Thursday, June 13, 2019 to discuss next steps. They discussed having staff work collecting data from other school districts/towns on the process they used for their projects; such as the need for an OPM, procurement, doing design and then construction vs design-build, etc. The working group will report back to the BPCC in July. **5) LED Streetlight Conversion:** The construction/installation efforts began Monday, April 29, 2019. The Contractor, Daigle, has been working in the areas of Linwood Ave, Main Street, Purgatory Road, Cooper Road, Adams Circle, No. Main Street, Country Club Lane, and Fletcher Street. The project has been on hold due to construction clarification with National Grid and the contractor. The contractor has been given the greenlight to continue with construction while NGRID discussions work towards resolution. **6) Recreational Marijuana:** The Host Community Agreements for **True Nature's Wellness** (retail), **Eskar** (retail) and **The Botanist** (cultivation) have all been approved by the BOS. The applicants' next steps include getting Planning Board and Cannabis Control Commission approvals. **7) Solar PILOTs:** The PILOTs for Nexamp (Sutton Solar 2 project – Lasell Road)

and Syncarpha (Northbridge I & II project – Linwood Ave) have been approved. The PILOT discussions for Syncarpha's Puddon I & II are ongoing.

Town Manager Gaudette announced the Business Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, June 21, 2019 from 8 AM to 10 AM. Town Manager Gaudette stated that local representatives from the business community, State Officials and Town Officials will be present.

**SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS:** **Selectman Melia/1)** attended the Building, Planning and Construction Committee meeting this past Wednesday and hoping that in the upcoming months there will be plenty of forums and meetings and he looks forward to hearing the updates when they come forth. **2)** attended the Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the new Elementary School and thought it was very professional with nice words from the State Officials. **Selectman Ampagoomian/1)** reminded residents that the Fireworks will be held Saturday, June 29, 2019 from 2 PM and until 11 PM. **2)** stated he also attended the Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the new Elementary School and thought it was well attended. **3)** asked for an update on the LED lights and where they are going next. Town Manager Gaudette stated that he doesn't have the list in front of him but does have the list of what has been completed and what hasn't, and the contractor is in town moving forward with the remainder of the project. **Chairman Athanas/1)** asked about street paving and if there has been any progress. Town Manager Gaudette stated that bids have come in and it has been reported that they were better than expected. The Highway Department is beginning work on Benson Road, Hill Street, and Old Quaker Road. **2)** mentioned that residents have complained to him about holes on School Street heading towards Quaker Street, which looks like the road is starting to cave in and asked if it could be checked into. Town Manager Gaudette stated that he is aware of the location and noted that they have applied for a grant several times in regard to the failure of that culvert but will seek information from the Highway Department to see if there is anything that can be done short term.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Building, Planning and Construction Committee Update on Lasell Field and the Fire Station.**

**CORRESPONDENCE/None**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Melia and Nolan.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:35 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

**/mjw**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTATION  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION  
June 17, 2019**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:**

- 1) Town Manager asks for Nominations for Chairman**
- 2) Chairman asks for Nominations for Vice-Chairman**
- 3) Chairman asks for Nominations for Clerk**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**

**II. PUBLIC HEARING/None**

**III. APPOINTMENTS: A. 1) By the Board of Selectmen: 2019 Annual Reappointments/Vote to appoint B. 2) By the Town Manager: 2019 Annual Reappointments/Vote to affirm**

- Copy of 2019 Annual Reappointment Listing by the Board of Selectmen
- Copy of 2019 Annual Reappointment Listing by the Town Manager
- Copy of memorandum of attendance record sent to Boards and Committees
- Copy of attendance records for the Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Building, Planning and Construction Committee, Cable Advisory Committee, Conservation Commission, Council on Aging, Historical Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals

**RESIGNATIONS: C. Melissa Dognazzi, Cultural Council**

- Copy of email resignation from Melissa Dognazzi

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/No documentation**

**V. DECISIONS:**

**D. Bond Anticipation Notes (Department of Public Works Facility)/Vote to Sign.**

- No documentation

**E. St. Patrick's Parish/1) Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, September 8, 2019 to Sunday, September 22, 2019 to advertise their annual Fall Festival event; 2) Request to close East Street from Cross Street to the entrance of the Christian Reformed Church on September 21, 2019 from 7 AM - 5 PM**

- Copy of letter requesting to hang a banner and to close East Street

**F. Safety Committee Meeting Minutes (April 25, 2019)/Vote to accept recommendations**

- Copy of April 25, 2019 Safety Committee meeting minutes

**G. Blackstone Valley Veterans' Services District/Vote to approve Inter-Municipal Agreement**

- Copy of Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Blackstone Valley Veteran's Services

**VI. DISCUSSIONS**

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS**

**IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

**X. CORRESPONDENCE**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**