

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 12, 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: Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. Selectman Ampagoomian was absent and it is duly noted. **Also Present:** Town Manager Adam D. Gaudette.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 10, 2023.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the April 10, 2023 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

### **PUBLIC HEARING/None**

**APPOINTMENTS/By the Board of Selectmen: Wendy Timmons, Historical Commission / Vote to remove member due to lack of attendance (per Section 8-6 of the Town Charter).** Town Manager Gaudette explained that in accordance with the Charter and after discussing with the Chairman of the Historical Commission, Ms. Timmons has been unresponsive attending meetings and did not request reappointment. With that they would like to remove her from the Historical Commission to get an active member to fill that position. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Begin to remove Wendy Timmons from the Historical Commission due to lack of attendance per section 8-6 of the Town Charter. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**James Lurgio, Historical Commission (Vote to appoint) / Present: Ken Warchol, Member.** Mr. Warchol noted that Ms. Timmons did a fantastic job for them, but unfortunately, they had not heard from her for the last two and a half years. Mr. Lurgio has been in town for seven years now. He owns a horror museum in Salem Massachusetts. Mr. Lurgio stated that he loves living in such a historic town and has a passion for historical things. He worked for a long time in Newport at one of the mansions where he learned a lot and feels it is applicable to this position. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to appoint James Lurgio to the Historical Commission. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**By the Town Manager [Vote to Affirm]: Christopher Bessette, Master Mechanic, Highway Department/Present: Jamie Luchini, DPW Director.** Mr. Luchini explained that Mr. Bessette is very knowledgeable, familiar with the job and eager to start. Mr. Bessette started as a seasonal employee, then moved his way through the ranks as a Laborer and then Heavy Equipment operator. Mr. Bessette stated he is looking forward to this opportunity and is excited to build his career here. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Begin to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Christopher Bessette as Master Mechanic for the Department of Public Works. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Joshua Geary, Operator in Training, Sewer Department/Present: Michael Havalotti, Sewer Superintendent.** Mr. Havalotti added that they had a great interview with Mr. Geary and he feels he can bring good skills and tools to the Sewer Department. Mr. Geary is a local resident and has experience working with machines. Mr. Geary noted that he has been working nights most of his life and has two children, so this is a great opportunity for him. He noted that he looks forward to building a career here in town. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Joshua Geary as Operator in Training to the Sewer Department. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Ailionora Thompson, Part-Time Library Assistant/Present: Rebecca Sasseville, Library Director.** Ms. Sasseville explained that typically they do not hire temporary assistants but with the summer season being so busy she felt it necessary for coverage. Ms. Thompson stated that she recently graduated from High School and plans to go to College for Informational Library Science. She stated this temporary job is perfect as she can get some experience and knowledge in before college and she is looking forward to the experience. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Begin to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Ailionora Thompson as a Temporary Part-Time Library Assistant. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**RESIGNATIONS: Steven J. Gniadek, Conservation Commission.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to accept the resignation of Steven J. Gniadek from the Conservation Commission and send a letter of appreciation for his service. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Jonathan Smith, Disability Commission.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to accept the resignation of Jonathan Smith from the Disability Commission and send a letter of appreciation for his service. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**

**Boot Drives: Vote to eliminate boot drives due to safety concerns. Present: Police Chief Labrie.** Chief Labrie explained that his concerns were expressed at a previous meeting when a request came forward for a boot drive. Primarily, his concerns are for the safety of individuals participating in the book drives and of course the traffic. Chief Labrie expressed that with today's technology there are other "safer" ways to raise funds. The Board had asked that he take this before the Safety Committee, which he did and they agreed with his concerns. The Board members agreed with the points he brought forward. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to eliminate boot drives due to safety concerns. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Bond Anticipation Notes: 1) Department of Public Works Facility in the amount of \$1,250,000 2) Northbridge Elementary School in the amount of \$13,500,000 3) Castle Hill Land Purchase in the amount of \$1,200,000 / Vote to sign.** Treasurer/Collector Julie Harris explained that on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, they went out to bid for \$15,950,000 dollars and received five bids. The bid was awarded to Bank of America at a rate of 3.668% and we were also issued a \$211,000 dollar premium, which we will not have to pay back. The premium, she explained is due to the Town's Bond rating of AA+ and our progression forward. She explained that the Board will need to vote to sign the note, which will allow her to move forward. Selectman Collins praised the financial team for all their hard work in getting the Town's rating in a favorable position. A motion/Mr. Paulhus, seconded/Mr. Melia to sign the following notes: 1) Department of Public Works Facility in the amount of \$1,250,000; 2) Northbridge Elementary School in the amount of \$13,500,000; and 3) Castle Hill Land Purchase in the amount of \$1,200,000. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Vote to accept a chainsaw valued at \$138.03 from David Pickart to be used by the Conservation Commission.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to accept the donation of a chainsaw valued at \$138.03 from David Pickart to be used by the Conservation Commission. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/Patricia Mezynski and Frederick Mezynski [Lot No. 264, two burials, Forest Ave. (East)].** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the sale of Lot No. 264, two burials, Forest Ave. (East)] to Patricia Mezynski and Frederick Mezynski. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Housing Production Plan/Public Forum [Tuesday, 6/27 at 7 PM]/Town Manager Announcement.**

Town Manager Gaudette announced that there will be a Housing Production Plan public forum on Tuesday June 27, 2023 at 7 PM at the Town Hall, Board of Selectmen's Room, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville. This forum will provide an update of the assessment of housing needs and identifying priority housing needs and strategies to address those needs. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None**

**SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS:** **Selectman Melia/1)** noted that he has received several compliments on the electronic sign and thanked the Town Manager and DPW Director, Jamie Luchini for their efforts in moving this along. **2)** noted that Northbridge resident Brenden Hester is one of 156 individuals who qualified for the Senior US Open Golf Tournament. He is also a multiple club champion at Pleasant Valley and has also won the Mass Open. The tournament will take place at the end of June and the first week of July. Selectman Melia suggested after the Tournament is completed that Mr. Hester be recognized. **Selectman Paulhus** congratulated the Northridge Baseball team for their efforts in getting to the final four and wished them luck in their next two games.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**CORRESPONDENCE/None**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**

Chairman Collins noted that the banner that is hung across Church Street will now be hung by the DPW instead of the Fire Department as the DPW now has the bucket truck.

A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:26 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Thomas Begin, Clerk**

**/mjc**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTATION**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION**

**June 12, 2023**

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A. April 10, 2023**  
-Copy of April 10, 2023 meeting minutes
- II. PUBLIC HEARING**
- III. APPOINTMENTS/By the Board of Selectmen: B. 1) Wendy Timmons, Historical Commission / Vote to remove member due to lack of attendance (per Section 8-6 of the Town Charter)**  
-Copy of certified letter sent to Ms. Timmons regarding her removal from the Historical Commission  
-Copy of bylaw Section 8-6 Removals and Suspensions
- 2) James Lurgio, Historical Commission (Vote to appoint) / Present: Ken Warchol, Member**  
-Copy of Talent Bank form for James Lurgio
- By the Town Manager [Vote to Affirm]: C. 1) Christopher Bessette, Master Mechanic, Highway Department/Present: Jamie Luchini, DPW Director**  
-Copy of memo from the DPW Director recommending the appointment of Christopher Bessette as Master Mechanic
- 2) Joshua Geary, Operator in Training, Sewer Department/Present: Michael Havalotti, Sewer Superintendent**  
-Copy of application for employment  
-Copy of Resume
- 3) Ailionora Thompson, Part-Time Library Assistant/Present: Rebecca Sasseville, Library Director**  
-Copy of Application for Employment
- RESIGNATIONS: D. 1) Steven J. Gniadek, Conservation Commission**  
-Copy of resignation letter from Steven Gniadek
- 2) Jonathan Smith, Disability Commission**  
-Copy of resignation letter from Jonathan Smith
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**
- V. DECISIONS:**
- E. Boot Drives: Vote to eliminate boot drives due to safety concerns/Present: Police Chief Labrie/No documentation**
- F. Bond Anticipation Notes: 1) Department of Public Works Facility in the amount of \$1,250,000 2) Northbridge Elementary School in the amount of \$13,500,000 3) Castle Hill Land Purchase in the amount of \$1,200,000 / Vote to sign**

-Copy of Vote of the Board of Selectmen

**G. Vote to accept a chainsaw valued at \$138.03 from David Pickart to be used by the Conservation Commission**

-Copy of memo regarding the Conservation Commission donation

-Copy of receipt

**H. Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/Patricia Mezynski and Frederick Mezynski [Lot No. 264, two burials, Forest Ave. (East)]**

-Copy Pine Grove Cemetery deed

**VI. DISCUSSIONS**

**I. Housing Production Plan/Public Forum [Tuesday, 6/27 at 7 PM]/Town Manager Announcement**

-Copy of Public Forum informational flyer

**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**