

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 21, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 6:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon, Collins and Melia. Also Present: Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None

PUBLIC HEARING/None

Pinning Ceremony for new Police Chief Timothy Labrie. Chairman Ampagoomian welcomed those in attendance and thanked retiring Police Chief Walter Warchol for his many years of service and congratulated him on his retirement. He then turned the meeting over to Town Manager Gaudette. Mr. Gaudette also thanked everyone in attendance. Before beginning the pinning ceremony, the Town Manager asked the Board if they had anything they would like to say. Continuing, Mr. Gaudette advised that the process to replace the position of Police Chief took place this past year and he was happy to be a part of it. He expressed he was fortunate to meet many great people in the industry, and it is a proud moment to introduce Timothy Labrie as the incoming Chief of Police. Mr. Gaudette added that he has had the opportunity to work closely with Lt. Labrie and during the process was able to get to know him even better and discussed plans for the future of the Police Department. He said that he looks forward to working with Chief Labrie. Selectman Cannon thanked former Chief Warchol for his many years of service and looks forward to hearing about his retirement. She congratulated Chief Labrie, adding that she looks forward to watching him grow in his new position as Chief. Selectman Collins stated that Mr. Labrie was a great police officer and lieutenant, and he knows he will do a great job as Chief. Selectman Collins thanks former Chief Warchol for his 44 years of service. Selectman Athanas thanked former Chief Warchol for his years of service and dedication to the town and wished him well in his retirement. He then congratulated Chief Labrie adding that the Town is lucky to have him as their Chief and he looks forward to working with him. Selectman Melia congratulated Chief Labrie and his family on his promotion and stated that there is no better honor than becoming a Chief of Police in the same town that you and your entire family has grown up in. He stated that Chief Labrie has worked hard throughout his career through education, training, and being promoted through the ranks of the Northbridge Police Department. Senators Moore and Fattman presented a citation to incoming Chief Labrie. Senator Moore congratulated Chief Warchol on his retirement and added it has been a pleasure working with him over the years. He then wished Chief Labrie the very best, adding that Chief Labrie has seen how law enforcement has evolved over the last several years and he is very aware of the work that is needed to be put in and supports it fully. Senator Fattman thanked all the men and women in blue and that he greatly appreciates their service. He wished Chief Warchol all the best in his retirement and added that it has been a privilege to have had him as the Chief of this town. Mr. Fattman stated that with everything that's at stake, everybody needs a leader that they can believe in and that is what we have, and he feels that the town can take great confidence in Chief Labrie as he leads this responsibility. Senator Fattman joked that they now have the great honor of giving Chief Labrie a citation; one he doesn't have to pay for. Next, Mr. Fattman read aloud the citation and congratulated Chief Labrie once again. Chairman Ampagoomian turned the floor over to Representative Muradian. Rep. Muradian stated that he has had the privilege of working with Chief Warchol since 2007 and it has been a pleasure. He thanked Chief Warchol for his many years of service. Mr. Muradian then stated that the town should be proud of who you have to lead the charge and thanked the officers for everything that they do; adding that he is proud to stand behind all of them. Rep. Muradian read aloud his citation for Chief Timothy Labrie. Chief Labrie congratulated Chief Warchol on his 44 years of service

with the Northbridge Police Department and added he hopes he enjoys retirement and remains healthy. Chief Labrie thanked Town Manger Gaudette and the Board of Selectmen for the confidence they have shown in appointing him as the Chief of Police for the Town of Northbridge. The Chief thanked them for the faith they have shown in him, adding he will not let them down. Continuing, Mr. Labrie read aloud the following: The mission of the Northbridge Police Department is to provide quality Police services in cooperation and partnership with the community emphasizing integrity, fairness and professionalism in order to improve the quality of life in Northbridge. In 1829, Robert Peele, the father of modern policing stated the basic mission for which the Police exist is to prevent crime and disorder. Over the years the types of crime and disorder the police must manage have changed, but our responsibility to prevent crime and disorder has not changed. Added to these two fundamental purposes, is to reduce the level of fear in the community. I expect the Northbridge Police Department to be organized and focused on accomplishing this basic mission. We shall reduce the levels of fear and crime in the Town of Northbridge. To accomplish our mission, we will embrace the community-based, problem-oriented data-driven policing strategy to hold ourselves accountable to each other and to our community. Some of you may be asking, what is he talking about. To make it clear I'll give you a quote from an old chief (Selectman Thomas J. Melia, III) that happens to be sitting in this room. "Get your (blank) out of the cruiser, knock on doors, and talk to people, and you will be amazed at what people will tell you and what you can solve." Basic community policing. Of course, he did not stop there, as then he stated, "and when you're done, do a good report and get your (blank) back on the road." Not only did Bill Belichick steal Tom Melia's phrase "do your job", he cleaned it up. To the command staff and supervisory office of the Northbridge Police Department, I commit myself to empowering you and developing your potential as leaders, I believe responsibility must be accompanied by sufficient authority to accomplish the mission. I believe in the principles of delegation and accountability and will foster an environment in which you can make the decisions to accomplish our mission. What I expect in return is your focus on the mission and on the needs of those whom we are responsible, you are responsible for the safety of this community, for the performance of your people and meeting their needs. Sports has been a major part of my life and I often refer to Police Departments as teams. Supervisors: you are the first and third base coaches, you need to send them to second and wave them home when the situation allows, you also have to be able to hold them in check, recognize their good work and provide coaching at all times. To the officers and dispatchers of the Northbridge Police Department, I commit myself to do all that I can to see that you are properly trained, equipped, supervised, and supported. I believe in you and I believe that you became Police Officers because you wanted to make a difference in peoples lives. I recognize that Police work is hard and it can be emotionally debilitating, I know the frustration of the work and the constant risk of demoralizing cynicism, but I also know our work has meaning. The greatest remedy for cynicism is a sense of accomplishment, accompanied by support and acceptance. Ask any senior officer, supervisor, or retired officer and they will tell you the same. There is no better feeling than getting a confession, cultivating the information that led to a successful arrest and prosecution or simply returning property to a victim of a crime. What I expect in return from you is integrity, courage, competence, commitment, compassion, restraint, and respect. Respect yourself, respect your family, respect this Police Department and our community; wear your badge with pride, look sharp at all times and treat people how you want your loved ones to be treated. It's a simple philosophy: do your job, you keep your job. Do your job well, you get a better job. To the community, I promise an open, accountable, and accessible Police Department that will be responsive to your concerns. I look forward to working with the various department heads and committees to keep Northbridge great. The Northbridge Police Department has had a tremendous relationship with the Northbridge Fire Department over the years and we look forward to continuing this relationship. In closing, I would like to thank everybody in attendance, and those of you watching on television. I talked about teams earlier. Let me introduce and thank the members of team Labrie. My wife, Jane, the head coach, and my all starts: Abbie, Kate, Jill, and Timmy. Thank you, guys, for your support. I love you and I love this community. Thank you, good night, and God bless the USA. Next, the Honorable Jennifer Melia completed the swearing in ceremony. Mrs.

Labrie and Selectman Melia completed the pinning.

A brief recess was taken at 6:22 PM and the meeting resumed at 6:33 PM.

Appointments/By The Board of Selectmen. 1) **Police Chief Timothy Labrie, Safety Committee (effective June 26, 2021)/Vote to appoint.** A motion/Mrs. Cannon, seconded/Mr. Melia to appoint Chief Timothy Labrie to the Safety Committee effective June 26, 2021. Vote yes/Unanimous.

2) **2021 Annual Reappointments/Vote to reappoint [per the list enclosed in agenda packet].** Selectman Melia noted that the staff in the Town Manager's Office sends out a request for attendance records, which is provided to the Selectmen and he noticed the Council on Aging and Board of Health had members with very low attendance, which is a concern. He added that those members are just around 50% attendance for meetings, which is surprising especially for the Board of Health given the COVID pandemic. Selectman Melia stated he would like to place a hold on the Board of Health and Council on Aging reappointments until we are able to speak to the Department Heads to see what the status is and possibly have the Board of Health attend a meeting. He mentioned another concern he has is that when these Boards have articles on the Town Meeting warrant, it is required by the Charter that the Chairman attend the meeting and they have not been there the last several years. Town Manager Gaudette clarified that the Council on Aging attendance was for 2 absences not 2 meetings attended. Selectman Melia agreed and added he would like to pass over the Board of Health appointments. Selectman Collins agreed with Selectman Melia's comments. Chairman Ampagoomian added that he would like to hear from those committees that had no response. Selectman Melia added that one item on the Charter Review Committee is to eliminate the Personnel Board, since they do not meet anymore as it is a different world now under the Town Manager form of government. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Collins to reappoint the Board and Committee members per the list in the agenda packet, excluding the Board of Health reappointments and those persons that did not reply. Vote yes/Unanimous.

3) **Cynthia Campisano Cummiskey, Conservation Commission.** Chairman Ampagoomian stated that the Chairwoman of the Conservation Commission could not be in attendance tonight. That said, Ms. Cummiskey stated she is a 16-year resident and has been an environmental consultant for over 30 years. She wants to give back to her town in the best way she knows how and looks forward to using her knowledge as a member of the Commission. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to appoint Cynthia Campisano Cummiskey to the Conservation Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/By The Town Manager: 1) **Police Chief Timothy Labrie, Lockup Officer (effective June 26, 2021)/Vote to affirm.** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Collins to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Chief Timothy Labrie as the Lockup Officer effective June 26, 2021. Vote yes/Unanimous. 2) **2021 Annual Reappointments/Vote to affirm [per the list enclosed in agenda packet].** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to affirm the 2021 annual reappointments by the Town Manager as listed in the agenda packet. Vote yes/Unanimous.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT: Walter Warchol commented that he has received a lot of questions from the Rockdale Post Office staff when it comes to extending the sidewalk in Rockdale up to Benson Road. He feels it would be beneficial for a sidewalk to be added as a capital project, as there are a lot of people walking in that area and feels it is a safety issue.

Council on Aging/1) Request to use Memorial Park and 2) Request for an Entertainment license for the "This Land is Your Land" duo performance on Thursday, September 9, 2021 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM [rain date - September 23, 2021]/Present: Kelly Bol, COA Director. Mrs. Bol informed the Board that this event was scheduled for last year but was postponed due to COVID. Ms. Bol said she is looking for approval to use Memorial Park from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Thursday, September 9, 2021, as

well as a rain date of September 23, 2021, if needed. Selectman Athanas asked how large of a crowd was expected and where will attendees park. Mrs. Bol replied that they are not sure how many to expect as this is a first-time event, so she is not sure if they would require a detail officer. Selectman Melia added that a lot of people use the Unibank parking area. Ms. Sasseville added that attendees can park at the Library and utilize street parking and she is happy to ask the Village Congregational Church if people can utilize their parking lot. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Collins to approve the above request to use Memorial Park and obtain an Entertainment license for the "This Land is Your Land" duo performance on Thursday, September 9, 2021 [rain date September 23, 2021] from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Pine Grove Cemetery Deeds/1) Donna Barr [Lot No. 82A, one full burial grave, Forest Ave. East (South)]. A motion/Mrs. Cannon, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the sale of lot no. 82A for one full burial grave, Forest Ave. East (South) in Pine Grove Cemetery. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Erica Friend [Lot No. 65C, one cremation grave, Birch Path, North].** A motion/Mrs. Cannon, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the sale of lot no 65C, one cremation grave, Birch Path, North. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Signage for Good Shepherd Church/Present: Karen Nutter. Ms. Nutter, who is representing Good Shepherd Church in Linwood, explained that the Church is looking to place signage for the Church's location in the vicinity of Foxy Travel on Rt. 122 heading North. She mentioned that she has been in touch with the Department of Public Works and was instructed to present her request to the Board of Selectmen and get guidance on how to proceed. Ms. Nutter noted that Good Shepherd Church is off the beaten path and thus they would like people to know where the Church is located. Town Manager Gaudette suggested they meet with the Highway Department on site along with the owner of the property to view the location, and then come back to the Selectmen with a request for approval. Selectman Melia asked about the location and where the sign would go. Ms. Nutter said the sign location is on Rt. 122 where Foxy Travel is located. She advised that she wasn't sure about posting a sign in the opposite direction but is open to suggestions, as there is a bend in the road and then an intersection. Town Manager Gaudette requested Ms. Nutter to provide more detailed information when it comes time for the Selectmen to approve the signage including the details for the placement of signage and what the issues are with not having the signage. He further advised that if every entity in Town requested signage, we wouldn't be able to accommodate them so there needs to be a valid reason such as individual's seeking the church making a wrong turn into a neighbor's driveway. The Board agreed to having the Highway Supt. meet with Ms. Nutter to discuss further and then come to a future meeting.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: 1) Key Meetings Attended: Monday, June 7, 2021 – Conference Zoom Call with NPS and Parks & Recreation regarding fields use. Monday, June 7, 2021 – Attended the Board of Selectmen meeting. Wednesday, June 8, 2021 – Met with Carpenter Reservoir area residents. Wednesday, June 8, 2021 – Conference Call with area Town Managers regarding Civil Service. Monday, June 14, 2021 – Miscellaneous Meetings with Department Heads. Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – Met with Jamie Luchini and NPS Facilities Director George Simmons at Lasell Field to discuss the entrance improvements. Tuesday, June 15, 2021 – Held Police Union Association negotiations. Wednesday, June 16, 2021 – Co-chaired the MMMA Managers/Chiefs Committee Meeting. **2) Balmer School Building Project:** Project construction by Fontaine Brothers continues with precautionary measures in place per State construction guidelines for construction projects moving forward during the pandemic. The Town Manager is working with the OPM to secure temporary fence construction access from abutters (5 of the 6 have been obtained). The OPM is working on punch lists as the project will approach substantial completion over the next couple months. The project timeline is on target for opening this Fall. The Building Committee Chair advised that it will be best to have the tour once the furniture is all set up over the next 4-5 weeks as currently the spaces are filled with boxed items. A temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO) was issued by the Building Inspector this week. **3) Lasell Field Turf Project:** The project is essentially complete except for several punch-list items that we are working to get scheduled (loam and seed). The Town Manager met with DPW and NPS Facilities Staff on Tuesday this week at the Lasell Field entrance to discuss alternative driveway

layout options. Jamie Luchini will be getting quotes from contractors. **4) Fire Station Project:** The BPCC has selected CHA as the OPM and TGAS as the architect for the project and the Town Manager has issued the Notice to Proceed. The design team has begun meeting with the Town. The field survey crews have been on site performing the wetlands delineation, topography and property line. The BPCC will be meeting with the design team in the next several weeks to discuss the Schedule of Values and Project Timeline. **5)** Selectman Collins added that there should be a sidewalk. Town Manager Gaudette added that there were some abutters that have been attending the meeting and the lack of a sidewalk was a concern of theirs and will be looked into. Selectman Melia asked if that would be through the State Highway. Town Manager Gaudette stated that would be his guess and funding would be faster through the Town vs. the State. **Other:** Ongoing negotiations with Police and Fire Collective Bargaining Units as well as General Insurance premium negotiations for FY2022.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: **Selectman Cannon(1)** announced that the new Elementary School tour will likely be scheduled mid to late July and notices will sent out. **2)** noticed a sign is up at the property for the new Fire Station. **Selectman Melia(1)** offered condolences to the family of Eileen Powers who recently passed away. She worked as the Administrative Assistant and Secretary for the Board of Selectmen for 30 plus years; she was a very nice, professional, and dedicated employee. Selectman Ampagoomian added that she was personable and professional. **2)** asked Chief Warchol if he could mention to the building owner about the graffiti again, as they have not taken care of it yet. **Selectman Athanas 1)** asked about the status of paving projects. Mr. Luchini stated that the bids came back favorable and if all goes as planned, the berms will be removed on Swift and Mason Roads next week and they will begin reclamation of the roads on July 6th. **Chairman Ampagoomian(1)** stated that he has been approached by residents on Robin Road about the work being done and when it will be completed. He asked Mr. Luchini to describe to the audience and the Board, so everyone will be informed as to what is being done and when it would be completed. Mr. Luchini explained that Robin Road, Jon Circle and other streets in that area have been on the list of streets to be paved as there are sections where there is no road left. Originally, there was gas work being completed, and now there are water mains being replaced in the area. He said as soon as those items are finished the road will move to the top of the list for paving. As for the timeline for the watermain replacement, it should be completed this fall and then depending on funding, paving would take place. **2)** noted that there are a lot of dead trees on Church Street Extension before Quaker Street, but he isn't sure of the jurisdiction. Mr. Luchini stated he also is not sure where the line is exactly and explained they would need to measure. Mr. Ampagoomian requested those trees be added to the list. Mr. Luchini stated he would get measurements and run everything by DCR as well. **3)** noted that any state highway concerns can be sent to Representative Muradian to report it to the State Highway Department.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None
CORRESPONDENCE/None
EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

A motion/Mrs. Cannon, seconded/Mr. Collins to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Russell D. Collins, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

June 21, 2021

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**
- II. PUBLIC HEARING/None**
- III. APPOINTMENTS: Pinning Ceremony for incoming Police Chief Timothy Labrie
By The Board of Selectmen/Vote to appoint:**
- 1) Police Chief Timothy Labrie, Safety Committee (effective June 26, 2021)**
-No documentation
- 2) 2021 Annual Reappointments/Vote to reappoint [per the list enclosed in agenda packet]**
-Copy of memorandum for Annual Reappointments
-Copy of 2021 Board of Selectmen's Annual Reappointments listing
- 3) Cynthia Campisano Cummiskey, Conservation Commission**
-Copy of talent bank form for Cynthia Cummiskey
- By The Town Manager/Vote to Affirm:**
- 1) Police Chief Timothy Labrie, Lockup Officer (effective June 26, 2021)**
-No documentation
- 2) 2021 Annual Reappointments/Vote to affirm [per the list enclosed in agenda packet]**
-Copy of 2021 Town Manager Appointments listing
-Copy of memorandum from the Town Manager's Office requesting attendance records
-Copy of memorandums listing attendance from the Board of Health, BPCC, Conservation Commission, COA, and Safety Committee.
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**
- IV. DECISIONS:**
- Council on Aging/1) Request to reserve Memorial Park and 2) Request for an Entertainment license for the "This Land is Your Land" duo performance on Thursday, September 23, 2021 /Present: Kelly Bol, COA Director**
-Copy of Memorial Park request form
-Copy of entertainment license application
-Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
-Workers' Compensation Affidavit
-License Routing Slip
- Pine Grove Cemetery Deeds:**
- 1) Donna Barr [Lot No. 82A, one full burial grave, Forest Ave. East (South)]**
-Copy of Pine Grove Cemetery Deed for Donna Barr
- 2) Erica Friend [Lot No. 65C, one cremation grave, Birch Path North]**
-Copy of Pine Grove Cemetery Deed for Erica Friend

- VI. DISCUSSIONS:**
Signage for Good Shepherd Church/Present: Karen Nutter
-No documentation
- VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**
-Copy of the Town Manager's Report from June 7 to June 17, 2021
- VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS**
-No documentation
- IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**
- X. CORRESPONDENCE**
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**