

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
March 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman James Athanas at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, Board of Selectmen's Room, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588. Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon, Melia and Nolan. Also Present: Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

PUBLIC HEARING: 7:05 PM Pace Automotive, Inc. dba Pace Auto Service, 36 Providence Lane, Whitinsville [Sean Pace & Jamie Pace]/Request for a Class II Used Car Dealer's License Present: Sean Pace and Jamie Pace. Chairman Athanas announced that the Board would come back to this item as it is not yet 7:05 PM.

APPOINTMENTS: Steven Gniadek, Conservation Commission/Present: Barbara McNamee, Chairman, Conservation Commission. Ms. McNamee introduced Mr. Gniadek and stated the Conservation Commission is pleased to have someone interested in serving on it. She said Mr. Gniadek is a lifelong Northbridge resident and believes his qualifications are a great fit. Mr. Gniadek mentioned he attended college out west but returned home to Northbridge. He works for Solitude Lake Management in Shrewsbury, who deal with algaecide treatments for municipalities and water bodies on private land as well. Mr. Gniadek noted he developed a vast interest in Conservation because of his job. Selectman Ampagoomian asked Mr. Gniadek what his opinion is of the solar farm being built off Church Street as well as the over 55 community being built. Mr. Gniadek responded he is concerned about the wildlife that may no longer be there but also feels that the projects are being done with the best interest of the town and looks forward to weighing in on future projects. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the appointment of Steven Gniadek to the Conservation Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING: 7:05 PM Pace Automotive, Inc. dba Pace Auto Service, 36 Providence Lane, Whitinsville [Sean Pace & Jamie Pace]/Request for a Class II Used Car Dealer's License Present: Sean Pace and Jamie Pace. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to open the public hearing. Chairman Athanas read aloud the public hearing notice. Mr. Pace stated that he purchased Bill's Autobody about two years ago and has been doing repairs out of the facility since then. He has also done a lot of updates to the building and is working to establish a good reputation for his business. Mr. Pace stated that they have had clients ask if they have cars for sale, so he knows the interest is there and this is why they are looking to obtain a license to sell used vehicles. Selectman Athanas asked if there were any abutters who would like to be heard. There being none, a motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mrs. Cannon, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant a Class II - Used Car Dealers License to Pace Automotive, Inc. dba Pace Auto Service, 36 Providence Lane, Whitinsville, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

Twins Nutrition, LLC dba Twins Nutrition, 12 Cross Street, Whitinsville/Application for a non-alcoholic Common Victualler's license/Present: Christina Pare. Ms. Pare stated that she grew up in Northbridge and moved to Stoughton where she opened a similar store like what she is looking to open here in Northbridge. She explained that she moved back to Northbridge and would like to open a store to sell teas and healthy shakes. Ms. Pare stated that the hours of operation will be Monday through Friday 7 AM to 5 PM and Saturday 8 AM to 2 PM. Selectman Athanas asked if there is parking available to customers.

Ms. Pare replied there are about three spots out front and three on the side and typically there are 3-5 people in the store at a time. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant a non-alcoholic Common Victualler's license to Twin's Nutrition, LLC dba Twins Nutrition at 12 Cross Street, Whitinsville. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce/Request for a one-day weekday entertainment license for their 22nd Annual Home and Business Expo on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 10 AM to 2 PM located at the Northbridge High School Field House. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant a one-day weekday entertainment license to the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, on March 14, 2020 from 10 AM to 2 PM, at the High School Field House. Vote yes/Unanimous.

George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Association dba Whitin Community Center/Request for one-day weekday entertainment licenses for: 1) Gala Event on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM located inside the Whitin Community Center; 2) Cars in the Park event on Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 10 AM to 4 PM located at Whitin Park. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to grant one-day weekday entertainment licenses to the Whitin Community Center for their Gala event on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM located inside the Whitin Community Center and their Cars in the Park event on Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 10 AM to 4 PM located at Whitin Park. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Armenian Apostolic Church/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, August 2, 2020 to Sunday, August 16, 2020 to advertise their Annual Picnic event to be held on Sunday, August 16, 2020. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the Armenian Apostolic Church's request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, August 2, 2020 to Sunday, August 16, 2020 to advertise their Annual Picnic event to be held on Sunday, August 16, 2020. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Vote to notify the Town Clerk of any Annual Town Election Ballot Questions [May 19, 2020]. Town Manager Gaudette stated that there has been discussion on the Fire Station project and the plan is to go to Town Meeting with an article, which would be for authorization to borrow the monies for that project. Furthermore, there will be an election question to allow us to exclude the debt for that project for a period of time. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to notify the Town Clerk to place the following Debt Exclusion Question on the Annual Town Election Ballot: Shall the Town of Northbridge be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay the costs for engineering, design and construction of a new Fire Station? Vote yes/Unanimous.

Vote to accept monetary donation from the Friends of Lasell Field to be used towards the Lasell Field artificial turf field project. Timothy Labrie, member of the Friends of Lasell Field, stated that through the design process the debt exclusion that was approved in the amount of \$2.7 million came up short. The Friends of Lasell Field, with the guidance of Robert Knapik, were able to raise funds from generous members of the community. Mr. Labrie stated that there are still funds being raised to close the gap on the shortfall. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to accept a monetary donation from the Friends of Lasell Field in the amount of \$440,441.35 to be used towards the Lasell Field artificial turf field project. Vote yes/Unanimous.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

I. Town Manager's FY2021 Budget and May Town Meeting Updates. Town Manager Gaudette stated that Finance Committee meetings are underway and there is a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall, that the public is encouraged to attend. He explained that town revenue is up a little over \$1,000,000 dollars or 2.39%. In addition, there is a major increase in the

Trade School budget due to Northbridge students attending out of district schools. Other increases are from the Retirement System and Health Insurance, which enables us to only get 2%. Other highlights include some reductions in town government and the school is looking to do the same. Selectman Melia asked if the town would be hiring for any new positions this year. Town Manager Gaudette explained that with reductions that is one thing that cannot be done. Chairman Athanas asked if the Trade School cost to us or if it was in additional students. Town Manager Gaudette replied that it's additional students, which costs about \$23,000 dollars total to send a student to an out of district Trade School, which covers the tuition and transportation. Chairman Athanas asked if there is a limit as to how many students are accepted into the program. Mr. Gaudette replied no.

J. Turf Field Project Update. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the bids came in two weeks ago, the Building, Planning and Construction Committee met and will be signing a contract with Green Acres. There is a pre-construction meeting scheduled for this Friday, March 13, 2020, which we hope to have them onsite in the beginning of April with four months of construction.

K. Fire Station Project Update. Town Manager Gaudette thanked those that were able to make it to the public forum. Moving forward there will likely be another public forum held in April along with another open house.

Key Meetings Attended: Monday, February 24, 2020 – Fire Department Design Team Conference Call. Monday, February 24, 2020 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting. Tuesday, February 25, 2020 – Met with Jim Shuris and Mark Kuras to discuss sewer projects. Tuesday, February 25, 2020 – Presented the Fire Station project update to the Firefighters Staff at the Fire Station Meeting Room. Wednesday, February 26, 2020 – Attended a regional Town Managers Meeting in Auburn. Monday, March 2, 2020 – Fire Station Project Conference Call with the Design Team. Monday, March 2, 2020 – Presented at the Fire Station Public Forum #2 at the High School. Wednesday, March 3, 2020 – Attended a Green Communities projects meeting. Wednesday, March 4, 2020 – Attended a Sewer projects meeting with CDM Smith consultant. Wednesday, March 4, 2020 – Attended the Finance Committee Meeting to present a preliminary budget update and discuss the Fire Station Project. Wednesday, March 4, 2020 – Attended the BPCC Meeting to discuss the Fire Station and Turf Field projects. Friday, March 6, 2020 – Held a Department Managers Meeting. **Balmer School Building Project:** Project construction by Fontaine Brothers continues. Site clearing/grading, utility and drainage are complete and steel erection is underway. The MSBA will be visiting the project again on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. The School Building Committee meets next on March 17, 2020. **Fire Station Project (Feasibility Study):** The design team presented the project at a second public forum last week Monday, March 2nd at the Northbridge High School Auditorium. The design team also presented the project to the Finance Committee last week on Wednesday, March 4th. The final feasibility study report, incorporating all information date, was distributed to the BPCC and an electronic copy will be posted on the website. The presentation from last week's public forum and the video link have been posted on the website. Reminder that the website link is www.northbridgefirestationproject.org. **Lasell Field Turf Project:** The project construction was advertised on January 30th and bids were submitted on February 20, 2020. The BPCC met with Activitas last week on March 4, 2020 to discuss the bid results. The Town Manager announced that the Friends of Lasell will be providing a significant donation to the BOS at their March 9th Meeting that will allow the BPCC to enter into contract with the low bidder for the base bid and all 6 alternates. Activitas also advised of the expected construction schedule and process. **The FY2021 Budget Process:** Staff has submitted budget and capital requests. The Town Manager has met with the School Department to discuss both budget and capital needs. The Town Manager presented the preliminary budget/capital plan/draft budget to Staff on February 14th and the Finance Committee last week on March 4th. The Board of Selectmen reviewed the Draft Warrant and set their articles at their meeting on February 24th and will get a budget update at their meeting this Monday, March 9th.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: **Selectman Melia/1)** requested that the Town Manager contact the former owner of Burger King to have the trash containers removed as they are overflowing. **2)** attended the Fire Station forum and felt it was an excellent presentation with a lot of relevant information. **3)** stated that with the uptick in COVID cases, it was nice to see that the Board of Health webpage has a lot of information on the virus, alerts and links. **Selectman Ampagoomian/1)** attended the Fire Station forum as well, which he thought was very informative. **2)** noticed Senator Ryan Fattman, who is up for re-election, was in town looking for signatures. Mr. Ampagoomian stated that he informed his point man on his disappointment in the lack of support for the Town of Northbridge.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

Chairman Athanas announced that the next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 23, 2020. Selectman Melia and Selectman Nolan stated they would not be in attendance.

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Board Members Ampagoomian, Cannon, and Melia.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Nolan, Clerk

/mjlw

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

March 9, 2020

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II. PUBLIC HEARING: A. 7:05 PM Pace Automotive, Inc. dba Pace Auto Service, 36 Providence Lane, Whitinsville [Sean Pace & Jamie Pace]/Request for a Class II Used Car Dealer's License Present: Sean Pace and Jamie Pace

- Copy of Public Hearing Notice
- Copy of Police Department license sign-off
- Copy of memo from James Sheehan, Building Inspector providing notice of the Special Permit for a maximum of 10 vehicle
- Copy of completed application
- Copy of Articles of Organization
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Affidavit
- Copy of Liability Insurance
- Copy of layout
- Copy of memo from the Fire Department providing notification that all violations have been fixed and they are in compliance with the Fire Department
- Copy of license routing slip

III. APPOINTMENTS: B. Steven Gniadek, Conservation Commission/Present: Barbara McNamee, Chairman, Conservation Commission

- Copy of Talent Bank Application
- Copy of resume

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

V. DECISIONS

C. Twins Nutrition, LLC dba Twins Nutrition, 12 Cross Street, Whitinsville/Application for a non-alcoholic Common Victualler's license/Present: Christina Pare

- Copy of completed application
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement Attestation and Protection
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Affidavit
- Copy of Articles of Organization
- Copy of License Routing Slip

D. Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce/Request for a one-day weekday entertainment license for their 22nd Annual Home and Business Expo on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 10 AM to 2 PM located at the Northbridge High School Field House

- Copy of completed one-day weekday entertainment application
- Copy of letter listing the types of entertainment
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
- Copy of License Routing Slip

E. George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Association dba Whitin Community Center/Request for one-day weekday entertainment licenses for: 1) Gala event on Saturday, May 2, 2020 from 6:30 PM – 10:30 PM located inside the Whitin Community Center;

- Copy of completed one-day weekday entertainment license application
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
- Copy of License Routing Slip

2) Cars in the Park event on Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 10 AM to 4 PM located at Whitin Park

- Copy of completed one-day weekday entertainment license application
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
- Copy of License Routing Slip

F. Armenian Apostolic Church/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, August 2, 2020 to Sunday, August 16, 2020 to advertise their Annual Picnic event to be held on Sunday, August 16, 2020

- Copy of email requesting to hang a banner

G. Vote to notify the Town Clerk of any Annual Election Ballot Questions [May 19, 2020]/No documentation

H. Vote to accept monetary donation from the Friends of Lasell Field to be used towards the Lasell Field artificial turf field project

- Copy of Lasell Field bid results
- Copy of FY 2021 Budget Outlook

VI. DISCUSSIONS/None

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

I. Town Manager's FY2021 Budget and May Town Meeting Updates/No documentation

J. Turf Field Project Update/No documentation

K. Fire Station Project Update/No documentation

VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

X. CORRESPONDENCE/None

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None