

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
October 7, 2019

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 23, 2019 [Executive Session]. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve but not release the September 23, 2019 Executive Session minutes. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia, Cannon, and Athanas.

Representative Muradian/Update: Mr. Muradian was present to update the Board about the Student Opportunity Act (Education Bill) that has recently come out. His best guess for the potential impact of the bill is that it is a \$1.5 billion-dollar education investment over 7 years with no additional taxes going towards the bill. In terms of numbers, the formula will change slightly, however, the Blackstone Valley area is in a difficult spot because the towns are hold-harmless communities so we won't see a big increase in Chapter 70 money, but he will let both the Superintendent and Town Manager know the actual numbers as soon as he gets them. He also mentioned that the biggest success is that the Special Education transportation reimbursement will now be included in the formula, which will be a positive increase for districts such as Northbridge. To that, one amendment Rep. Muradian intends to file is to create a floor cost per pupil rather than a ceiling cost per pupil. He is very hopeful that his colleagues also support it. Additionally, he testified with his colleagues to support a House Bill that will concerning genocide/holocaust information being required to be taught in school. In closing, Mr. Muradian thanked the Board for their time.

PUBLIC HEARING/None

APPOINTMENTS/None

RESIGNATIONS: 1) Gerald Ouillette, Conservation Commission. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept Mr. Ouillette's resignation and to send him a letter of thanks for his service. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia, Cannon, and Athanas. **2) Joy Anderson, Conservation Commission.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept Ms. Anderson's resignation and to send her a letter of thanks for her service. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia, Cannon, and Athanas.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

Friends of Northbridge Elders, Inc./Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, October 13, 2019 to Sunday, October 27, 2019 to advertise a Harvest Dinner Dance to be held on Friday, October 25, 2019 (4PM – 9PM) at the Whitinsville Golf Club. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the above request as noted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia, Cannon, and Athanas.

Blackstone Valley Veterans Association/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, October 27, 2019 to Sunday, November 10, 2019 to advertise a Veterans Day Spaghetti Supper to be held at the Knights of Columbus on November 9, 2019 from 5pM to 9 PM. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the above request as noted. Vote yes/Melia, Ampagoomian, Cannon and Athanas.

MRA Multisport [Alex Rogozenski] / 1) Request to hold the 8th Annual 1st Day 5k Road Race on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 beginning at 11 AM subject to the safety requirements of the Northbridge Police Department; and 2) Request to close Linwood Avenue between 10:45 AM and 12 PM. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Ms. Cannon to approve the above requests as noted subject to the safety requirements of the Northbridge Police Department. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas.

Request to use Memorial Park on Thursday, May 14, 2020 from 6:30PM to 8:30PM for a performance by Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell [Rain date: Thursday, May 21st]. Present: Rebecca Sasseville, Library Director and Kelly Bol, Senior Center Director. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Ms. Cannon to approve the above request as noted. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas.

Fall Annual Town Meeting [October 22, 2019]/Vote position on warrant articles. Article 1 (FY '20 Budget Adjustments): A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 1. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas. **Article 2 (Bills of a prior year):** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to pass over Article 2. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas. **Article 3 (Funding for Community Preservation Projects and other Expenses for FY'20):** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 3. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas. **Article 4 (Appropriate \$8,115 from the CPC Fund Revenues to the Comm. Pres. Committee for expenses associated with implementing the Comm. Pres. Act):** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 4. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas. **Article 5 (Grant of easement to Verizon for Balmer School):** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to support Article 5. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas. **Article 6 (Correction to Chapter 8 of the Town Bylaws - Regulation of Animals):** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Ms. Cannon to support Article 6. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas. **Article 7 (Adopt a new bylaw entitled: Whitinsville -Downtown Crossroads Historic District bylaw and insert in the Codebook):** Chairman Athanas announced that Harry Berkowitz and Kenneth Warchol, members of the Local Historic District Study Committee [LHDSC], were present to explain and discuss this article. Mr. Berkowitz then read aloud a narrative about the work the LHDSC has undertaken and how they got to the point of creating a bylaw to be added to the Town's bylaws. He provided a brief overview of the bylaw, which will affect 12 properties. Mr. Berkowitz noted that the bylaw is the least restrictive it can be. Selectman Melia commented about information they received from a resident who opposes this article. He said the LHDSC did a good job following the direction they were given by the Planning Board and others who have attended the many public meetings about this matter. Mr. Melia further mentioned that the 12 property owners are in full support of this bylaw. Chairman Athanas thanked the gentlemen for their hard work over the last 18 months to get where they are today. There being no further comments, a motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 7. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas. **Article 8 (Petition/Solar Project):** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Ms. Cannon to support Article 8. Vote yes/Melia, Cannon, Ampagoomian, and Athanas.

Town Manager Goals for year 2020: 1) FY21 Budget Preparation. Mr. Gaudette noted this is a standard yearly goal, but it encompasses a lot of different aspects like capital planning, employee benefits cost control, working as a partner with the schools, looking at reserves, grants, etc. He feels it is a very worthy goal to continue to look at the financial health of the Town. **2) Fire Station Building Project.** Mr. Gaudette stated they are in the midst of a feasibility project and he hopes it turns into long-term project. He looks forward to continuing to work with the Building, Planning & Construction Committee. **3) Lasell Field Turf Project.** Town Manager Gaudette advised they have awarded the landscape architect/design team and it will be a very exciting project to work on along with assistance from the Building, Planning and Construction Committee. **4) Roadway Infrastructure.** The Town Manager will continue to try and secure any grant funding available for miscellaneous roadway/infrastructure improvements. Chairman Athanas

asked when can the Board expect a presentation on the Fire Station Project. The Town Manager responded they hope to be able to present Phase I [Site Selection] information by next week. Mr. Athanas then asked when can the Board expect an update on the turf field project. Mr. Gaudette replied that Activitas should be in town this week doing site survey work and to schedule a programming meeting with school staff. He also added that in the next couple of months, they intend to hold a public forum on alternative materials discussion and as things continue to develop, they will present different design concepts. The goal is to put the project out to bid in January and to start construction in April. Chairman Athanas thanked Town Manager Gaudette for all that information. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Ms. Cannon to approve the goals as set forth above [for year 2020] for the Town Manager.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: 1) **Key Meetings Attended:** Monday, September 23, 2019 – Fire Station Study Project Team Conference Call. Monday, September 23, 2019 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting. Tuesday, September 24, 2019 – Attended an MMA Fiscal Policy Committee Meeting in Boston. Wednesday, September 25, 2019 – Fire Station Study Project Team Conference Call. Wednesday, September 25, 2019 – Attended a regional Town Managers Luncheon. Wednesday, September 25, 2019 – Attended the BPCC Meeting. Thursday, September 26, 2019 – Visited the Social Library with Representative Muradian for a Library Card photo op. Thursday, September 26, 2019 – Met with DPW and Sewer Department staff. Friday, September 27, 2019 – Held a Department Managers Meeting. Monday, September 30, 2019 – Met with Turf Field Designer Activitas to discuss scope and fee. Tuesday, October 1, 2019 – Attended a farewell event for Robin Craver, Town Administrator from Charlton. Wednesday, October 2, 2019 – Met with BoS Chairman Athanas. Thursday, October 2, 2019 – Met with BoS Member Melia. Friday, October 4, 2019 – Met with Superintendent McKinstry. 2) **Balmer School Building Project:** The project construction by Fontaine Brothers is well under way. Grading, tree removal and replacement of a 36" drainage culvert across the site have taken place. The 3rd party sewer analysis has been completed and forwarded to the OPM for review. Fontaine is preparing the Building Permit application for review. The first set of sub bids have come. It is anticipated that deliveries of steel and foundation installation will take place over the next 30-60 days so that steel can be erected over the winter. The School Building Committee meets next on October 15, 2019. 3) **Fire Station Project (Feasibility Study):** The architect Kaestle-Boos Architects continues to work on the programming, draft response time analysis, site selection and criteria analysis, and draft site restriction plans. Once they finalize these components of the study, the Town Manager will schedule a special BOS meeting to have KBA and the BPCC present these items in order to get feedback from the Board and public. The plan is to develop a project web page to be accessed via a link on the Town's website. The project team will meet next with the BPCC on October 16, 2019. 4) **Lasell Field Turf Project:** The BPCC has selected Activitas Land Scape Architects to perform designer services which will include feasibility and plan design, advertisement and construction monitoring. The Town Manager has issued a Notice to Proceed. Over the next several weeks, Activitas will begin ground survey for base plan preparation and also have a programming meeting with NPS staff. Later this fall they will have meetings/forums on materials alternatives and design concepts.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: **Selectwoman Cannon:** mentioned with respect to the Balmer School Project, that the issue of the staging of trucks before school hours had created a traffic issue on and around Lake Street. She noted that they have relocated the trucks to a different staging area. They have also implemented black out hours due to all the students and buses that are there at certain time. **Selectman Ampagoomian/1)** requested Mr. Luchini, Highway Supt., to come forward and asked him if there has been any movement on the traffic signals at Plummers Corner. Mr. Luchini responded not yet but in talking with the DPW Director, they feel tweaking the signals will definitely help the situation versus trying to get extra lanes for turning. 2) asked about dead tree removal. Mr. Luchini answered the town has exceeded the number of trees, normally 20-22 trees per year, and about 42 trees were removed due to gypsy moth damage. He said there are still trees in the cemetery that need to be taken down due to safety issues. **Chairman Athanas/1)** asked about the status of the roads project. Mr. Luchini said all roads that were scheduled for this year have been completed. There is some money left, so as promised, there will be some overlay done

on Moon Hill Road. He also said the line striping will be completed when the company is in the area. 2) Asked if the DPW is ready for winter. Mr. Luchini responded yes, it is much better with the trucks being kept inside. He also mentioned the road salt bids came in very reasonable. **Selectman Melia:** complimented Mr. Luchini on how nice the road projects turned out.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

Town Manager Gaudette reminded everyone that the next Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21st, the night before the Fall Annual Town Meeting, which will be held on October 22nd at 7PM in the Middle School Auditorium.

Selectman Ampagoomian announced he would not be present at the next Selectmen's Meeting on October 21st, but should be able to make Town Meeting.

Mr. Gaudette announced he would also not be present at the next Selectmen's Meeting as he will be at the International City Manager's Association conference but will be present at Town Meeting.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Nolan, Clerk

/mjw

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

October 7, 2019

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. September 23, 2019 [Executive Session]

-Copy of September 23, 2019 Executive session meeting minutes [omitted until approved to release by town counsel]

II. PUBLIC HEARING/None

III. APPOINTMENTS/None

RESIGNATIONS: B. 1) Gerald Ouillette, Conservation Commission

-Copy of letter of resignation from Gerald Ouillette

2) Joy Anderson, Conservation Commission

-Copy of letter of resignation from Joy Anderson

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

V. DECISIONS

C. Friends of Northbridge Elders, Inc./Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, October 13, 2018 to Sunday, October 27, 2019 to advertise a Harvest Dinner Dance to be held on Friday, October 25, 2019 (4PM – 9PM) at the Whitinsville Golf Club

-Copy of flyer advertising the Harvest Dinner Dance

D. Blackstone Valley Veterans Association/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, October 27, 2019 to Sunday, November 10, 2019 to advertise a Veterans Day Spaghetti Supper to be held at the Knights of Columbus on November 9, 2019

-Copy of email dated 9/27/19 including the banner request from Mr. Magowan and response from Ms. Susienka with available dates

E. MRA Multisport [Alex Rogozenski] / 1) Request to hold the 8th Annual 1st Day 5k Road Race on Wednesday, January 1, 2020 beginning at 11 AM subject to the safety requirements of the Northbridge Police Department; and 2) Request to close Linwood Avenue between 10:45 AM and 12 PM

-Copy of email dated 9/30/19 from Mr. Rogozenski requesting to hold the road race along with the Police Dept.'s approval

F. Request to use Memorial Park on Thursday, May 14, 2020 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM for a performance by Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell [Rain date: Thursday, May 21st].

Present: Rebecca Sasseville, Library Director and Kelly Bol, Senior Center Director

-Copy of email dated 9/23/19 from Ms. Sasseville requesting to use Memorial Park

-Copy of letter dated 10/1/19 from Ms. Bol to the Cultural Council requesting support of the event in the form of a grant

G. Fall Annual Town Meeting [October 22, 2019] / Vote position on warrant articles

- Copy of the form used to indicate the Selectmen's position voted for each warrant article
- Copy of proposed Article 1
- Copy of email dated 9/15/19 from Ms. Kinney explaining the Conservation Commission's need for additional monies
- Copy of email dated 10/7/19 from the Town Manager in response to the email from Ms. Buma dated 10/6/19 indicating her opposition to Article 7 – Local Historic District Bylaw
- Copy of letter dated 10/6/19 from Ms. Buma to the Chairman Athanas [on behalf of the Citizens to Preserve Northbridge Property Rights] asking the Select Board not to support Article 7
- Copy of the Agreement between the Dept. of the Interior's National Park Service and the Town of Northbridge (12 pages)

H. Town Manager Goals Setting

- Copy of the Selectmen's goals for the Town Manager

VI. DISCUSSIONS/None

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Copy of the Town Manager's report for the period of September 23, 2019 to October 4, 2019

VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

X. CORRESPONDENCE/None

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None