

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**December 5, 2022**

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: Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **Also present:** Town Manager Adam D. Gaudette.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**

**PUBLIC HEARING/None**

**APPOINTMENTS/Resignations/None**

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT:** Ann Marie Varjabedian, 73 Plummer Ave., stated that she and her neighbors have had an issue with a dog. The owner lets the dog out at all hours of the night and the dog barks to be let back in. Sometimes the dog is left by itself barking for hours. She stated that she has called the Police and the Animal Control Officer to report the barking. Chief Labrie noted that it is an ongoing issue, and the owner has been cited and was also brought to Uxbridge District Court for not paying the fines. Chief Labrie sympathized with her but explained there is only so much he can do, and the only option would be to put it on the Selectmen to hold a hearing, but he felt it wouldn't be right to take a dog away from its owner with there being no physical harm such as a dog mauling a child or biting/attacking someone. Town Manager Gaudette asked the Chief to explain the process behind violations that are not paid. Chief Labrie explained that the dog owner didn't pay the non-criminal violation fine, which made him subject to a criminal complaint per the Town Bylaw. The Town then takes the individual to Uxbridge District Court where the criminal complaint is issued and he pays the fine, but that doesn't mean the issue goes away. Selectman Melia asked if it was possible for Ms. Varjabedian to go to court to file a complaint for disturbing the peace. He then justified it is likely that a judge would not want to hear it, but there is a chance that he could if he hears the complaints and witnesses. Chief Labrie explained that his officers have had many discussions with the owner with different approaches to no avail. Selectman Begin asked if the fines are equal each time or if they escalate. Chief Labrie replied that they escalate. Selectman Begin then asked if there is a cap on them to which Chief Labrie replied he believes that there is. Selectman Paulhus asked if there was any regulation as far as time of day and duration for barking dogs. Town Manager Gaudette replied that typically towns have a vicious dog violation bylaw and if a bite occurs, it results in a hearing with a decision made by the Board of Selectmen. But where this is a barking dog, it is a different situation that does not fall under a reason for holding a dog hearing. Where there is no bylaw for a barking dog it would make this a civil matter between the two neighbors.

**Town Clerk/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, April 23, 2023 through Sunday, May 7, 2023 to advertise the Annual Town Election on May 16, 2023.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the above request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, April 23, 2023 through Sunday, May 7, 2023 to advertise the Annual Town Election on May 16, 2023. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce [BVCC] / 1) Request for a one-day Wines and Malts license for their Open House that will take place on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM 2) Request for an entertainment license for the Home & Community EXPO scheduled for March 25, 2023 at Northbridge High School. Present: Jeannie Hebert, President & CEO and Liz O'Neil Director of Programs, Events & Memberships.** Ms. Hebert explained that they have some upcoming

events that they will need an entertainment license for. At the open house event in January, they will be announcing the logos and name of the Blackstone Valley Education Hub, which will now be called Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the BVCC's request for a one-day Wines and Malts license for their Open House Event on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the BVCC's request for an entertainment license for the Home & Community EXPO on March 25, 2023 at the Northbridge High School. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Pine Grove Cemetery Deeds/1) David Frieswick and Paula Frieswick [Lot No. 311, Woodlawn Ave. [North];** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Begin to approve the sale of Lot No. 311, Woodlawn Ave. [North] to David Frieswick and Paula Frieswick. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Scott Wallen [Lot No. 50 Birch Path [North].** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Begin to approve the sale of [Lot No. 50 Birch Path [North] to Scott Wallen. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Town Manager Goals for 2023 – Vote to Approve.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the Town Manager Goals for 2023. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**2023 Miscellaneous License Renewals [Common Victualler, Class I, Class II, Class III, Automatic Amusement Devices, Weekday Entertainment, Sunday Entertainment, etc.]/Vote to approve subject to the payment of all monies due the Town.** Town Manager Gaudette reminded the board that last year they received complaints from the neighbors of Valley Pub. The Town Manager reached out to the neighbor to check in as to whether there were any issues this year. He also checked with the Police Department on complaints for which there were none. Mrs. Lachapelle stated that they still had questions that were unanswered and issues with the noise level for outdoor shows. Chairman Collins suggested pulling the entertainment license for the Valley Pub and tabling it for a discussion at a future meeting. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the 2023 Miscellaneous License Renewals [Common Victualler, Class I, Class II, Class III, Automatic Amusement Devices, Weekday Entertainment, Sunday Entertainment, etc., not including the Valley Pub Entertainment License, subject to receiving completed paperwork and the payment of all monies due the Town. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**2023 Annual Liquor License Renewals/Vote to approve subject to the payment of all monies due the Town.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the 2023 Annual Liquor License Renewals subject to the payment of all monies due the Town. Vote yes/Unanimous.

## **DISCUSSIONS/None**

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: 1) Key Meetings Attended:** Monday, November 21, 2022 – Met with S. Susienka and David Labonte from MIIA for the annual General Insurance Policy Review. Monday, November 21, 2022 - Participated in the weekly Fire Station Design Team call. Monday, November 21, 2022 – Attended the virtual monthly Strategic Health Insurance Group Board Meeting. Monday, November 21, 2022 – Conference call with newly elected Selectman Thom Begin. Monday, November 21, 2022 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting. Tuesday, November 22, 2022 – Held a Department Managers' Meeting. Monday, November 28, 2022 – Participated in the weekly Fire Station Design Team call. Monday, November 28, 2022 – Attended the Cable Advisory Meeting along with Bill Hewig from KP Law via zoom. Thursday, December 1, 2022 – Attended a virtual presentation from NearMap, a mapping software company that provides software for use by departments such as Conservation, Planning, DPW and Fire. Thursday, December 1, 2022 – Attended the weekly Fire Station Construction Site Visit. **2) Fire Station Project:** Weekly design team meetings continue to occur every Monday morning and weekly construction meetings every Thursday afternoon with the project team, the GC M. O'Connor, and the site contractor Leahy. The GC continues to work on foundation installation in an effort to have construction ready for the winter. The GC expects to begin erecting steel in early December and paving the binder coat next week.

The Design Team continues to work through bidding questions/change order clarifications. The BPCC meets next on 12/13/2022. **3) Northbridge Elementary School Reuse Study:** The architect team from Abacus has visited the site and met with several stakeholders. They are currently developing a public meeting presentation for January. The surveyor has completed the fieldwork and we are awaiting the existing conditions plan. The DEP Phase I study has been completed by the consultant Langan Environmental who will be meeting with the BPCC at the 12/13/2022 meeting to discuss. **4) Linwood Basketball Courts Project:** The field survey has been completed by Activitas, the site engineer. The Town Manager, the DPW Director and Activitas have met with Parks and Recreation to discuss design programming. The DPW will be assisting with suitable soil testing for the light bases under the direction of Activitas. Activitas is also working on bid documents in anticipation of bidding the project in early 2023. **5) FY2024 Budget and Capital Development:** Planning for next year's budget is underway. The Town Manager is working on preliminary revenues and available capital funds in preparation for Budget Assignments later this fall. Staff assignments have been distributed with budget/capital submissions due Friday, January 13, 2023.

**SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS:** **Selectman Ampagoomian 1)** asked about the signaling at Plummers Corner. Mr. Luchini replied that he would reach out to the State again to inquire about an update. Selectman Melia recalled the State informing us that the road is not large enough to make a left turn lane. **2)** Noted there is an abandoned chair on Oak Street. Mr. Luchini stated that the DPW will get that cleaned up. **Selectman Melia** mentioned the condition of Purgatory Road. Mr. Luchini reported that he will be sending out the crew to repair potholes. **Selectman Paulhus/1)** thanked all the Departments involved in the Tree Lighting Ceremony and noted that it was a great turnout. **2)** attended a School Committee Meeting for the appointment of a member. Rebecca Jackson was the chosen candidate. **Selectman Collins 1)** asked if there was any new development on the RT 122 project. Mr. Luchini explained that they currently have a preliminary design that is about 75% complete. **2)** asked if Purgatory Road would be on the list of roads to replace. Mr. Luchini replied that it is currently in the top 10, and he was hoping to get into more side roads this year but with the failing of the road it may jump up.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**CORRESPONDENCE/None**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus To adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/  
Unanimous.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:33 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Brian Paulhus, Clerk**

/mjc

**LIST OF DOCUMENTATION**

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

**December 5, 2022**

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**
- II. PUBLIC HEARING/None**
- III. APPOINTMENTS/Resignations/None**
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/No documentation**
- V. DECISIONS:**
  - A. Town Clerk/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, April 23, 2023 through Sunday, May 7, 2023 to advertise the Annual Town Election on May 16, 2023**
    - Copy of memo requesting to hang a banner**
  - B. Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce 1) request for a one-day wine and malt license for their Open House on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM**
    - Copy of application for a special license**
    - Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation**
    - Copy of Workers' Compensation Affidavit**
    - Copy of Hold Harmless Agreement**
    - Copy of Certificate of Liability Insurance**
    - Copy of License Routing Slip**
  - 2) request for an entertainment license for the Home & Community EXPO on March 25, 2023 at the Northbridge High School/Present: Jeannie Hebert, President & CEO and Liz O'Neil Director of Programs, Events & Membership**
    - Copy of one-day entertainment license application**
    - Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation**
    - Copy of Workers' Compensation Affidavit**
    - Copy of Hold Harmless Agreement**
    - Copy of Certificate of Liability Insurance**
    - Copy of License Routing Slip**
  - C. Pine Grove Cemetery Deeds/1) David Frieswick and Paula Frieswick [Lot No. 311, Woodlawn Ave. [North];**
    - Copy of Pine Grove Cemetery Deed for David and Paula Frieswick**
  - 2) Scott Wallen [Lot no. 50 Birch Path [North]**
    - Copy of Pine Grove Cemetery Deed for Scott Wallen**
  - D. Town Manager Goals for 2023 – Vote to Approve**
    - Copy of Selectmen's goals for the Town Manager for 2023**
  - E. 2023 Miscellaneous License Renewals [Common Victualler, Class I, Class II, Class III, Automatic Amusement Devices, Weekday Entertainment, Sunday Entertainment, etc.]/Vote to approve subject to the payment of all monies due the Town**
    - Copy of 2023 license renewals listing**

**-Copy of email confirming meeting attendance for an entertainment license noise issue**

**F. 2023 Annual Liquor License Renewals/Vote to approve subject to the payment of all monies due the Town**

**-Copy of 2023 liquor license renewals listing**

**VI. DISCUSSIONS/None**

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**-Copy of Town Manager's Report from November 21, 2022 to December 2, 2022**

**VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation**

**IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**X. CORRESPONDENCE/None**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**