

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

February 27, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Collins at 6:30 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **Also present:** Town Manager Gaudette.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A. 1) October 17, 2022. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the October 17, 2022 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. Abstain: Begin. **2) November 7, 2022.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the November 7, 2022 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. Abstain: Begin. **3) November 21, 2022.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the November 7, 2022 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous. **4) November 22, 2022 [Joint Meeting w/ School Committee].** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the November 7, 2022 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Begin, Melia and Paulhus. Abstain: Collins.

PUBLIC HEARING/None

APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager [Vote to Affirm]: Sharon Emerick, Town Accountant/Finance Director. Town Manager Gaudette explained the former Town Accountant Neil Vaidya, who had been here for 17 years, recently left Northbridge for a new opportunity, which created a vacancy for the Town Accountant position. Town Manager Gaudette explained that Mrs. Emerick has a lot of good experience and is familiar with the software here. Mrs. Emerick stated that she has been a Town Accounting for 25 years and Assistant Town Accountant for 10 before that. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian seconded/Mr. Melia to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Sharon Emerick as the Town Accountant/Finance Director effective Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Melissa LaBounty, Assistant Town Accountant. Town Manager Gaudette explained that Mrs. LaBounty was recently appointed as the Accounting Clerk but due to another vacancy in the Town Accountant Office she will step into this roll. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Melissa LaBounty as the Assistant Town Accountant. Vote yes/Unanimous.

By the Board of Selectmen [Vote to Appoint]: David Blauvelt: 1) Historical Commission/Present-Kenneth Warchol. Mr. Warchol reviewed Mr. Blauvelt's resume, background and experience, following it up stating that his experience is impressive and extremely fitting for the Historical Commission. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to appoint Mr. David Blauvelt to the Historical Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous.

2) Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Historical District Commission (Alternate)/Present-Kelly Rice-Gamble, WDCHDC member. Ms. Rice-Gamble explained that they would like to have Mr. Blauvelt join the WDCHDC as an alternate. She reiterated that with his background in historical preservation he would be extremely fitting for this Commission. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to appoint Mr. David Blauvelt to the Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Historical District Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous.

3) Michael Wilkes, Economic Development Committee. Mr. Wiles expressed great gratitude for the opportunity to serve on this Committee. Mr. Wilkes noted that he also serves on the Northbridge Redevelopment Authority and greatly enjoys working with members of the town. A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to appoint Mr. Michael Wilkes to the Economic Development Committee. Vote yes/Unanimous.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

Vote to accept monetary donation gift in the amount of \$100.00 from Ms. Rebecca Rushford – to be expended by the Conservation Commission. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept the monetary donation gift in the amount of \$100.00 from Ms. Rebecca Rushford – to be expended by the Conservation Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Meeting Minutes [March 23, 2022]/Vote to accept recommendations. Town Manager Gaudette noted the date of these minutes and explained that they had been missed due to staffing changes. He explained that the former DPW Director had just retired, but the committee was able to get these together to move forward with them now. Selectman Paulus asked about the Grinte Street Commercial vehicles issue and if there was any follow up on it. Chief Labrie replied that they identified who the vehicle belonged to and they were able to get it removed. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept the recommendations of the March 23, 2022 Safety Committee Meeting Minutes. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Pine Grove Cemetery Deeds: 1) Vote to approve the sale of Lots 144A and B (2 cremation plots) Yew Ave S. to Rodney and Doris Lee. A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the sale of lots 144A and B (2 cremation plots) Yew Ave S. to Rodney and Doris Lee. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) 25 A Birch Path, South (single grave) to Laura Valanzola.** A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the sale of lot 25 A Birch Path, South (single grave) to Laura Valanzola. Vote yes/Unanimous.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Budget and warrant Update. Town Manager Gaudette informed the Board that the Governor released her Cherry Sheet preliminary budget numbers and identifies a 2% increase for Unrestricted Government Aid. We will be working through those numbers this week and meeting with the Finance Committee and will start to have Department Head budget presentations. The warrant closes this Friday, March 3, 2023 and noon.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: Selectman Ampagoomian/1) remarked that there was a van parked at Riverdale Cemetery that was slightly suspicious. Chief Labrie took note. **2)** Regarding the train derailment in Ohio, he voiced concern for the need to have a plan in place if something like this were to ever happen in town. He asked if the town had some kind of contingency plan in place. Town Manager Gaudette reasoned that we do have local emergency plans and one thing that we are very fortunate to have is mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities along with great assistance from the State Department of Fire Services. On a smaller scale, a couple of years ago there was a tractor trailer filled with gasoline that crashed on Linwood Ave., and we were able to meet with those departments and the emergency response was taken very seriously. **Selectman Melia/1)** asked for an update on the Verizon FIOS matter from the last meeting. Town Manager Gaudette said that they have been playing phone tag, but hopes to be in touch soon. **2)** asked if there were any updates on the TIF agreement. Town Manager Gaudette emailed the consultant two weeks ago and they were working on signatures for the final document and explained that they are likely working through financing and designing the building.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Paulhus, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

February 27, 2023

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- II. A. 1) October 17, 2022**
 - Copy of October 17, 2022 minutes
- 2) November 7, 2022**
 - Copy of November 7, 2022 minutes
- 3) November 21, 2022**
 - Copy of November 21, 2022 minutes
- 4) November 22, 2022 [Joint Meeting w/ School Committee]**
 - Copy of November 22, 2022 minutes
- III. PUBLIC HEARING/None**
- IV. APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager [Vote to Affirm]:**
 - B. Sharon Emerick, Town Accountant/Finance Director**
 - Copy of offer letter
 - Copy of cover letter
 - Copy of resume
 - Copy of Application
 - C. Melissa LaBounty, Assistant Town Accountant**
 - Copy of memo regarding the appointment of Melissa LaBounty
 - Copy of offer letter
 - By the Board of Selectmen [Vote to Appoint]:**
 - D. David Blauvelt: 1) Historical Commission/Present: Kenneth Warchol and 2) Whitinsville Downtown Crossroads Historical District Commission (Alternate)/Present-Kelly Rice-Gamble, WDCHDC member**
 - Copy of Talent Bank Form
 - Copy of Email from the Historical Society for the Alternate appointment
 - E. Michael Wilkes, Economic Development Committee**
 - Copy of talent bank form
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT**
- V. DECISIONS:**
 - F. Vote to accept monetary donation gift in the amount of \$100.00 from Ms. Rebecca Rushford – to be expended by the Conservation Commission**
 - Copy memo from the Conservation Commission for the donation
 - Copy of check in the amount of \$100.00
 - G. Safety Committee Meeting Minutes [March 23, 2022]/Vote to accept recommendations**

-Copy of March 23, 2022 Safety Committee Meeting minutes

H. Pine Grove Cemetery Deeds:

1) Vote to approve the sale of Lots 144A and B (2 cremation plots) Yew Ave S. to Rodney and Doris Lee

-Copy of Pine grove cemetery deed for Lots 144A and B Yew Ave S. -Rodney & Doris Lee

2) 25 A Birch Path, South (single grave) to Laura Valanzola

-Copy of Pine grove cemetery deed for 25 A Birch Path, South (single grave) to Laura Valanzola

VI. DISCUSSIONS/None

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: I. Budget and warrant Update/No documentation

VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

X. CORRESPONDENCE/None

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None