

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen
Highway Commissioners
Cemetery Commissioners

February 27, 2017 @ 6:30pm.
Dudley Municipal Complex
71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
Veterans Memorial Hall – Room 321A
Approved March 13, 2017

Some matters have been taken out of agenda order but were typed up in agenda order for ease of locating information when necessary.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Jonathan Ruda opened the meeting at 6:34pm. In attendance were Peter Fox, John Marsi and Paul Joseph. Also in attendance were Greg Balukonis, Town Administrator and Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary. Steven Sullivan was absent.

2. Recognition:

South Worcester County Communications Center (SWCCC) – Charles “CJ” McGowan – Mr. Greg Lynsky, SWCCC Director, came before the Board with Dispatcher McGowan. Dispatcher McGowan took the initiative and was vigilant in the early morning hours of January 2, 2017. With his quick response he communicated with Auburn Fire that two firefighters were trapped in a structure fire in Oxford and their Mayday call was not heard. Dispatcher McGowan noticed that the second Mayday call came in and, through his efforts communicated with the response team at the scene and the firefighters were able to self-extricate from the building without injury. Board members presented Dispatcher McGowan with a Certificate of Recognition and thanked him for his quick, decisive thinking.

3. Acceptance of Minutes:

John Marsi motioned to approve the minutes of 2/6/17 as printed. Peter Fox seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

Paul Joseph motioned to approve but not release the Executive Session minutes of 2/6/2017. Peter Fox seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

3. Appointments/Resignations:

McKenna Heasley – Alternate – Historical Commission – Ed Bazinet, Chairman of the Historical Commission came before the Board with Ms. Heasley. He stated that Ms. Heasley has need working with the Commission and is interested in local/social history. Ms. Heasley stated that she recently moved to Dudley from Portland, Oregon and is looking forward working on the Commission. **Paul Joseph motioned to appoint McKenna Heasley as an Alternate to the Historical Commission with a term to expire 12/31/2017. John Marsi seconded. Unanimous 4-0.**

4. Public Comments/Citizens Comments:

5. “Around Town” – Focus on Local Businesses:

6. Licenses and Permits:

7. **Public Hearings:**

Baker Pond Association – Request to close the Baker Pond Road boat ramp on Baker Pond Road, Dudley Ma to Non- Resident Trailered Watercraft. – The Public Hearing opened at 6:55pm. Ken Brackley, President of the Baker Pond Association and Wayne Marquis, resident, came before the Board. They explained the reason for the request for the boat ramp to be closed due to an evasive plant called fanwort that is carried on carpeted trailers while launching boats on the pond. The cost to the Association (no grant money is available and the town's do not fund for weed control) was approximately \$4,000. This is in addition to funds to treat milfoil and algae. The chemical used to eradicate the weed is used every four years. It is effective but does not eliminate it. Gerry Frank of Causeway Shores came before the Board. He stated that the land donated to the town was to be used for passive recreation only. Not sure if this relates to the pond. Regarding the pond residents, they do not take their boats out of the pond during the year. They launch them in the spring and take them out in the fall. Paul Joseph asked how much it would cost for a gate? Dan Gion, Highway Superintendent, will be looking into it. Mr. Marquis stated that Browning Pond in Spencer and Wyman Lake in Westminster recently closed their boat ramps due to the weed. The Board requested that the Association find other policies and procedures regarding boat ramps and talk to Mr. Balukonis. The Public Hearing closed at 7:36pm. After discussion **Paul Joseph motioned to table the issue to a future meeting, ask Mr. Gion to check on design and cost options for a gate and the Baker Pond Association work with the Town Administrator to produce a policy similar to other stated ponds with that have a similar situation and have established said policies. John Marsi seconded. Unanimous 4-0.**

8. **Public Business:**

- a. **Toll Booth Request – John Marsi motioned to approve the request from Sean Bowes to hold a toll booth at the town line on Saturday, June 10, 2017 from 9:00am to noon to raise money for the Pan Mass Challenge. Peter Fox seconded. Unanimous 4-0.**
- b. **Board of Health – Rabies Clinic – Paul Joseph motioned to grant the request from the Board of Health to hold a Rabies Clinic on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 10:00am to 12:00pm in the lobby of the Dudley Municipal Complex. Peter Fox seconded. Unanimous 4-0.**
- c. **Board of Health – Clarinda Wood Fund - Paul Joseph motioned to approve the request from the Board of Health to use the Clarinda Wood Fund in the amount of \$138.00 to pay Harrington Memorial Hospital for Health Services in January 2017. Peter Fox seconded. Unanimous 4-0.**
- d. **Employee Merit Increases – 2% - tabled to March 13, 2017**
- e. **Town Administrator – FY18 budget** – Mr. Balukonis presented a preliminary budget overview for FY 18. At this time there is a deficit of \$254,442 with revenues projected to date at \$602,000 with new growth at \$100,000. The mandated school spending is a total of \$529,000. He stated that it is tight to fund the schools since insurance has increased as well. Paul Joseph motioned to send a letter to the school committee and superintendent urging a budget that represents an acceptable and affordable assessment including any catch up costs. Peter Fox seconded. Unanimous 4-0. This letter should convey that the Board is supportive of the school system but that we need to remind them that we have more than a school to fund. Also they requested Mr. Balukonis to provide the Board with an amortization schedule of projected costs of 3-5 years of debt exclusions and long term obligations.
- f. **Spring Town Warrant** – Paul Joseph motioned to open the Spring Town Warrant as printed on the agenda. John Marsi seconded. Unanimous 4-0.

9. **Board of Selectmen Comments/Department Head Comments:**

Paul Joseph stated that the Fellowship Meals that were held at St. Andrew Bobola Church on every other Wednesday have moved to the American Legion in Webster. They will be serving a hot meal on

the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The Blessed Backpack Bridgade is sponsoring the meals and any volunteers would be appreciate.

10. Town Administrator's Report:

11. Adjournment/Executive Session:

The Board adjourned from Public Session at 7:55pm and declared they will be convening into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A section 21 (a)(3) – to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding the Islamic Society of Greater Worcester v. Zoning Board of Appeals et al and will not reconvene into Public Session.

Roll Call Vote:

John Marsi, Aye

Peter Fox, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Jonathan Ruda, Aye,

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary