

## **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Abigail Adams Auditorium**

**September 6, 2016, Tuesday**

Present: Patrick O'Connor, President  
Michael Smart, Vice President  
Robert Conlon, Councilor  
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor  
Jane Hackett, Councilor  
Ed Harrington, Councilor  
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor  
Arthur Mathews, Councilor  
Michael Molisse, Councilor

Absent: Thomas J. Lacey, Councilor  
Brian McDonald, Councilor

Also Present: Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer  
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor  
Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk  
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor  
Dr. Jennifer Curtis-Whipple, Supt. of Schools

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathy Deree called the roll, with two members absent. President O'Connor reported that both Councilors Lacey and McDonald had prior commitments and would not be attending.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Solicitor Callanan explained the change of venue for the meeting. Under the Open Meeting Law, public meetings must be accessible to all, and the Council Chambers location on the second floor did not meet the criteria for handicapped accessibility due to the emergency maintenance on the elevator at the town hall. After consultation with Mayor's Office and the Attorney General Open Government Division, it was determined that an alternative site was necessary.

Councilor Mathews announced Phase II Water Restrictions effective September 6, 2016 and read the directive from the DPW Director and the Mayor. Phase II restrictions allow for outside watering with hand-held hoses between 6-9 AM and 6-9 PM only; no filling of pools and no outdoor car washes.

He also announced the current drought conditions necessitate a temporary halt to weed harvesting at Whitman's Pond. Action will resume once significant rainfall increases the water levels.

Councilor Haugh announced the North Weymouth Civic Association will host a community meeting at the McCulloch Building on September 12, 2016 regarding the proposed 6-story, 50 unit condo development in North Weymouth at the end the Broad Reach complex.

Councilor Conlon announced the Weymouth Fire Fighters Local 1616 will hold a remembrance ceremony outside Town Hall on September 11, 2016 to commemorate events of September 11, 2001.

## **MINUTES**

### **Special Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Special Town Council Meeting of April 14, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Ordinance Committee Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Ordinance Committee Meeting of May 2, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Town Council Meeting of May 2, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Mental Health & Substance Abuse Committee Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve Mental Health & Substance Abuse Committee Meeting minutes of May 16, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **Budget/Management Committee Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Budget/Management Committee Meeting of June 1, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Budget/Management Committee Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Budget/Management Committee Meeting of June 6, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Public Works Committee Meeting of June 14, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Ordinance Committee Meeting Minutes of June 20, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Ordinance Committee Meeting of June 20, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Public Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Public Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting of June 22, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Special Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Special Town Council Meeting of June 27, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**Special Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2016**

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve the minutes from the Special Town Council Meeting of August 15, 2016 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY COMMENT**

**Rehabilitation Homes in the Town of Weymouth-Cathy Torrey of 14 Riverbank Road**

Ms. Torrey, 14 Riverbank Road, addressed the Council regarding a new state program for Sober Houses with a direct and immediate effect on the town. In effort to deal with the heroin scourge, legislation was created. It allows for the conversion of single-family homes, without regard to the neighborhood, into what are essentially boarding houses, and without having to follow town ordinances; by declaration only. Under ADA, addicts are a protected class. There are minimal requirements and they are certified to receive referrals from the court system. These homes are kept full to maximize profit. It results in traffic, parking issues and safety concerns for the neighborhoods into which these homes are being established.

She contacted the DPH but they were unwilling to hear existing homeowner concerns. Like any neighborhood, they look out for their neighbors and have the expectation that their homes will increase in value, but the effects of a sober house remains to be seen. She asked the Town Council to review the issue in light of the enormity of the drug problem.

Councilor Haugh thanked Ms. Torrey for coming forward and noted she is not the only constituent who has reached out to her about the issue and she would like to see it further explored.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to refer this matter to the Public Safety Committee and was seconded by Vice President Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **16 127-National Grid Pole Relocation-Front Street**

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to re-open the public hearing on measure 16 127 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. Abutters were notified on August 5, 2016. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Jose Vazquez, from National Grid presented the request for relocation of pole 139 several feet further north on Front Street-- to make room for new road construction.

Councilor Harrington asked when the double poles along Front Street will be remedied. Jose responded that he spoke with Joe Cardinal at National Grid; they are waiting for Weymouth Fire, Comcast and Verizon to transfer their lines before National Grid can remove the doubles. Poles are jointly owned by National Grid and Verizon. Vice President Smart asked for a spreadsheet to be provided to the Council Office and DPW indicating the location of all double poles.

The following are the comments from the public:

**Robert Montgomery Thomas**, 848 Washington Street-noted that National Grid had test borings done on Washington Street and the sidewalks have not been properly repaired. He brought this up twice before and it has not been resolved. Council President O'Connor responded that he will have Diane Hachey reach out to National Grid.

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to close the public hearing on measure 16 127 and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to Consider item 16 127 under 2-9(b), Same Night Action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A Motion was made by Vice President Smart to approve measure 16 127; that the Town of Weymouth permit the relocation of poles, wires cables and fixtures, including anchors,

guys, and other such necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following public way or ways:

Front Street-Pole 139 23' +/- north of existing road to make way for new road, in accordance with Plan 21709250 dated May 4, 2016

The motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM MAYOR, TOWN OFFICERS AND TOWN BOARDS**

### **16 130-Special Purpose Stabilization Fund Transfer for the Purchase and Installation of Solar Lights at the Municipal Parking Lot in Columbian Square**

CFO Connolly requested, on behalf of the Mayor, that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$150,000 from the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for Capital Projects for the purpose of funding the costs associated with the purchase and installation of solar powered street lights for the municipal parking lot in Columbian Square.

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 16 130 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **16 131-CPA Funding-Weymouth Public Library Historical Collections**

CFO Connolly requested, on behalf of the Mayor, that the Town of Weymouth appropriate the sum of \$28,422 from the Community Preservation Fund- Historic Preservation fund balance for the purpose of funding the costs associated with the conservation and preservation of 16 objects from the Weymouth Public Library.

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 16 131 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **16 132-CPA Funding-Puritan Road Flood Mitigation**

CFO Connolly requested, on behalf of the Mayor, that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$8,496 from the Community Preservation Fund –Open Space Reserve Fund Balance for the purpose of funding the costs associated with design and permitting of a tidal culvert on Puritan Road.

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer item 16 132 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

### **16 133-Authorization to Spend Insurance Claim Proceeds**

CFO Connolly requested, on behalf of the Mayor, that the Town of Weymouth authorize the Weymouth Public Schools to expend \$126,288.79 from Other Insurance

Reimbursement for the purpose of replacing items in the Abigail Adams Middle and Weymouth High Schools due to flooding and ice damage in February 2016.

A motion was made by Vice President Smart to refer measure 16 133 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Mathews.

Councilor Hackett asked if the School Superintendent could review the materials that were needed. Dr. Whipple addressed the Council and noted that the materials need to be replaced as quickly as possible because of the impact to technology.

A substitute motion was made by Councilor Hackett to consider measure 16 133 under 2-9(b), Same Night Action and was seconded by Vice President Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Councilor Hackett to approve measure 16 133; that the Town of Weymouth authorize the Weymouth Public Schools to expend \$126,288.79 from Other Insurance Reimbursement for the purpose of funding the costs associated with replacement of items at Abigail Adams Middle School and Weymouth High School due to flooding and ice damage in February and was seconded by Vice President Smart. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council will be Monday, September 19, 2016. At 8:09 PM; there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice President Smart to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. DPW Director/Mayor Hedlund- Notice of Implementation of Phase II Water Restrictions
2. Measure 16 130 Backup

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Patrick O'Connor as Town Council President  
Voted unanimously on 3 October 2016