

**Board of Selectmen
February 13, 2019**

Present: Kenneth S. Paul, Chair; Connie Twombley; Dennis Miller; Kelley A. Collins, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Mr. Paul called the posted meeting to order at 6 p.m. **Ms. Twombley moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Twombley – ‘aye’; Mr. Miller – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0 and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:05 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board discussed the process for Ms. Collins’ evaluation. **Ms. Twombley moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Twombley – ‘aye’; Mr. Miller – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0 and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:10 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board reviewed results of a recent employment screening. **Mr. Miller moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Ms. Twombley seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Twombley – ‘aye’; Mr. Miller – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0 and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:16 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board abated an ambulance bill due to hardship. **Ms. Twombley moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (e). Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Twombley – ‘aye’; Mr. Miller – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0 and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:20 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, Ms. Collins advised the Board of threatened litigation against the Town in writing. **Mr. Miller moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Ms. Twombley seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Twombley – ‘aye’; Mr. Miller – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0 and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:25 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board authorized an increase to \$20.31 per hour for Officer Jacob Boucher. **Mr. Miller moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Ms. Twombley seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Twombley – ‘aye’; Mr. Miller – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0 and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:29 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board accepted the resignation of Sgt. Jared Welman. **Mr. Miller moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b). Ms. Twombley seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Twombley – ‘aye’; Mr. Miller – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0 and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:40 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to hire Michael Fenton as Police Sergeant at the hourly rate of \$28.54. **Ms. Twombley moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b). Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Ms. Twombley – ‘aye’; Mr. Miller – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0 and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:45 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to hire Gary Cuscia as Animal Control/Part Time officer at the hourly rate of \$17.50. Mr. Paul called for a recess until 7 p.m., at which time the meeting reconvened in the Conference Room. Those present at this time included Victor Becker; Mike Walton; Niko Giokas (videographer); Ed Comeau (videographer); Relf Fogg; Robert & Rose Baxter; and Officer Dave Landry. Mr. Paul led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Collins was not in attendance.

1. Appointments – None scheduled.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1 – None forthcoming.

3. Unfinished Business

a) HSEM-HMPG Grant Application – At the end of January, Ms. Collins submitted an application for the removal of the Maple Street Bridge.

b) Public Hearing for Road to Summer Cottages – This hearing is scheduled for March 13 at 7 p.m. in the Opera House. Postings have been accomplished and notifications via certified mail have been made. The Board should meet previously with Town Counsel and the Department of Public Works. It was decided to conduct a ‘non-meeting’ with Town Counsel, etc., at 5 p.m. on February 27, 2019, in the Town Administrator’s office. This will not be a public meeting.

4. New Business

a) Kenney Repeater Contract – This is a 5-year contract with the Police Department. Mr. Miller noted that the Highway Department may also be getting new radios/repeaters this year. He suggested that eventually the Town should have one company maintaining all repeaters. **Mr. Miller moved to approve the contract with Kenney Communications as presented and to authorize the Chair to execute. Ms. Twombley seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

b, c & d) AWWA, SCAMP and Gafney Facility/License Agreements and Waiver Requests – The Board recently approved use of this form for various groups to complete when seeking permission to utilize Town property. All 3 groups are asking to use the Opera House (at various times) and all 3 are asking the Board to waive the \$200 fee associated with this application. Mr. Miller suggested it might be appropriate for the Board to establish an automatic waiver of the fee for non-profit organizations. Mr. Paul would prefer to not tie the hands of future boards. Ms. Twombley agreed. **Mr. Miller moved to approve the applications of AWWA, SCAMP and Gafney as presented and to waive the \$200 fee for each. Ms. Twombley seconded the motion, which passed.**

e) GWRC Lease with Gafney – This is a renewal of the existing lease for the GED (HiSET) program. **Mr. Miller moved to approve the lease between GWRC and Gafney as presented and to authorize the Chair to execute. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

f) Vachon Clukay Governance Questionnaire – This form is provided by the Town's auditors and must be developed by the Board members. Ms. Collins asks that each member review the questionnaire and provide her with comments. She will compile the final document for the Board's signatures.

g) Abatement Map 241, Lots 7 & 8 – The owner of these properties has a payment plan with the Town to bring property taxes current. As part of that plan, an amount of taxes will be abated when all terms of the agreement are met. The Board is asked to execute these abatements in anticipation of those terms being met; and the abatements will not be applied until that is the case. **Mr. Miller moved to execute the abatements for Map 241, Lots 7 & 8, as presented. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

h) CAI Contract Renewals – The cost for individual street numbering services has increase by \$5 - \$15. The cost for Map/GIS maintenance has increased from \$4800 to \$4950. **Ms. Twombly moved to approve both CAI contracts as presented. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

i) Complaints re: Town Hall Photographs – Several complaints have been received about specific photos hanging in the Opera House lobby. Mr. Becker stated that he was one of the people responsible for the images in question. He stressed that the selection of all images used in Town Hall was done in a careful and conscientious manner. WPI consulted closely with the Town Administrator in a process that took almost a year. Proposed selections were then taken to the Board of Selectmen for approval. It was felt that the images in question documented a piece of our history. Any consideration of the removal of these images should be done in as thorough a manner as the decision to display them. Since there is no way to display these images without implying the approval of something we currently view as inappropriate, and potentially offensive, WPI reluctantly agrees the images should be removed. Mr. Paul and Ms. Twombly expressed agreement with Mr. Becker. Mr. Miller does not believe we should rewrite history every time someone is offended. Perhaps if the Governor of Virginia resigns, the Town should remove the photos. Mr. Paul noted that at the time of the events depicted, those events were not intended to be racist. **Mr. Paul moved to remove the images in question. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 2-1 (Mr. Miller voting against).**

5. Proposed Capital Reserve Fund Expenditures – None scheduled.

6. Correspondence

a) GWRC Minutes & Financial Report – Presented for the Board's information.

b) Consolidated Communications – Consolidated announces its name change.

c) WPI Cash on Hand Report – Provided for the Board's information. Mr. Paul spoke to the tremendous amount of work done by this organization over the years for the town.

d) Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge – The RCNWF thanks the Town for its contribution made in memory of Edna Vinagro, mother to Victor.

7. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2

--Ms. Cleveland referred to the cost of a sticker to access the Transfer Station costing \$5. There seems to be confusion regarding how many stickers can be purchased, whether stickers can be shared and whether the cost to replace an unexpired sticker could be removed. Mr. Paul noted that the Transfer Station Ordinance (which is posted on the Town's website) must be amended by Town vote. He believes vehicle owners can do their best to scrape off a valid sticker, if they are no longer using that vehicle, and take the pieces to the Transfer Station for a replacement at no cost [Section IV.E.7].

--Ms. Cleveland originally agreed with Mr. Miller about the photos previously discussed; however, she has changed her mind. She stressed that we must be careful when a public building is involved.

--Mr. Fogg noted that the Town's social media policy, if it has one, needs review. He is not an advocate of censorship, and he is not against a Town employee voicing his opinion in certain situations; however, he recently had an exchange involving a Transfer Station employee. Mr. Fogg believes this employee is dividing the Town and is making false accusations. Mr. Paul referred to the freedom to voice your opinion as a private citizen. Mr. Fogg noted this employee appears to have time to talk about Mr. Fogg with residents at the Transfer Station.

8. Administrative Matters

a) Town Administrator's Update

--Ms. Collins left a request for 4 ambulance bill write-offs totaling \$2,364.71 and for 4 bills to be reported to Experian totaling \$1671.85. **Mr. Miller moved to write off 4 bills totaling \$2364.71 and to send 4 bills totaling \$1671.85 to Experian, as recommended. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

--We anticipate a former owner will redeem 2 tax acquired properties very shortly. Town Counsel has prepared a deed for the Selectmen's signature. This deed will not be processed until redemption funds have been received. **Mr. Paul moved to execute the Deed for redemption of Map 125, Lots 2 & 3, as presented. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

--Ms. Collins left an update on additional work on the Town Hall boiler. On February 7 the unit again began to short-cycle. Dowling has responded to 5 service calls for this issue, suggesting that a \$2432 fan to address lack of air combustion would solve the problem. Ms. Collins contacted Angelo Sassi & Son Plumbing & Heating, who replaced a solenoid and filters and re-serviced the boiler (because of all the short-cycling). We've gone 6 whole days without an issue!

--Because of the CAI increase for mapping fees, the Building Department would like the Board to conduct a public hearing to revise their fees. The Board agreed to conduct this public hearing on March 13, following the public hearing scheduled for the Road to Summer Cottages designation.

b) Tax Collector's Monthly Comparison – Provided for the Board's information.

c) Building Permit Releases – The Board executed a private road release for Solsky on Blackberry Lane.

d) Payment Manifests – Mr. Miller moved to approve PR #3 in the amount of \$82,825.05. Ms. Twombly seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Ms. Twombly moved to approve AP #5 in the amount of \$934,601.37. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

e) Minutes – Mr. Miller moved to approve all minutes of January 23, 2019, as presented. Mr. Paul seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.


Mr. Paul moved to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. Mr. Miller seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

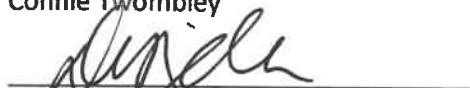
Approval of Minutes:



Kenneth S. Paul, Chair



Connie Twombly



Dennis Miller