

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Clerk), Daniel Trabucco (Selectman), Matthew J. Furlong (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Michael Buckley (Town Accountant), Kathleen McCarthy (Treasurer/Collector), Steve Tomasi, Eoghan Kelley, Bonnie Pajick, Sabrina Chilcott (Executive Assistant), and others.  
**NOT PRESENT:** Lewis W. Stone (Chairman)

At 7:00 pm, Mr. Boulter opened the meeting.

**STEVEN TOMASI OF A.J. TOMASI NURSERIES, INC.**

Mr. Tomasi was present before the Board and thanked them for the opportunity for the Chamber of Commerce's local businesses to address the public in this forum. Mr. Tomasi stated that his father Alfred J. Tomasi started the company in 1949 and they expanded to Pembroke 30 years ago. Mr. Tomasi stated that he is a Registered Landscape Architect running a unique garden center and landscape architect and design in town. Mr. Tomasi described landscape architecture and its value in the enjoyment and value of resident's homes. He explained that successful landscapes outlast the house which they surround, and a good landscape design will see a 140% return on investment. Aside from the aesthetics of visually enhancing a lot and its home, landscape design can conserve heat and protect a home from the elements, can functionally create spaces, provide visual screening and noise reduction. The Pembroke location is 7 acres of 350 different varieties of trees, shrubs and perennials with horticultural experts on staff to assist. Mr. Tomasi stated that if a resident fails to plan, they plan to fail in landscape design. Discussion ensued on different products and services available in the marketplace. Mr. Tomasi explained that many packages offered include landscape design at affordable or no cost.

**DISCUSSION, POSSIBLE VOTE: RETIRED EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PPO AND NON-UNION CONTRIBUTIONS**

Ms. McCarthy was present before the Board with the various rates of health insurance contributions paid by different demographics of employees and retirees in town. Ms. McCarthy stated that, as escalating health insurance costs have been a major focal point of budgetary discussions, the Selectmen have stated their intention to work to raise all contributions to 25% as soon as possible. Ms. McCarthy stated that the sixteen non-union employee contributions are at 22% and the twenty early-retirees contributions are at 15%. Ms. McCarthy and the Town Accountant have proposed a means to getting both groups to 25% over three years. Discussion ensued. Mr. Furlong moved to table this discussion for one week; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Thorne stated that spring Household Hazardous Waste Day has been scheduled for April 15 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The list of acceptable and unacceptable items is located on the town website at: [www.pembroke-ma.gov](http://www.pembroke-ma.gov).

**OPEN THE SPECIAL WITHIN THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT FOR INSERTION OF TWO ARTICLES**

Mr. Trabucco moved to open the Special within the Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Boulter explained the two articles for inclusion are an article to vote to accept 140 Center Street from the VFW and the other is to allow the Selectmen a fee simple interest in the Bartlett Street parcel, B2-3115. Mr. Boyle moved to include these two articles in the special within the annual warrant; Mr. Furlong seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**VOTE TO ADD EXPLANATION TO BALLOT QUESTION AT POLICE CHIEF'S REQUEST**

Chief Wall has requested that the Board vote to add an explanation to the ballot question as voted by the Board March 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Boyle moved to include the following explanation on the upcoming ballot question; "EXPLANATION: This proposal would prohibit all commercial businesses related to marijuana including

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marijuana cultivation, marijuana testing facilities, marijuana product manufacturing, marijuana retailers, or any other type of licensed marijuana-related business. This proposal would not prohibit the personal use of marijuana or growing or marijuana at a residence as permitted by law.” Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Trabucco moved to close the Special within the Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **VOTE TO AUTHORIZE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO PREPARE LETTER OF SUPPORT: VALLEY STREET AND BIRCH STREET HEAVY VEHICLE EXCLUSIONS**

Mr. Thorne advised that the town is preparing to submit the application to MassDOT for Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusions (HVCE) for Valley Street and Birch Street detailing the issues and alternate routes. Mr. Thorne stated that Duxbury is also participating, as the roads both originate there; both the Highway Safety Advisory Committee and the Selectmen have agreed to support this request. Mr. Boyle moved to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the application; Mr. Furlong seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **7:30 PUBLIC HEARING: STREET ACCEPTANCE, EQUESTRIAN WAY, PHEASANT LANE**

At 7:30 pm, Mr. Boulter declared the public hearing on this matter to be open.

Mr. Kelley was present before the Board in support of this Planning Board request for a public hearing for street acceptance in accordance with the Subdivision Control Law. The Planning Board has submitted a town meeting article to this effect: to see if the town will accept as a Town Way, Equestrian Way and Pheasant Lane as shown on the street layout plan entitled Equestrian Estates dated August 12, 2016, prepared by Outback Engineering, Inc., and to see if the Town will further vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, any and all property interests and appurtenances to use said street for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town; or take any other action relative thereto. There was no one present in opposition to this request. Mr. Trabucco explained the process of street acceptance. Mr. Boyle moved favorable action from the Board of Selectmen on this article for street acceptance; Mr. Furlong seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Trabucco moved to close the public hearing; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **VOTE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2017**

Mr. Boyle moved to approve the minutes of March 6, 2017 as presented; Mr. Furlong seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **VOTE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2017**

Mr. Boyle moved to approve the minutes of March 13, 2017; Mr. Furlong seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Thorne stated that there is a public hearing tomorrow night hosted by the Comcast Cable Negotiation Committee for representatives of Comcast and the public to voice any issues they may have to be included in the upcoming contract negotiation process. The current contract expires in December of 2018.

### **ASK THE SELECTMEN**

Mr. Boulter stated that the Fisheries Commission called Brockton to stop water diversion as there was not enough water for the fish to pass through; the water levels are nearly back to a normal state. Brockton has fixed the gate. The Fisheries Commissioners are clearing the stream. They request that residents stop throwing things into the streams and brooks.

Mr. Boulter read the upcoming issues from the agenda.

At 7:40 pm, Mr. Boyle moved to enter executive session under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares regarding Clerical, DPW, Police,

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Fire and Police Superior Officers Unions and (6) to consider the value of real estate – Off Monroe Street. Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. By roll call: Boyle – yes, Furlong – yes, Trabucco – yes and Boulter – yes.

At 8:40 pm, Mr. Trabucco moved to adjourn; Mr. Furlong seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

**MATERIALS & EXHIBITS**

Memorandum and Contribution Summary, K. McCarthy (Treasurer/BOS/TA Office)

Draft Special Within the Annual Warrant Articles 6 and 7 (BOS/TA Office)

Westborough Ballot with Explanation (BOS/TA Office)

Letter, Article, Plans: Planning Board re: Street Acceptance, Abutters Notice, Ad (PLAN/BOS/TA Office)

Draft Minutes of March 6, 2017 (BOS/TA Office)

Draft Minutes of March 13, 2017 (BOS/TA Office)