# MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING OCTOBER 1, 2018

**PRESENT**: Matthew J. Furlong (Chairman), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Clerk), John G. Brown, Jr. (Selectman), Daniel W. Trabucco (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Michael Buckley (Town Accountant), Richard Wall (Police Chief), Stephanie Hagan, Andrew Sullivan, Jean Ryer (Marshfield), Brooke Young, Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant to the Town Administrator) and others.

At 7:00 pm, Mr. Furlong opened the meeting and advised that this meeting is being made available to the public through a live video and audio broadcast on Comcast Government Access Channel 15 and is also being recorded for airing on the channel at future dates. Comments made in open session will be recorded.

## 7:00 STEPHANIE HAGAN, GROUP: PETITION ARTICLE (17) REDUCTION OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS IN PEMBROKE

Ms. Hagan was present before the Board on her group's petition article to bag plastic bags; this is the Marshfield petition article that passed at their town meeting and was approved by the Attorney General. Ms. Hagan stated that 81 towns have passed similar bylaws and the state is prepared to submit a statewide ballot question once 150 towns have passed such a bylaw. Discussion ensued with concerns about the language in this draft bylaw; Ms. Hagan stated that the bylaw is sufficient to accomplish a reduction in the bags and their effect on the environment. Ms. Hagan requested that the Board support the article at town meeting and concluded by stating that Pembroke uses 9million bags per year or 531 per person, and 8% of the world's oil is used to make plastic bags. Mr. Brown asked if Ms. Hagan or her group members have joined the Board of Health's subcommittee on this topic; Ms. Hagan stated they have not, but have met with the subcommittee and they disagree on the language necessary and the timeframe in which to submit the article. Mr. Boulter moved to recommend favorable action on article 17 and Mr. Brown seconded; the vote was unanimously in favor.

## 7:15 POLICE CHIEF RICHARD WALL: DISCUSSION ON ARTICLES 13 AND 14

Chief Wall stated that the department has inadequate staffing and his opinion is that they are at the breaking point; he has implemented a minimum staffing level of four officers on patrol and one desk officer which is causing cost overruns on overtime expenses; article 13 seeks to increase his overtime line item by \$160,192. Additionally, the next academy for new officers is in February which would put a new officer on the road in July, so he is seeking funding for six months of salary for two officers or \$77,663. Town Accountant Michael Buckley stated that he doesn't contest the Chief's need; however, it is not good fiscal practice, nor is it financially responsible to spend one time money on a recurring expense. Mr. Buckley further stated that the town cannot solve a long term problem with short term funding and, in fact, the problem will become worse when the money is abruptly no longer available. Discussion ensued on the dangers in today's climate of law enforcement and the nature of calls to which the officers respond; Chief Wall confirmed that the Department has received over 1,300 calls year to date with the majority concerning mental health related issues. Mr. Thorne asked if the overtime request ends at the end of FY19 and does not continue to be an issue in FY20 and the Chief confirmed this to be so, provided the two new officers are hired. Mr. Thorne echoed the Town Accountant's sentiments stating that the need is there, but the funding is not. Further discussion ensued on the current operating budget and its need to be reset to address real needs, then funded beyond Proposition 2 ½. Mr. Boulter moved to recommend favorable action on article 13; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Boulter moved to recommend favorable action on article 14: Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Buckley requested that the Board reconsider their recommendation on the capital request article, or article 4, as a result of the spending recommended by the Board in these two articles. Mr. Trabucco moved to recommend town meeting floor discussion on article 4; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

## VOTE TO REOPEN THE WARRANT TO INSERT LAND TRANSFER ARTICLE

Mr. Thorne recommended that the Board reopen the Special Town Meeting Warrant for the insertion of an article to transfer the care and custody of Assessor's Map and Parcel F9-1 consisting of approximately 18.12

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acres on Washington Street from the School Department for school purposes to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes or the purpose of conveyance. This is a recommendation of the joint budget subcommittee of the School Committee and Board of Selectmen. Trabucco moved to open the warrant to insert article 19 as presented; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Trabucco moved to recommend favorable action on article 19; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Trabucco moved to close the warrant; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### **VOTE SELECTMEN'S RECOMMENDATION ON ARTICLE 18**

Mr. Furlong read citizens petition article 18 the requests that the State Representative sponsor a Home Rule Petition to grant rate relief to four retirees on their health insurance contributions. Mr. Boyle moved town meeting floor discussion; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

## VOTE TO RATIFY TOWN ADMINISTRATORS APPROVAL: TEMPORARY TRAILER PERMIT

Mr. Boyle moved to approve the temporary trailer permit as issued by the Town Administrator; Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

# VOTE TO APPOINT LAURA DEYOUNG OF 227 TAYLOR STREET TO HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Mr. Boyle moved the appointment of Laura DeYoung at the Historic District Commissions' request; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

### VOTE APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, SEPTEMBER 17 AND SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Mr. Boyle moved to approve the minutes of September 10, 2018; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Boyle moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2018; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor. Mr. Boyle moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2018; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was four in favor, none opposed with Mr. Trabucco abstaining from the vote.

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

### **Municipal Grant**

Mr. Thorne confirmed that the town has filed for state grant funding to perform infrastructure improvements to four buildings and six parks in the amount of \$250,000; the town became eligible when the Board voted to adopt the ADA Transition and Self Evaluation Plans.

### ASK THE SELECTMEN

Mr. Trabucco asked that the Town Administrator send a memo to Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee inviting them all to join Mr. Trabucco on a tour of the Foundation for Humanity nature preserve at 172 Washington Street. Mr. Brown wanted to advise residents to get flu shots and pneumonia shots this upcoming season.

At 7:55 pm, Mr. Furlong read the upcoming issues from the agenda. Mr. Boyle moved to enter executive session under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 (2) to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel; Police Chief and Fire Chief and (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares: Superior Officers contract and Police Union negotiations. Mr. Furlong declared it to be so, and Mr. Trabucco seconded the motion. By roll call: Boulter – yes, Boyle – yes, Brown – yes, Trabucco – yes, Furlong – yes.

### **MATERIALS & EXHIBITS**

Temporary Trailer Permit: 23 Seltsam Way, C. Thiele 9/19/2018-3/19/2019 (BOS/TA Office) Email, E. Bates and Letter, L. DeYoung RE: Appointment HDC (CPC/BOS/TA Office)

Final STM Warrant (BOS/TA Office)

Draft Minutes of September 10, September 17, September 24, 2018