

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, January 30, 2017, 6:15 p.m.
Town Office Building
240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) Susan Bunnell, (presiding); Selectmen Robert Russell and Robert Boilard; Town Administrator Nick Breault; and Human Resources Coordinator Herta Dane.

Executive Session

At 6:15 p.m. Chairman Susan Bunnell declared that the Board of Selectmen would hold an executive session because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating and bargaining position of the Board for the following purposes:

MOTION: Move to enter into executive session per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a) (2) to discuss strategy with respect to non-union negotiations; per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board of Selectmen, as the Chair has declared; per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a) (6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board of Selectmen and, as the Chair has declared; and that the Board shall reconvene in open session following the conclusion of the executive session. The motion was approved with each Selectman voting affirmatively in a roll call vote. (Bunnell, yes; Russell, yes; Boilard, yes.) Approved 3-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Bunnell opened the meeting. She asked all to join her in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. In accordance with M.G.L. 30 (A), § 20 (e), she then announced that the meeting was being recorded by Wilbraham public access and asked if there was anyone else presently recording, to which Chris Goudreau of *The Reminder* replied that he was.

Charles Bennett: Candidate Interview for the Historical Commission

Charles Bennett expressed interest in filling the vacancy on the Historical Commission, citing his love for the town, and the need to preserve its history, as well as the need to make it more accessible to the general public. S. Bunnell asks C. Bennett to give some background on himself, and he explained his family's long history in Wilbraham and his early interest in the municipality's past, as well as his experience in publishing, news and public relations. He was the business manager of the *Smoke Signal*. His mother was the Wilbraham correspondent for the *Springfield Morning Union*. He worked for the *Wall Street Journal* in Chicopee. He owned the *Jewish Weekly News*. He worked at Big Brothers / Big Sisters as a public relations manager. He was the editor at the *Wilbraham Hampden Times*, which he feels is a paper of substantial record. He described his background in civic engagement, citing his position on the Cultural Council, his role as president of the Valley Press Club, his former role as president of the Rotary Club, his work on the steering committee for Minnechaug reunions for the classes of 1961, 1962 and 1963. He recently has found a renewed interest in research, and started the historical Wilbraham column.

R. Russell stated he can't imagine a better candidate, and enjoys the column.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to appoint Charles Bennett to the Historical Commission for the term of Jan 30, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Motion approved 3-0.

Kate Barlow: Candidate Interview for the Commission on Disability

Prior to the interview, S. Bunnell explained that the vacancy was created when Ms. Maggie Wurm did not wish to be reappointed to the Commission on Disability. S. Bunnell asked the Chair of the Commission,

Steve Fratoni, if he is comfortable that that appointed should be rescinded, having reviewed the documents submitted by Ms. Wurm. He said yes, it should be rescinded. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to accept the resignation of Margarita Dennis-Wurm from the Commission on Disability and to rescind her appointment for the term of May 23, 2016 to June 30, 2019. Motion approved 3-0.

S. Bunnell asked K. Barlow to provide some background information about herself. She explained that she is a doctor of occupational therapy, working with and advocating for both adults and children with disabilities. She has worked in school systems for twelve years, as well as adult rehab, hospital and nursing facilities. She is currently an assistant professor at American International College. She also currently works PRN at HealthSouth Ludlow with adults, and does early intervention work with children. She learned about the position through an ad at the library, and felt herself to be qualified. S. Bunnell asked K. Barlow and S. Fratoni if they have communicated about the obligations of the committee. S. Fratoni said yes, and that K. Barlow has attended the previous three meetings. S. Bunnell asked if the BOS or S. Fratoni had any other questions, but there were none. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to appoint Kate Barlow to the Commission on Disability for the term of January 30, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Approved 3-0.

Acting Fire Chief David Bourcier: Candidate Interview for Fire Chief

S. Bunnell acknowledged that D. Bourcier has been with the department a long time, and asked him for a summary of that experience. D. Bourcier said that he is currently the Deputy Fire Chief of the Wilbraham Fire Department. He started with the Fire Department in 1982, joining the Call Auxiliary Department. His father is a retired Lieutenant of the Call Department, and that's where he got his love for the Department at an early age. He worked up through the ranks, serving in nearly every position.

S. Bunnell asked if there were any questions from the BOS. R. Boilard vouched for D. Bourcier's honesty and integrity. R. Russell asked D. Bourcier what he thinks his biggest challenge will be over the next four years. D. Bourcier said that the biggest challenge will be to continue to move the department forward, raising the bar of service to the community, as well as keeping firefighters safe. S. Bunnell asked if there were any specific areas where economies of scale or other kinds of budget efficiencies could be utilized given the budget constraints the town has been facing.

D. Bourcier elaborated on the importance of finding the balance between budgetary responsibility and good service, and described an emphasized focus on analyzing data to achieve this balance. He said he is going through the whole capital schedule in terms of vehicle and equipment replacements, and he is mindful of not spending money in areas that do not require it. S. Bunnell asked about his philosophy in terms of a negotiating posture, with regard to union negotiations. D. Bourcier said that there is a contract between the union and the town that he will honor. He speaks on behalf of the union's integrity in its negotiations, and foresees a positive relationship. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to appoint David Bourcier to the position of Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director, contingent upon successfully negotiating and executing an employment contract. Motion approved 3-0.

S. Bunnell proposed to take a few items out of order – originally listed on the agenda as new business, because of the personnel presently assembled in the room. S. Bunnell said that the previous motion puts D. Bourcier in the position of needing to appoint an Acting Deputy Chief.

D. Bourcier and the BOS reviewed the protocol for this selection. D. Bourcier introduced Captain Peter Nothe, who then proceeded to greet the BOS and take a seat next to D. Bourcier. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to appoint Captain Peter Nothe to Acting Deputy Fire Chief. Motion approved 3-0.

Chairman Bunnell asked Mr. Nothe if he was willing to accept this appointment. He said yes. The BOS then reviewed the protocol for future appointments for this position. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to authorize the hiring of a permanent Deputy Fire Chief. Motion approved 3-0.

S. Bunnell confirmed that there is a candidate for the newly opened Firefighter position; and thanked D. Bourcier and P. Nothe.

Town Administrator's Report

N. Breault reported that he has a scheduled meeting with representatives from Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative regarding Memorial School, hopefully leading to an agreement on the subject. R. Boilard asked if the (Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School) District has any use for the building. N. Breault explained that the District is aware of the interest from the LPVEC and has not asked for the meeting to not occur. N. Breault then reported that he, the Recreation Director and H. Dane will interview applicants for the Assistant Recreation Director on Thursday, the 2nd. H. Dane confirmed that there were over 80 applicants.

Board of Selectmen Updates

S. Bunnell reported that she and Nick Breault met with Michael Clark from Senator Eric Lesser's staff, in which they discussed the possibility of getting some money from the state legislature to help with public works or recreational projects. R. Boilard commented that he appreciated funding for recreational projects, but would like to know if there is funding that would help the District, for transportation, for example. S. Bunnell said there was discussion about these matters and indicated there will be more.

S. Bunnell then apologized for an incident with Stoughton Smead, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) as well as being a member of Conservation Commission, who gave a compelling report on the CPC's activities during a Citizens Open Forum at the last BOS meeting. This should have been handled as an appointment with the BOS. S. Smead will be invited to the next BOS meeting for an appointment to give the update again.

Citizens Open Forum

No comments.

Vacation and Holiday Time Carry Over Requests

The BOS considered a request from Chief Tucker to carry over vacation time. S. Bunnell noted that Chief Tucker is on a January 1 schedule for vacation time as a contract employee, which is different from other employees; and that this request is in line with how the BOS is managing this moving forward. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to approve the requests of Chief Roger Tucker to carry over four vacation days. Motion approved 3-0.

Request for Incremental Use of Vacation Time

S. Bunnell stated that the Board will hold on the request for incremental vacation time pending some additional information from the Town Administrator.

Discussion of Proposed By-Law Changes

The By-Law Study Committee public information session on the proposed chicken by-law and the pawnshop / secondhand articles by-law will be held on January 31, 2017, at 7PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. The BOS encouraged the public to attend.

Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting

N. Breault explained that the Cable Article establishes the need for the Cable Fund and should be addressed this year. He also suggested the possibility of adopting regulations for moratoriums relative to marijuana. Other towns have enacted regulations to give them additional time to think about how that legislation will proceed. S. Bunnell and N. Breault noted that this was one of the issues they discussed with M. Clark; and have sought additional information from the MMA. There was discussion of soliciting public input, and

what the deadline process for articles is, and looking at dates in the next three weeks, March 1 was the consensus choice; the date will be brought to the BOS next week.

S. Bunnell met with Melissa Graves, who provided a spreadsheet of all building permits applied for in 2016, which she will dig into to get a feel for the number of total contractors. Lance Trevallion, Building Inspector, informed her that the (price) gap between the new stretch code and the current building code is about \$4,000 on a new house. S. Bunnell would like to look into the use of DOER money available if the town were to become a designated Green Community. There was a brief discussion about the source of the DOER funds, and S. Bunnell said she would come back with more information.

Having no further business, S. Bunnell called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to adjourn. Motion approved 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



Nick Breault, Town Administrator



Susan C. Bunnell, Chairman



Robert W. Russell, Selectman



Robert J. Boilard, Selectman