

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

October 9, 2018

Chairman Kevin A. Caira called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Jonathan R. Eaton, Edward P. Loud, Sr. and Michael V. McCoy. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

A motion was made and duly seconded and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen enter Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Negotiations with Jeffrey Hull, Town Manager, Over the Terms of a Potential Employment Agreement in Accordance with MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)2.

Chairman Kevin A. Caira reconvened the open meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Jonathan R. Eaton, Edward P. Loud, Sr. and Michael V. McCoy. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

Chairman Caira asked those present to rise and he led the pledge of allegiance.

TREASURY WARRANTS

Chairman Caira asked for a motion to accept the Treasury Warrants. A motion was made by Selectman Loud, seconded by Selectman Eaton and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen accept Treasury Warrants 13, 13A, 14 & 14A.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman Loud and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of their meeting held September 10, 2018 and all action taken is hereby ratified and confirmed.

Relative to the September 24, 2018 meeting minutes, Chairman Caira stated that, where it states "Chairman Kevin A. Caira reconvened the open meeting at 7:35 p.m. in Room 9 of the Town Hall.", the next sentence lists members who were present and Selectman McCoy was omitted. A motion was made by Selectman Eaton, seconded by Selectman McCoy and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of their meeting held September 24, 2018, with the addition as noted by Chairman Caira, and all action taken is hereby ratified and confirmed.

Chairman Caira noted that members of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager and the Recording Secretary were wearing an article of pink clothing as October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

MICHAEL BEGONIS, POLICE CHIEF, AND SAMANTHA REIF, HEALTH AND RECOVERY COORDINATOR, RE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE INITIATIVES

Chief Begonis thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide an update and expressed his appreciation for the Board's support. He commented regarding the past year that Ms. Reif has exceeded his expectations. Chief Begonis noted the difficulty in quantifying the results but stated families that she has helped have reached out to him.

Chief Begonis stated that the Police Department has seen an increase in mental health and substance abuse issues throughout the community, the Commonwealth and the nation. He advised that heroin is not the primary drug as more deaths are from fentanyl. Fentanyl is more potent than heroin and may be produced in laboratories.

Chief Begonis stated that a case that took over a year to investigate and a year to prosecute, concluded with the individual being sentenced to ten years in the federal penitentiary.

Chief Begonis stated that a lot has changed with the legalization of marijuana and commented that it sends a mixed message to the youth of the community. He expressed concern that the ability to purchase vapes and similar products is problematic because the department tries to promote abstinence until after the age of 25 when they can make proper decisions.

Chief Begonis stated that it is a daunting task for family members to obtain resources and many are embarrassed and do not reach out. He noted that they are experiencing more people reaching out for assistance and he predicts he will be asking for additional help for Ms. Reif.

Ms. Reif stated that she was hired approximately one year ago as the Substance Abuse Coordinator and changed her title to be more inclusive and less stigmatizing. She stated that over the year she was able to establish partnerships with various town departments, organizations and other communities.

Ms. Reif stated that approximately half the Police Department is trained in critical incident response, a 40 hour training that covers mental health, elder issues and substance abuse. She and Lt. Joseph Desmond attended a mental health first aid train-the-trainer class and they are trainers for that curriculum. In addition to training Wilmington's police officers she would like to train community groups.

Ms. Reif stated that she partnered with the School Department to train staff on vaping and marijuana use and with the Memorial Library where she conducted a mental health class so staff may be aware of patrons exhibiting different symptoms. She advised that the Wilmington Substance Abuse Coalition is conducting quarterly focus meetings to educate or have dialog on specific topic. The Coalition meets monthly and produces a quarterly newsletter which is available in print and on the Coalition's website and the Police Department website.

Recognizing that crises are not contained to the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ms. Reif began working Mondays from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. She also spends a shift patrolling with the Police Department.

Ms. Reif reviewed events that were held during Substance Abuse Recovery Month including the third annual vigil on the Town Common, the Sons of Italy donated funds to light the Town Common purple during the month and a donation drive to benefit children in Department of Children and Family (DCF) custody impacted by substance abuse and mental illness.

Ms. Reif briefly reviewed the Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (P.A.A.R.I.) Grant and how the Town of Wilmington will benefit.

Ms. Reif advised that during 2018, to date, there have been nineteen (19) overdoses, one fatal. She noted that there are many components that comprise the figures including the availability of Narcan, individuals being driven to the hospital without calling first responders and how it is identified on scene. Ms. Reif further noted that the numbers represent opiate overdoses and do not include non opiate or alcohol addiction. She acknowledged that the number of overdoses may be higher.

Chairman Caira asked whether there were questions or comments from the Board. Members of the Board expressed their appreciation to Ms. Reif and Chief Begonis for their work.

Selectman Eaton asked when the part time coach through the P.A.A.R.I. Grant would begin and was advised that she began on October 1.

Chairman Caira asked about the duration of the grant and was advised that it is \$50,000 per year for two years. The intention is to have one person the first year and a second person the second year. Chief Begonis further explained that people in recovery relate best to someone who has gone through, or is going through, recovery. Chief Begonis also noted that regarding the statistics, the department receives updates from the State Medical Examiner's Office and six Wilmington residents have died out of town since January 1, 2018. Most are in their 30s or 40s. Addiction affects all genders, all ages, holding down full time jobs with families, it is a broad spectrum of individuals.

Selectman Loud stated that he is encouraged about the training the Police Officers are receiving and asked whether it extends to the Fire Fighters as well. Chief Begonis stated that it can, as well as to the dispatchers.

Selectman McCoy asked about educating the students and Ms. Reif stated that the schools have been receptive to having her participate with different levels of involvement.

Members of the Board commented relative to the vigil that was held on September 17.

Town Manager Hull acknowledged and thanked the Chief for his foresight on this issue. Chief Begonis recognizes that law enforcement is more than just arresting individuals and incarcerating them, it is more of a social service agency.

Town Manager Hull expressed his appreciation to Ms. Reif noting that it takes a particularly unique type of person with the level of dedication and resourcefulness to enter difficult situations, deal with them effectively and be resilient to the situations.

COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manager Hull reviewed a memorandum from Paul Alunni, Town Engineer, who provided an update on the Lowell Street Sewer Extension. He advised that the project is in its final stages of construction and the remaining work includes the final two force main connections at the intersection. Following completion, the permanent pavement installation for the entire length of trench-work will commence. Mr. Alunni offered a reminder that the project is privately funded and being performed by a private contractor who is extending the sewer for future development of 168 Lowell Street. The proponent furnished surety in the form of a performance bond for \$10,000 made payable to the Town of Wilmington. The Town will hold the bond for one year after final paving is complete to ensure the roadway surface is acceptable.

Selectman McCoy asked to confirm that the road will be addressed by November 1. Town Manager Hull confirmed. Chairman Caira noted that the Department of Public Works advised that the pavement will be complete by November 15 although the projected date is November 1.

Selectman McCoy questioned the amount of the bond and asked the value of the bond for the work completed by National Grid. Town Manager Hull advised that he did not have the amount but it is his expectation that bonds are set based upon the anticipated value of the work to be done and the money will be sufficient.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a memorandum from Town Clerk Sharon George. Ms. George wrote to advise that early voting will take place prior to the November 6 election beginning October 22 and commencing November 2. Early voting hours will be held Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Monday, October 22 and October 29, 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 27, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. She noted that in 2016, 5,970 Wilmington voters took advantage of early voting.

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding the Town's contract with Russell Disposal. He advised that Walpole and Chelsea are two communities that utilize Russell to collect and dispose of their recyclables and, like Wilmington, neither community has been provided with a performance bond. Collection services in the two communities has not been effected by the company's inability to secure a performance bond and due to the expected dramatic increase with another vendor, they have also decided not to seek a new contractor. Town Manager Hull noted that the tip fee has trended down over the last few months and is currently under \$90 per ton.

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding the Warehousing proposal for the Olin Site. He reminded the Board of correspondence submitted by Michael Newhouse seeking a meeting with the Board to receive consent to represent GFI, a party to a potential warehouse development at 51 Eames Street and, if granted consent, to participate along with GFI representatives in describing a proposed warehouse development for the site. Town Manager Hull stated that the Town is conditioning such a meeting on New England Transrail formally agreeing to place on hold their petition for an exemption from the Surface Transportation Board.

BOARD TO CONSIDER TOWN MANAGER'S REAPPOINTMENT OCTOBER 1, 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

A motion to reappoint Jeffrey Hull as Town Manager was made by Selectman Eaton and seconded by Selectman Loud. Selectman McCoy read a statement he had prepared noting that in 2011 it was suggested that the Board of Selectmen conduct a nationwide search and that he believes in hiring from within. He expressed concern that the Board is not notified of issues in a timely manner and learns of them from "people on the street". A motion having been duly made and seconded, Chairman Caira called for a vote and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen reappoint Jeffrey M. Hull as Town Manager for the period October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2021.

BOARD TO CONSIDER POTENTIAL RESCHEDULING OF NOVEMBER 30, 2018 MEETING

Chairman Caira stated that it has been brought to his attention that the Board's meeting of November 13 is the same night as the Planning Board's meeting. He explained that the Planning Board's meeting was rescheduled due to the State Election and the Board of Selectmen meeting was rescheduled due to Veterans' Day. He is aware that members of the Board of Selectmen may be interested in attending the Planning Board meeting. Members asked what may be on the Planning Board's agenda and were advised that the detox facility proposed for 362 Middlesex Avenue is scheduled for that evening. Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board of Selectmen to reschedule their meeting to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2018.

BOARD TO CONSIDER MEETING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2018

Town Manager Hull advised that typically the Board meets once in December and asked whether they wanted to meet just the once and whether they wanted to meet on December 10 or December 17.

It was the consensus of the Board of Selectmen to meet once in December and for that meeting to be held on December 10, 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

Selectman Loud stated that he attended the opening day of the Pickleball Courts and thanked Tom Pazyra and Jim Buckley for their efforts.

Selectman Loud recognized the service of William “Bill” Smith a WWII Veteran who was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and Bronze Star Medal among other medals for his service in the Army during WWII. Mr. Smith was a long-time resident of Wilmington who currently lives in a nursing home in Woburn. Mr. Smith is 92 years old.

Selectman McCoy and Selectman Bendel also attended the opening of the Pickleball Courts.

IMPORTANT DATES

Town Manager Hull reviewed important dates including:

Sundays Through

- October 14 – Farmer’s Market – Town Common Parking Lot – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- October 10 – Brush Drop Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- October 12 – Carter Lecture Fund – *Counterfeit Cash* – Wilmington Middle School – 7:00 p.m.
- October 13 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- October 14 – Harnden Tavern Harvest Festival – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- October 15 – Welcome to Wilmington Reception – Memorial Library – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- October 17 – Brush Drop Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- October 17 – Coffee with a Cop – Memorial Library – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- October 17 – Last Day to Register to Vote in State Election
Town Clerk’s Office Open Until 8:00 p.m.
- October 19 – Haunted Woods – Harnden Tavern – 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- October 20 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- October 20 – Haunted Woods – Harnden Tavern – 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- October 22 – Board of Selectmen – Town Hall – Room 9 – 7:00 p.m.
- October 22-
- November 2 – Early Voting – Town Hall Auditorium – Hours TBD
- October 26 – Haunted Woods – Harnden Tavern – 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- October 27 – Haunted Woods – Harnden Tavern – 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- October 28 – Horribles Parade – Rotary Park – 4:30 p.m.
- November 4 – Harnden Tavern Open House – 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- November 4 – Turn Clocks Back – Change Detector Batteries
- November 5-
- December 7 – Curbside Collection of Yardwaste
- November 6 – State Election – Polls Open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- November 11 – Veterans' Day Ceremony – Town Common – 11:00 a.m.
- November 12 – Town Offices Closed – *Veterans' Day*
- November 13 – Board of Selectmen – Town Hall – Room 9 – 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Cairra noted that the Library is conducting many events as part of Italian American Heritage Month and encouraged residents to attend.

A motion was made by Selectman Eaton, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen enter Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Strategies with Respect to Collective Bargaining with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1703 Unit 1 in Accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)3 as the Chairman Declares that an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Negotiating Position of the Town not to return to open session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary