

**Members Present:** Wayne R. Walker, Heather M. Billings, James A. DeLisle

**Others Present:** Karen Murphy, Stephanie Lahtinen, Kevin Nivala, Keith Harding, Steve Wallace; Alexander Mazin, Trichome Health; Phillip Silverman, Counsel for Trichome Health; Doneen Durling, Gardner News; Amanda Burke, Fitchburg Sentinel and Enterprise

### **CALL TO ORDER**

H. Billings called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in room 205 of the Town Hall. She announced that the meeting was being recorded by Ashburnham/Westminster Community Access TV and the Gardner News.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

J. DeLisle announced that this Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup> would be the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Town Benefit event at the Town Common on Academy Hill from 11am-5pm. All are welcome to attend.

### **APPROVALS**

#### WARRANTS

W. Walker made a motion to approve the following warrants.

8/3/2017	Accounts Payable 18-05A	\$23,827.20
8/10/2017	Payroll 18-06B	\$201,986.00

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2017

W. Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of July 24, 2017. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### EXTENSION OF ARTICLES SCHEDULED TO SUNSET

W. Walker made a motion to extend the following articles for one year;

- Assessor's article for the Revaluation Consultant, Police Department for Bullet Proof Vests and the Town Administrator for the Demolition of Vacant/Abandoned Property.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL FROM STELLAR CORPORATION – ONLINE DOG LICENSING SOFTWARE

W. Walker made a motion to approve the contract with Stellar Corporation, which will provide an online licensing and permitting for the Town Clerks office and dog licensing. There is a setup fee of \$2000 and an annual subscription fee of \$900. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### AMBULANCE UNCOLLECTABLES

K. Nivala indicated that the Fire Department is seeking permission to write off \$37,247.45 in ambulance billing charges. He indicated that the department has made monthly attempts to collect the outstanding balances however, these charges remain.

W. Walker made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to write off \$37,247.45 in uncollectable ambulance billing fees. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

H. Billings declared a recess at 6:13p.m. The Board reconvened at 6:18 p.m.

## **HEARINGS/OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS**

### **RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL ON PURCHASE OF PROPERTY CLASSIFIED UNDER MGL CH. 61A AND 61B – BEAN PORRIDGE HILL ROAD**

W. Walker made a motion that the Town not exercise its Right of First Refusal on a parcel of property comprised of approximately 218 acres and located on Bean Porridge Hill Road, currently owned by Baro Properties Limited Partnership. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **TRICHOME HEALTH – REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT OR NON-OPPOSITION TO LOCATE REGISTERED CULTIVATION AND DISPENSARY FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA AT 25 THEODORE DRIVE**

Alex Mazin and Atty. Phil Silverman presented information on potential of a cultivation and dispensary facility to the Board of Selectmen, to be located at 25 Theodore Drive. Mr. Mazin discussed the security measures that would be taken to insure that the facility would remain safe, as well as the process that Trichome would follow to grow and distribute medical marijuana. He indicated that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health very heavily regulates the cultivation and distribution of medical marijuana.

Residents were present and voiced their concerns regarding the placement of a cultivation and dispensary in Westminster. Many of those concerns centered around neighborhood security, effects on home values, water usage as well as the reasoning behind them trying to locate in Westminster.

Mr. Mazin and Atty. Silverman cited the lack of access to medical marijuana in this area as well as the location of this building, already being in an industrial zone as the main reasons for a Westminster location.

The discussion continued between the Selectmen, the residents and the Trichome representatives. This item will be continued at the next meeting on August 21, 2017.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS**

### **COMMUNITY/SENIOR CENTER USE POLICY HANDBOOK REVISIONS**

The Board discussed the revisions to the Community Senior Center Use Policy Handbook that were distributed. H. Billings recommended two grammatical changes.

W. Walker made a motion to approve the updated Community Senior Center Use Policy Handbook as discussed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

H. Billings moved that the board enter into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to conduct a strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel. W. Walker seconded the motion. Mr. Walker indicated that the meeting would adjourn directly following Executive Session. The motion was passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned directly from Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.