

*Town of Westminster – Select Board Meeting Minutes – Monday, May 23, 2022*

**Members Present:** Heather M. Billings, Salvatore Albert, Jr., Melissa A. Banks

**Staff Present:** Stephanie Lahtinen, Tamie Chiarelli

**Others Present:** Dr. Michael Popik, Ed Simoncini (via phone), Ann Loree

**CALL TO ORDER**

S. Albert called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM in room 205 of the Town Hall. He announced that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live by Ashburnham/Westminster Community Media.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

S. Albert made the following announcements:

Board & Committees at Select Board Meetings

In an effort to facilitate communication between all the Boards and Committees, and publicize the hard work being put in by our volunteers; this Select Board will be inviting our

Boards/Committees/Commissions in to discuss their current projects, initiatives and undertakings as well as ask any questions they may have of the staff or Select Board.

We are looking forward to hearing from all of you and to opening up a dialogue between the Town and all of its dedicated volunteers.

Ongoing PFAS Situation

Please be advised that in the area around 65 Bean Porridge Hill Road, toward South Ashburnham Road and surrounding neighborhoods, drinking wells have tested positive for PFAS contamination beyond the limits set by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. MassDEP is overseeing the contamination investigation and remediation efforts in these areas; two licensed site professionals are working with residents to have their wells tested, provide temporary measures like bottled water and well filtration until a permanent solution can be determined. Additionally, the surface water of Crocker Pond has been tested in accordance with Department of Public Health protocols and the results will be shared on the town website, Crocker Pond Facebook pages and an e-alert in advance of opening the beach for the season.

Please stay tuned to our website for an informational page explaining the situation, contact information for involved state agencies and new information as we receive it.

**APPROVALS**

WARRANTS:

H. Billings made a motion to approve the following warrants:

Accounts Payable	#22-47A	\$297,079.62	5/23/22
Payroll	#22-47B	\$242,120.09	5/26/22

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

BOARD OF HEALTH – JOINT APPOINTMENT TO VACANT BOARD MEMBER POSITION:

A roll call vote of the Board of Health members, Michael Popik (present) and Ed Simoncini (via phone) and the Select Board, was made to appoint Matt Pearson to the Board of Health for a term to end at the 2023 Annual Town Election. All voted unanimously.

ONE STOP GRANT APPLICATION:

H. Billings made a motion to vote to approve the submission of a One Stop Grant letter of support, on behalf of the roadway improvement project to take place at the intersection of Route 2A/Depot Road/Bathrick Road. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATIONS:

H. Billings made a motion to approve the payroll/change request and authorization for Philip Leger, as per diem Health Department Consultant to fill a vacancy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

H. Billings made a motion to approve the payroll/change request and authorization for James Walker, Supervisor/Crocker Pond Seasonal Staff. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

H. Billings made a motion to approve the payroll/change request and authorization for Philip Renda, Attendant I/Crocker Pond Seasonal Staff. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

H. Billings made a motion to approve the payroll/change request and authorization for Jordan Patrai, Attendant/Crocker Pond Seasonal Staff. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

H. Billings made a motion to approve the payroll/change request and authorization for Tyler Descahenes, Attendant/Crocker Pond Seasonal Staff. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**ONGOING/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

UPTON BUILDING FIRST REFUSAL:

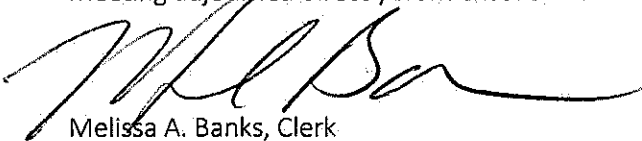
H. Billings motion the board to vote waive the Town's Right of First Refusal on the Upton School Building and property on Academy Hill Road, pursuant to a successful negotiation related to the disposition of profits to the Town, following the Historical Society's sale of the building. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

H. Billings motioned to move that the Board vote to enter executive session pursuant to MGL C.30A, S.21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and that the Board adjourn after executive session. The motion was seconded and S. Albert declared that to continue in open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town. S. Albert took a roll call vote and the Board entered into executive session at 5:12 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned directly from executive session at 5:26 PM



Melissa A. Banks, Clerk  
(Prepared by T. Chiarelli)

**EXHIBITS:**

- Town Administrator's Report
- Warrants (2)
- Payroll Authorization (5)
- One Stop Grant Letter of Support