

*Town of Westminster – Select Board Meeting Minutes – Monday, October 24, 2022*

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

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

**Others Present:** Jason Cox, Sean Hayden

**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.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

S. Albert announced that Parks & Recreation Committee is hosting Trick or Treat on Bacon St this year October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 PM following with the Fire Department's Bonfire from 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

S. Albert also announced that last week key personnel in Fitchburg & Westminster met with Mayor DiNatale to discuss the status of the dam at Wyman Lake. They will be inviting Wyman's Lake Association members into a meeting to discuss.

**APPROVALS**

WARRANTS:

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

Accounts Payable	#23-17A	\$1,387,549.63	10/24/22
Payroll	#23-17B	\$254,481.43	10/27/22

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

OCTOBER 17, 2022 MEETING MINUTES:

H. Billings made a motion to approve the minutes of October 17, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING – REGIONAL AGREEMENT WITH GAAMHA

Sean Hayden from GAAMHA was present to explain the organization and the reasoning behind having other surrounding towns combine efforts in the services available for their communities. They specialize in providing Substance Abuse Disorder Services, among others. The Town Administrator, in partnership with Kim Ferguson and John Zlotnik, as well as the City of Gardner have been working together with other small surrounding towns to maximize the effectiveness of this funding.

H. Billings made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to enter negotiations with GAAMHA for services related to the opioid settlement funds, and to produce a contract for the Select Board's consideration.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

APPROVE AND POST 11/15/22 STM WARRANT:

The Town Accountant has advised on the need for an additional article to appropriate funding to the Septic Loan Management Program the motion will read as: If the Town will vote to transfer \$15,000 from Septic Loan Program Receipts to Town Debt Retirement General fund to cover debt costs, or act in relation thereto.

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H. Billings made a motion to approve to add this article to the Nov 15, 2022 STM Warrant and also made a motion to approve the post of the Special Town Meeting Warrant, to be held on Tuesday, Nov 15, 2022 at 7:30 PM in the Westminster Elementary School.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

APPROVE AND POST 11/8/22 STATE ELECTION WARRANT:

H. Billings made a motion to approve and post the State Election Warrant, to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the Community Senior Center, 69 West Main Street.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE – DISCUSSION WITH BOARD:

Jason Cox, the Vice Chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee was present to update the Board on the current events and activities occurring with Parks & Rec.

They are still working on the playground location.

They are looking to keep a maintenance worker on longer than just the summer season to keep up with maintaining the grounds, fields, basketball courts, etc., as it is needed more than just one season.

The Halloween event on Bacon Street has a strong attendance within town. There are still available spots left for Truck or Treat. Jason thanked the residents of Bacon Street for their assistance and participation for the Trick or Treating. The Fire Department has the bonfire at 7:00 on Halloween night and that has a very strong draw of people, even from other surrounding towns. They expect between 1,000 – 2,000 people to go through town that night. The Fire Department also has a costume contest that they pick the winners.

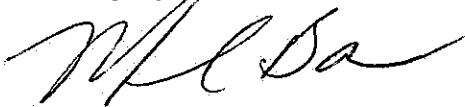
The upcoming Christmas event is the Tree Lighting event on December 4<sup>th</sup>. They will also be working on the Christmas lighting in town.

The movie nights that they had this year were very successful and that hopefully they will be able to purchase their own equipment to have even more movies, throughout the summer.

They are always trying to make the programs better and stronger for the community. He also thanked the great group of people that make up the Parks & Recreation Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:23 PM



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

**EXHIBITS:**

- Town Administrator's Report
- Warrants (2)
- October 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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- Nov 15, 2022 STM Warrant
- Nov 8, 2022 State Election Warrant