

Town of Westminster – Select Board Meeting Minutes – Monday, May 1, 2023

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

Staff Present: Stephanie Lahtinen, Tamie Chiarelli

Others Present: Marcia Sharkey, Lisa Rocheleau, Dana Altobelli, John Lutz

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:

MassDEP Residents Meeting

This Wednesday, May 3rd, MassDEP, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Westminster Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Group will be holding a public meeting for Westminster Residents affected by PFAS detections in private drinking water wells around Mass Natural Fertilizer Co (MNF) on Bean Porridge Hill Rd. Technical staff from MassDEP will update residents on sampling results and ongoing mitigation efforts being conducted by MNF as part of an approved Immediate Response Action (IRA) Plan, as well as response actions going forward. Representatives from DPH will be on-hand to provide health related guidance and answer questions from residents.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 3rd at Oakmont Regional High School auditorium from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. For residents who cannot attend in-person, the meeting can be accessed via a Zoom webinar link at www.westminster-ma.gov.

Annual Town Meeting

The annual Town Meeting will be held this Saturday, May 6th at 1:00 pm at the Westminster elementary School. Booklets are available at the Town Hall or on the website www.westminster-ma.gov.

APPROVALS

WARRANTS:

H Billings made a motion to approve the following warrants:

Accounts Payable	#23-44A	\$259,700.45	5/1/23
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The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

APRIL 24, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:

H. Billings made a motion to approve the minutes of April 24, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

LIGHT THE TOWN PURPLE:

Marcia Sharkey from the Relay for Life was present to discuss the upcoming Light the Town Purple Event on May 15th on Academy Hill at 7:00 PM. Tony Gasbaro will be the speaker and the WES Select Choir will be performing.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATIONS:

H. Billings made a motion to approve the payroll authorization for Alfred Clayton as Part Time Laborer for the Cemetery Dept, filling a vacancy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

SET BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:

The calendar presented has the potential meeting dates marked through October, with holidays marked. The Select Board all agreed on the dates set through October, which will bring us up to the Special Town Meeting in November. The Select Board also all agreed on keeping the time of the meetings the same of 5:00 PM.

The next set of scheduled dates: June 12 – June 26 – July 10 – July 24 – August 14 – August 28 – September 11 – September 25 – October 2 – October 16 – October 30.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION – BALLOT QUESTIONS RESULTS:

Question One:

- Should the Town of Westminster retain ownership of the old Town Hall property at 3 Bacon Street for repurposing, up to and including demolition; utilizing available State, Federal or other grant funds?

YES: 398 NO: 319

Question Two:

- Should the Town of Westminster sell the old Town Hall property at 3 Bacon Street for repurposing with a historic preservation restriction?

YES: 386 NO: 336

Question 1 passed by a margin of 12 YES votes according to the unofficial ballot results posted by the Town Clerk.

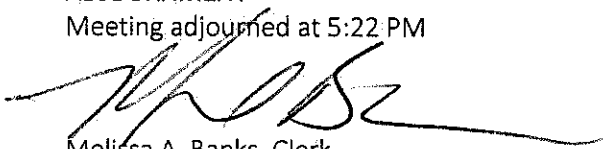
H. Billings stated that we wait until the official results are posted to make any decisions. She indicated that there was some confusion on the questions and that some people voted on both questions. She asked that if the bidding can have the stipulation that there can be architectural salvage.

S. Lahtinen indicated that they would work with an engineering firm to complete a demo assessment for hazardous materials and assemble bid specs. The bid specs in the package may include whatever provisions the Board would like to see relative to reuse/salvage of materials inside.

M. Banks made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to move forward with acquiring some of the bidding information and the process of demo assessment. The motion was seconded and passed with a majority vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM



Melissa A. Banks, Clerk

(Prepared by T. Chiarelli)

EXHIBITS:

- Town Administrator's Report
- Warrant (1)
- April 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Light the Town Purple Relay for Life Flyer to post
- Payroll Authorization
- Calendar for upcoming SB meeting schedule
- Copies of Town Meeting Warrant