

Town of Westminster – Select Board Meeting Minutes – Monday, June 5, 2023

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

Staff Present: Stephanie Lahtinen, Tamie Chiarelli

Others Present: Lisa Rocheleau, Melinda Horrigan, Roni Beal, Dana Altobelli, Nick Langhart, Kristie Aubuchon, Chelsea Patriss, Leann Lamsa, Justin Lamsa, Joe Serio, Betsy Hannula, Greg Buckman, Eric Chartrand, Tracy Murphy, Joan Longcope

CALL TO ORDER

H. Billings called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM in room 205 of the Town Hall. She announced that the meeting was not being recorded and broadcast live by Ashburnham/Westminster Community Media. Stephanie Lahtinen was audio recording.

APPROVALS

WARRANTS:

M. Banks made a motion to approve the following warrants:

Accounts Payable	#23-49A	\$87,016.69	6/5/23
Payroll	#23-49B	\$268,002.47	6/8/23

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MAY 15, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:

M. Banks made a motion to approve the minutes of May 15, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT – L. LAMSA:

The Board is in receipt of an Open Meeting Law complaint from Leeann Lamsa. Counsel has provided a response to be furnished to the Division of Open Government. H. Billings read the response from Counsel. H. Billings then read the complaint filed by L. Lamsa.

The Board maintains that the May 1, 2023 agenda was sufficiently detailed for the discussion of the ballot questions and reaching a majority consensus on direction for the Town Administrator. The Select Board will endeavor to include additional details in the future when discussing topics of this nature.

H. Billings asked if there were any comments and/or questions. There was none.

S. Albert made a motion to approve the response from Town Counsel. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PAYROLL AUTHORIZATIONS:

Building Commissioner:

M. Banks made a motion to approve the payroll change request and authorization for Eric Chartrand as Building commissioner, filling the vacancy following Paul Blanchard's retirement. The motion was seconded and passed.

S. Albert made a statement to thank Paul for his years of dedication to the Town as Building Commissioner and that we all wish him well in his future endeavors.

NEW BUSINESS

JUNE 21, 2023 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – CITIZEN'S PETITION:

S. Albert made a motion to approve and post the June 21, 2023 Special Town Meeting Warrant as petitioned. The motion was seconded and passed.

H. Billings stated that on Wednesday, the Town received a petition for a Special Town Meeting for the following question; this will be the only question to the warrant:

To see if the town will vote to rescind, repeal and revoke the authority to demolish the property located at 3 Bacon Street (the former Town Hall), which was given to the Select Board under Article 36 of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, and to reinstate the prior purpose of the property, which was to be conveyed subject to a historic preservation restriction, or act in relation thereto.

H. Billings asked if there were any comments and/or questions. There was none.

Joe Serio made a comment about the postcard notices that go out to all the residents before a town meeting and we should consider printing the entire warrant on the postcard. Mr. Serio indicated that people can access the warrant on the town's website, but if want more people to attend the meeting we should print the warrant on the postcards, even if we have to a bigger sized paper.

Dana Altobelli asked if the Select Board has made opinions on this article. Lisa Rocheleau stated that the Advisory Board is meeting with the Select Board on June 12th and they will all have opinions by the Special Town Meeting.

H. Billings called for adjournment and S. Albert seconded it.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM

Salvatore Albert, Clerk
(Prepared by T. Chiarelli)

EXHIBITS:

- Town Administrator's Report
- Warrant (2)
- May 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Payroll Authorizations (1)
- Town Counsel's response to OML Complaint
- OML complaint submitted by L. Lamsa
- Special Town Meeting Warrant (4 copies)