

Selectmen's Minutes
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Stage Conference Area

November 5, 2018

Present: Chairman Lisa J. O'Donnell, Selectman Andrew C. Spinney, Selectman Peter D. Phippen, Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki, and Selectmen's Assistant Pamela J. Witham.

Also Present: Trescott DeWitt, Brian Feener, and Paul Rullo.

Chairman O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Stage Conference Area on the second floor of the Town Hall, located at 30 Martin Street, and announced that the Board would hear Public Comment. No one offered any comment.

Mr. Zubricki began the presentation of his Town Administrator's Report for the period October 27th through November 2nd, 2018, regarding the following:

Questions Concerning Route 133 Vehicular Safety in Specific Areas: Mr. Zubricki reported that he had contacted MassDOT to inquire about placing warning lights before and after Burnham's Corner, which was recently the site of a bad accident. MassDOT has responded that they do not own that section of Route 133, but that the Town is welcome to conduct a study and purchase and install flashing lights, if deemed necessary. Mr. Zubricki had also inquired about possibly of gradually decreasing the 50 mile per hour speed limit on John Wise Avenue, in anticipation of the approach to the 25 mile per hour speed limit through Town. MassDOT replied that signage on John Wise Avenue is in compliance with the laws requiring signs to be placed at specific distances announcing a change in speed limit. The Board decided to take no action on either matter.

Age and Dementia-Friendly Regional Meeting and Grant: Mr. Zubricki said that Council on Aging Director Kristin Crockett recently attended a meeting hosted by SeniorCare to discuss interest in Cape Ann communities banding together to apply for a State grant involving best practices for senior related services. Mr. Zubricki agreed to contact Scott Trenti, the Executive Director of SeniorCare, to ask about the timeline for the project and to determine which of the Community Compact best practices would be most appropriate. SeniorCare would write the grant application, but Essex may be the lead grant applicant.

Community Compact Best Practice Area Review and Grant Funding: The Board discussed the possibility of applying for a new community compact with the State, and agreed that they would like to proceed with an application. Each compact may include up to three different best practice areas and the Board agreed that they would like to pursue a best practices compact for senior care, water resource management, and for regionalization/efficiency. Mr. Zubricki will continue to refine the Town's approach.

In other business, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the weekly warrant in the amount of \$206,824.71.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the minutes for the Selectmen's October 29, 2018, Open Meeting and Executive Session.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the following applications for Antiques License Renewals:

- Joseph Danna; Conomo Point Antiques; 166 R Eastern Avenue
- David Neligan; DPN Corp. d/b/a Neligan Antiques; 38 Main Street
- Tom Lang; Perim Lang Antiques; 18 Eastern Avenue

The Selectmen were reminded of the following upcoming meetings:

- The Town Building Committee and the Board of Selectmen will meet on Thursday, November 8, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor Town Hall Auditorium.
- November 19, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Manchester Town Hall, Room 5, 10 Central Street: Joint meeting of the Manchester and Essex Boards of Selectmen.
- The next regular Board of Selectmen's meeting will take place on Monday, November 26, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Stage Conference Room at the Essex Town Hall.

Board of Public Works Chair Brian Feener, and BPW members Scott DeWitt and Paul Rullo joined the Selectmen. Mr. Feener said that his Board has been very satisfied with Mr. Galli, the Water Department Chief Operator/Assistant Superintendent for many years, who has recently also been serving as acting Superintendent. The BPW would like to promote Michael Galli to the position of Superintendent of Public Works. The Select Board, acting in their capacity as Personnel Board, said they had no concerns about the proposed promotion and deferred to the BPW. Subsequently, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted by the Board of Public Works to promote Michael Galli to the position of Superintendent and to set his salary, for the present, at the midpoint of the salary range for the Superintendent's position. The job description for a Water Department Chief Operator/Assistant Operator will soon be posted to fill that vacancy and the Board of Public Works may eventually propose changes to the Assistant's job description.

On another matter, both boards discussed the possibility of applying for a State community compact to help with the pursuit of grant money to study water resource management. The BPW was in favor of the idea and Mr. Zubricki will forward a list of the options available in that category to the BPW for consideration.

Brian Feener, Scott DeWitt, and Paul Rullo left the meeting.

Chairman O'Donnell said that the Board has been approached by a town business person who would like to give out small stockings filled with candy and a business card to the children attending Santa's arrival and Santa's breakfast. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Board was OK with an announcement at the event that the gifts were provided by a certain business, but not in favor of the gift containing a business card or advertisement.

The Board discussed their upcoming meeting with Manchester to explore regionalization and/or shared services and resolved to welcome any suggestions. Chairman O'Donnell was in favor of seeking a grant to fund a professional consultant to study the needs of both towns and make recommendations regarding the best options available. Selectman Phippen also suggested discussing this matter with other towns, including Ipswich and Rockport.

There being no other business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Documents used during this meeting include the following: None.

Prepared by: _____
Pamela J. Witham

Attested by: _____
Andrew C. Spinney