



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES
February 28th, 2022 | 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order: Julie Smith-Galvin called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Julie Smith-Galvin led the body in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Julie Smith-Galvin, Chair; Mehreen N. Butt, Vice-Chair; Jonathan P. Chines; Anne P. Danehy; Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.; Michael J. McLane and Ann McGonigle Santos.

Julie Smith-Galvin acknowledged and congratulated newest Town Councilor Michael J. McLane.

Administration Present: Sherri A. Dalton, Town Council Clerk and Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator.

Town Counsel Present: Thomas A. Mullen.

Executive Session: At 6:34 p.m. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss the possible settlement agreement with Collegium because an open meeting may have detrimental effects on the bargaining position of the Town, with the intent of return to open session immediately after. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed by a roll call vote.

Open session returned at 6:47 p.m.

Julie Smith-Galvin acknowledged the Ukraine tragedy and reminded everyone how important community is and how everyone must stick together as we stand with Ukraine.

Public Engagement: Roger Danchise of 100 Nahant Street expressed concern regarding the trash and recycling system in place for Wakefield as well as the current tiered water billing system for condominiums. Jonathan P. Chines asked Town Administrator Maio to share the concerns with the Advisory Board of Public Works. Michael Labieniec of 3 Stoney Hill Lane expressed frustration and asked numerous questions he would like responses to in regards to the National Grid work on Montrose Avenue. Julie Smith-Galvin asked Town Administrator Maio to look in to these questions.

Approval of Minutes: Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve the February 14th, 2022 Town Council meeting minutes as proposed. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Public Hearings: At 7:11 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to open the Public Hearing for Town of Wakefield Verizon New England, Inc. Cable Television License Renewal. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Town Counsel Mullen said that the term of the contract is a lot less than what he wanted as he was looking for a 10-year term but stated this is the best deal we can have as Verizon will not enter into any contract of this type for longer than 5-years. Executive Director Ryan Boyd from Wakefield Community Access Television and Allison Houghton, President of the



Wakefield Community Access Television Board of Directors provided public comment and thanked Town Counsel Mullen and others for their support. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve the Town of Wakefield Verizon New England, Inc. Cable Television License Renewal as proposed. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. At 7:28 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to close the Public Hearing. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

By-Law Appeal Update: Brian McGrail with law offices at 607 North Avenue, Wakefield, attorney for the owner of the property, presented an update on the property located at 383 Water Street. On February 17th, 2022 a site meeting was conducted. Along with Attorney McGrail were his client, Joseph Surianello of Heritage Builders, Joseph Ardagna of Phil Howes Towing, Town Administrator Maio, Building Inspector DeChristoforo, Health Director Chui, Health Inspector Hope, Police Chief Skory and Town Councilor Dombroski. They walked the property to familiarize themselves with the terrain and the remaining vehicles that need to be removed. It was quite evident that more than a tow truck would be needed, especially in the rear of the property to accomplish a safe removal. Agreed at the site meeting was to have Howes Towing try to access and remove the remaining vehicles in front of the house without any heavy equipment. Mr. Surianello would need to bring in an excavator to access and retrieve the remaining vehicles situated toward the rear of the property. On February 23rd, 2022 Howes Towing was in fact able to access and remove four (4) vehicles from the front of the property. An excavator was delivered to the property and the process of retrieving the remaining vehicles, bringing them to a staging area for removal from the property will commence. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to extend the Cease and Desist Order for 383 Water Street until the March 28th, 2022 Town Council meeting. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. stated we need to get the homeowner back in to the home without further delay. Town Administrator Maio will provide an update to include the Inspectional Services department in 2-weeks at the March 14th, 2022 Town Council meeting.

Fiscal Year 2023 Budgets: Town Accountant Gill presented the following budgets. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve Budget #17 Fire Department in the amount of \$6,327,322.00. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve Budget #22 Animal Inspector in the amount of \$40,600.00. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve Budget #24 Parking Clerk in the amount of \$12,782.00. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve Budget #26 Health and Human Services department in the amount of \$383,076.00 Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 6-1-0 with Mehreen N. Butt; Ann Santos; Jonathan P. Chines; Anne P. Danehy, Michael J. McLane and Julie Smith-Galvin voting in favor of the motion. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. voting against the motion and stated the work the department does is important but the whole budget is a step too far. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve Budget #39 General Insurance in the amount of \$499,131.00. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve Budget #43 Worker's Comp in the amount of \$487,780.00. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Committee Updates: Committee selection process: Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. provided an overview of the Zoning Board of Appeals Candidate Interview Special Committee process. The proposed committee would include the Town Council Chair (or his/her designee from the Town Council); the Zoning Board of Appeals Chair (or his/her designee ZBA member – the ZBA Chair or designee shall not be an applicant at the time of interviews) and Wakefield's Community and Economic Development Director. After further discussion the Council stated they can discuss this in more detail at the March 14th, 2022 meeting when a representative from the Zoning Board of Appeals will be present. Town Council Mullen will provide guidelines and appropriate interview processes and questions. Volunteer Appreciation Event: Julie Smith-Galvin talked about the volunteer appreciation event that will take

place on March 28th, 2022 at the High School and will include not only the volunteers on boards/committees/commission but individuals that volunteered at the clinics as well. Committee Updates: The Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Commission will be invited to the March 14th, 2022 meeting to provide their updates.

Agreement: Town Council Mullen gave a brief overview regarding the Collegium Settlement Agreement with Scott & Scott Clients who represents the Town as outside attorneys in litigation against a number of opioid manufacturers, distributors and others involved in the opioid trade. Collegium Pharmaceutical is one of the smallest defendants who agreed to settle all litigation by paying a lump sum of 2.75 million dollars with the allocation among all 27 communities that are represented by Scott & Scott Attorneys at Law LLP. The allocation was done by a damages expert who looked at factors to determine the amount awarded to each of the 27 communities and as a result Wakefield would get a net amount of \$24,758.00. Scott & Scott recommends this settlement as does Town Counsel Mullen. Mehreen N. Butt motioned to approve the draft settlement agreement with Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc. to settle the towns action against that defendant in the amount of \$24,758.00 and to authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Matters Not Anticipated for Agenda: There were no matters unanticipated.

Announcements: Julie Smith-Galvin: International Women's Day event is March 8th, 2022 virtually at 7:00 p.m.; congratulations to WCAT; Jim Scott; Lauren Blois and Yanna Herzog for being recipients of the Service Award issued by the Human Rights Commission. Michael J. McLane: early bird registration for the Gator Gallop is through March 1st, 2022 and you will receive a free race t-shirt if you register by then. Jonathan P. Chines: Acknowledged everyone involved in the Special Town Election; acknowledged the owner of Smith Drug Mary-Esther Fournier who is retiring and selling Smith Drug; Parent University is back for spring semester and will take place on Thursdays throughout March. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.: March is White Ribbon Campaign. Town Administrator Maio: The movie Holdovers will be filmed at the Wakefield Bowladrome on March 3rd, 2022.

Adjournment: Mehreen N. Butt motioned to adjourn at 9:56 p.m. Ann Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton
Town Council Clerk