

Committee of the Whole
Minutes of the Meeting
November 2, 2020

1. Vice-President McMenimen called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm.
2. Vice-President McMenimen requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Paz, Stanley, Vidal and Vice-President McMenimen were present.
3. A motion by Councillor McLaughlin to accept the minutes of the COW meeting held on October 19, 2020 was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting were accepted.
4. Councillor Durkee moved to hear from all individuals who have an item on the agenda – Christina Curtin, a proposed member for the Ambulance Service Committee, Mayor McCarthy, and Police Chief Keith MacPherson. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Christina Curtin as a member of the Ambulance Service Review Committee. Upon questions from Councillor McLaughlin, Ms. Curtin spoke of her background and experience for the position. Councillor McLaughlin moved to confirm the appointment of Ms. Curtin to the Ambulance Service Review Committee. On the motion, Councillor O'Brien voice his support for Ms. Curtin. Vice-President McMenimen took leave from the Chair to make Ms. Curtin aware of her three concerns – 1) ambulance located on southside can be impacted by the track crossing on Moody Street, 2) place an ambulance location on the northside and 3) location of cell calls. The original motion of Councillor McLaughlin was adopted on a voice vote and Ms. Curtin was confirmed as a member of the Ambulance Service Review Committee.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to transfer the care, custody and control of the property located at 89 Maple Street to the Waltham Fire Department. Upon questions from Councillor Harris, the Mayor explained the acquisition process and the intended use of the property, which is to provide additional parking for the Moody Street Fire Station. Councillor Harris moved to approve the transfer of the care, custody and control of the property located at 89 Maple Street to the Waltham Fire Department. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the transfer was approved.
7. A request was received from the Mayor to accept the bid of \$250,000 for the sale of the City owned property located at 102 Trimount Avenue. The Mayor gave a brief summary of the transaction. Councillor Dunn moved to accept the \$250,000 bid for the sale of the property. The motion was adopted on voice vote.
8. A communication was received from the Mayor concerning the recommendation of the Police Chief for the location of a new police station. The Mayor gave a brief history of the process to

locate a new police station and asked the Police Chief to look at different sites. The recommendation letter of Chief MacPherson stated three potential sites – the Fernald property, the Fitch School and the current site. The recommendation of Chief MacPherson stated in order – the Fitch School, Area 3B at Fernald and the Marquadt Building at Fernald. The Mayor explained the non-CPA portion of the Fernald included the Marquadt and Greene Buildings, but their location and access were not favorable for a police station. The Mayor explained the Fitch School was currently under control of the School Department. The Mayor was not in favor of keeping the Fitch School to redo it. However, if the School Committee votes to surplus the Fitch School, the Mayor is in support of locating the new Police Station at the Fitch School. If not for a police station, the Mayor would consider tearing down the Fitch School, maintain the art deco façade and create parking for the downtown. Councillor Harris asked about the impact on accreditation for the Police Department and would like to keep an open dialogue on the reuse of the Fitch School. Councillor LeBlanc asked questions about the current police station site and its expansion capabilities. Councillor Paz asked about the process to keep the police station at its current site and moving CPW to the Fernald property. Councillor Paz spoke about using Fitch for the “Healthy Waltham” program. The Mayor stated the neighbors do not want housing or Healthy Waltham at the Fitch School and reiterated that she could not justify keeping the Fitch School “as is”. The Mayor pointed to the differences and the process to allow the use of City owned property for private purposes. Councillor Durkee asked questions about using the existing site or the need for a new site. Councillor Vidal said he welcomed using the Fitch School as the location for a new police station. Councillor Paz stated that more police presence does not create better public safety. President Brasco stated his strong advocacy for public safety and the School Committee should turn over the care, custody and control of the Fitch School to the City. Councillor Harris again stated the need for an open dialogue and to explore each option. Chief MacPherson stated the need for a new police station and the Mayor stated sticking to the three sites the Chief recommended. Councillor Harris moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.

9. A motion by President Brasco to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 10:05pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Committee of the Whole