

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

February 4, 2019

1. Vice-President Logan called the meeting to Order at 8:00pm.
2. Vice-President Logan requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – President Brasco, Councillors Darcy, Fowler, Harris, LaCava, D. Leblanc, Mackin, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Nabulime, Romard, Stanley, Vidal and Logan were present. Councillor R. LeBlanc was absent.
3. Councillor McLaughlin rose to speak on the recent passing of the former Chairman of the Board of Assessors, Joe Goode. Councillor McLaughlin remembered Mr. Goode as man of character, friendly with a good sense of humor and the consummate public servant. Councillor McLaughlin requested a moment of silence to honor of Mr. Goode.
4. Councillor McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on January 22, 2019. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of January 22, 2019 were approved.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Rebecca Migdal, 248 Warren Street, Waltham to the Waltham Historical Commission. Councillor McLaughlin moved to hear from Ms. Migdal. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Ms. Migdal gave a brief summary of her experience and background and its applicability to the mission of the Historical Commission. Councillor D. LeBlanc asked Ms. Migdal several questions about the type of projects she was involved in, including the scope and time frame. Councillors McMenimen and Darcy spoke favorably of Ms. Migdal citing her experience. Councillor Nabulime asked questions about Ms. Migdal's opinion on public history. Councillor McLaughlin moved to confirm the appointment of Rebecca Migdal to the Waltham Historical Commission. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the appointment of Rebecca Migdal was confirmed.
6. Councillor Romard moved to take the matter of the vacancy of the City Clerk (1/8/2018) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Romard moved to file the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was filed.
7. Councillor Romard moved to take the matter of the acquisition of 334R Prospect Hill Road (10/10/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Romard moved to request the Mayor appear at the next COW meeting to provide an update on the status of the acquisition of the property. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Romard moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.

8. Councillor Romard moved to take the matter of the resolution on the Stigmatine development rights (5/22/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Romard spoke about the controversy concerning the estimated cost of the new Waltham High School and how it had increased from \$280 million to \$380 million. Councillor Romard moved to request the Mayor appear at the next COW meeting to discuss the matter of the new Waltham High School project including but not limited to cost, design, status and other matters of concern. On the motion, Councillor Stanley stated that he supports the school project but is shocked to learn of the estimated cost. Councillor Stanley stated it was not the premise the City Council was aware of when it voted to take the Stigmatine property. Councillor Stanley spoke about the several other projects under consideration, including the Police Station, Fire Station, Traffic improvements, CPW expansion and the Fernald cleanup/improvements. Councillor Stanley asked about the status of the ownership of the property and why hasn't the City Council been informed. Councillor Stanley asked if the Mayor is planning to bring another 150 people to the Council Chamber. The motion of Councillor Romard was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Romard moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the matter was tabled.
9. Councillor D. LeBlanc moved to take the matter of the Police Station (12/26/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor D. LeBlanc moved to hear from the CPW Director, Michael Chiasson. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen rose and recused herself from the discussion on the Fernald property to avoid any appearance of impropriety. Councillor D. LeBlanc stated that the preferred site recommended by the Police Station Site Selection Committee for a new Police Station was parcel 3B at the Fernald property. Councillor D. LeBlanc also stated it was the same parcel identified by the Mayor in the master plan for CPW and cemetery use. Mr. Chiasson stated it was the City Council that wanted CPW to go to Fernald. Councillor D. LeBlanc asked several questions of Mr. Chiasson concerning the relocation of CPW to Fernald, including suitability of the parcel, size of the parcel to accommodate CPW, the length of time for the relocation and the cost. Councillor D. LeBlanc asked if the Police Station was relocated to Fernald would the current site on Lexington Street support the needs of CPW. Councillor D. LeBlanc asked if the parcel at Fernald could support both the Police Station and a cemetery site. Councillors Nabulime and McLaughlin asked several questions about the Fernald parcel and the ability to accommodate CPW and the Police Station. Councillor McLaughlin also asked questions about the current Lexington Street site and the impact of the proposed rail trail on CPW activities. President Brasco stated CPW should go to Fernald and the Police Station should be built on the current Lexington Street site. Councillor Darcy spoke about the challenging topography of parcel 3B at Fernald and asked questions about the remaining burial capacity at Mt. Feake Cemetery. Councillor Stanley questioned the likely contamination of parcel 3B and the need to conduct a full environmental study of

the entire Fernald property. Councillor Fowler stated the key question is if CPW could be accommodated at the current Lexington Street site if the Police Station was demolished and relocated to Fernald. Councillor Fowler stated moving the Police Station to Fernald was the quickest and easiest solution. Councillor D. LeBlanc moved to place the matter back on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice and the matter was tabled.

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

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