

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

November 16, 2015

1. Vice-President LeBlanc called the meeting to Order at 8:00 pm
2. Vice-President LeBlanc requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll - all Councillors except Councillor Giordano were present.
3. Vice-President LeBlanc requested a moment of silence to honor the victims of the terror attack in Paris, France.
4. A motion by Councillor Logan to accept the minutes of the COW meeting held on November 2, 2015 was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A motion to suspend the rules to take a docket item out of order was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A resolution concerning the acquisition of the property located at 476 and 486 Main Street was submitted by President Marchese. President Marchese stated that the Mayor had performed an appraisal of the property and its value was \$1,050,000. President Marchese moved to authorize the Mayor to offer \$1,000,000 for the property. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. President Marchese moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A resolution concerning the property located at 380 Lexington Street was submitted by Vice President LeBlanc. Mr. Garvin provided a Power Point demonstration of the intersection of Totten Pond Road and Lexington Street highlighting the layout of the intersection, safety statistics, level of service statistics and a video of the traffic flows through each phase of the traffic signals. Mr. Garvin also presented two options for improvements to the intersection - (1) compact signalization or (2) a modern roundabout. Mr. Garvin explained either option would improve safety and would require the purchase/taking of the property located at 380 Lexington Street. Chief MacPherson spoke more favorably of option 2 and emphasized that something needed to be done to create more space at the intersection. Mr. Richardson provided details on the historical significance of the 380 Lexington Street property, citing the unique architecture and the lineage of the individuals who owned/occupied the house. Councillors Vizard, Darcy, McMenimen, Romard, O'Brien, Fowler and Logan asked specific questions concerning the historical importance of the property, the logistics and cost of constructing a roundabout, the utilization of a connector road between Totten Pond Road (at Third Avenue) and Main Street, the impact on pedestrian safety and other mitigation methods to improve traffic at the intersection. Councillor Vizard moved to request the Mayor to submit a funding request for an appraisal of the 380 Lexington Street property. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Brasco, Fowler, Logan, Marchese, McLaughlin, O'Brien, Rourke, Stanley, Vizard,

Waddick, LeBlanc), 3 opposed (Darcy, McMenimen, Romard) and 1 absent (Giordano). Councillor Darcy moved to request the Traffic Engineer to recalculate the level of service if a connector road was built. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy moved to request the Conservation Commission to report to the Committee of possible wetland areas at the 380 Lexington Street property. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen moved to request the Law Department to appear at the Committee of the Whole to discuss the possible acquisition of the 380 Lexington Street property, which may necessitate an executive session. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen moved to request the Traffic Engineer to appear at the Committee of the Whole to discuss the calculations and cost of the redesign for each option. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Logan moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

8. A resolution concerning the possible modifying or closing of the Waverly Square MBTA commuter rail station was submitted by Councillor McMenimen. Councillor McMenimen informed that Committee that earlier in the evening she attended a meeting held in the Town of Belmont with officials of the MBTA. Since many of the commuters who use this station are Waltham residents, Councillor McMenimen suggested representatives of the MBTA attend a future COW meeting. Councillor McMenimen moved to invite representatives of the MBTA to attend a future COW meeting to discuss proposals for closing or modifying the station. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
9. A resolution concerning snow removal operations for the upcoming 2015-2016 winter season was submitted by Councillor McMenimen. Councillor McMenimen moved to request the CPW Director attend the COW meeting of December 7 to discuss his plans and preparation for the upcoming winter season. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen moved to table the matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
10. Councillor McMenimen moved to take the matter of the resolution concerning the Superintendent of Schools (9/14/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen moved to hear from an off-committee member - Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Drew Echelson. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Dr. Echelson distributed a multi-page handout to present his (1) Personal and Professional Background, (2) Core Values, (3) "Early Wins" and (4) Outlining the Path Forward. Dr. Echelson gave a brief commentary on each of the four items. Councillors McMenimen, Brasco, Romard and Vizard acknowledged Dr. Echelson's experience and background as an educator. As Councillors, who also serve on the Finance Committee, they asked specific questions about the school budget, expenses borne by the City but attributable to the School Department, comparison amounts of per pupil expenditures, other financial ratios/statistics and consolidation of certain City/School functions. Councillor Darcy asked questions about technology and the need for a liaison between the City Council and School Committee. Councillor Logan spoke favorably of the educational opportunities at Waltham High School, citing his own family's experience and the ability to offer athletic and fine arts programs without charging user fees.

Councillor McMenimen moved to place the matter on file. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

11. Councillor Vizard moved to take the matter of the PRC recommendation for the 25 Lexington Street property (8/3/2015) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Vizard informed the Committee that a communication was received from the Inspector of Wires that the garages at the property were surplus. Councillor moved to approve the lease for the 25 Lexington Street property. On the motion, Councillor Waddick stated the motion was out of order, since there was no request from the Mayor, therefore nothing to act on. The motion of Councillor Vizard was adopted on a roll call vote of 11 in favor (Darcy, Fowler, Logan, Marchese, McLaughlin, McMenimen, O'Brien, Rourke, Stanley, Vizard, LeBlanc), 3 opposed (Brasco, Romard, Waddick) and 1 absent (Giordano).
12. A motion by Councillor Logan to adjourn was adopted by a voice vote and the Chair declared the committee adjourned at 10:30pm.

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