

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting  
**Minutes 10/3/22**

*This is a draft which will require a vote at the next Selectboard meeting. Draft composed on Wed., October 5, 2022.*

**Monday, October 3, 2022, 6:30pm**

Selectboard members present: John Kaeding, Carter Stowell

Guests present: Katie Winkeljohn, Jennifer LeStat, Brian Powers, Will Sutton, Toni Kaeding, Stewart Clark, Connie Riggs, Chris Lyon, Jon Scherbatskoy, Matt Morrisette

**Housekeeping**

- Roger called meeting to order at 6:33pm
- John moved to accept the minutes from both the September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Selectboard Meeting and the Special Selectboard Meeting of Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> (Recreation Committee proceedings); seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.
- Additions/Deletions –
  - o Add to New Business: Toni Kaeding re Planning Commission update

**Department Review**

**Town Clerk Report**

- Jennifer reporting
- The town is registered with a state program to help delinquent taxpayers in need; now that the town is registered with the program, money has started flowing from the state to credit delinquent taxpayers in Worcester.
- Jennifer reported comments received from Steve Herring regarding road maintenance concerns on Minister Brook Rd.
- Mailed ballots for Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 election have started going into the mail

**Treasurer report**

- Katie reporting
- Past couple of weeks were spent working toward resolution with a large escrow company responsible for delinquencies on a large number of tax payments; those tax payments are now coming through

**Highway Department report**

- Brian reports
- Eagle Ledge box culvert is coming along; using on-hand material to help meet in-kind grant match; potential completion date by mid-November; a temporary road will be in place for about a week at some point
- Gillespie's personnel visited town shed to assess the boiler issue
- Hampshire Hill better backroads grant is complete with a glowing inspection report.

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**Public Input**

N/A

New Business

Planning Commission

Town Plan needs Central VT Regional Planning Commission approval

- They recently discovered a glitch in the approval that will require additional public meetings for input.
- This restarts the approval process and will require two public hearings which can include a Selectboard meeting and a Planning Commission meeting.

Hancock Brook Road Truck Traffic Discussion

- Jon S. reports increased truck traffic such as loaded trucks, delivery vehicles (UPS, FedEx, etc.), and Gillespie fuel trucks
- Discussion: Roger explained that Class 4 road is regulated by the state; he learned that UPS and FedEx trucks are rated at 14,000 pounds. Roger says that as a town we can block it off in the winter, and Jon validated that's already been happening. Anything over 6-foot diameter would be considered a bridge, which does not apply here; a bridge would be rated at 12,000 pounds.
- Dump trucks, a cement truck, larger trucks with trailers are the biggest issues that may be overweight.
- The class 4 portion of the road is signed "No Trucks"; technically, the weight limit is 16,000 pounds. Brian noted that oil trucks / wood / heat services are exempt.
- **Action:** Brian P. will work on allowable signage at Route 12 where the Class 3 segment reaches to Jon S.'s house then becomes Class 4.
- Roger moves to table the discussion until Brian can come back with signage info; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.

Doty School Town Hall Key Request

- Roger had a two-part question: Should we authorize the school's request? Should we replace locks on the Town Hall and use same lock for both doors?
- Matt M. suggested considering different types of lock systems, swipe cards, etc
- John moved to give a key to the school; seconded by Carter and unanimously accepted.
- Roger moved to have the town clerk research key systems for use at the Town Hall; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.

Town Buildings Heating Systems Update

- We have a boiler that needs to be replaced; air system maintenance, and other concerns across town buildings.
- After a long process and not receiving bids, Roger personally called four different companies. Among them, only Gillespie responded and promptly sent service personnel to provide maintenance and assess the boiler need.

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- John moves to accept the Gillespie bid to replace the boiler in the heating system in the town shed building; seconded by Carter and unanimously selected.

Old Business

Kellogg Hubbard Library Funding Discussion

- Roger gathered updates from Selectboard members based on the prior meeting he'd been unable to attend.
- Stewart responded to questions from the Selectboard regarding his proposal requesting a change to remove the petitioning requirement for the Kellogg-Hubbard Library to appear on ballots. Further discussion and notes are available in prior Selectboard Meeting notes of 9/19/22.
- Discussion of process changes is being tabled while Selectboard gathers input from VLCT to better understand our options. No decisions were made.

Fire Department Floor Replacement Update

- Bid received with references
- Fire Dept. floor work is a top priority to be paid from the town's ARPA funds
- John moves that barring unforeseen occurrence and checking of references that we accept the proposal bid by PC Construction for replacing the Fire Dept. floor; seconded by Carter and unanimously accepted.

Worcester Fire Water District ARPA funds follow up

- Matt M. spoke to a prior request for ARPA funds by the Water District, based on a letter of intent was reviewed at the Selectboard meeting of 5/17/22. Replacement of pumphouse filtration equipment is the biggest piece.
- Water district representatives say the financial future of the 72-member district is at risk and unsustainable on subscriber fees alone, even if they were increased; the Town of Worcester and Doty School have received water at no cost; funds for infrastructure expenses could be raised via bonds that would need to be repaid which does not solve the underlying financial crisis of the Worcester Fire Water District.
- Roger suggested the water district can send the town bills that would be payable for the water it uses; Katie suggested contacting the administratively consolidated school district regarding billing for the school's water usage.
- Roger explained that the Selectboard previously set Priorities for ARPA spending, will have until 2024 to decide how to spend the money, and until 2026 to actually spend it. The town will have an updated view of remaining ARPA funds around the end of this year, following a substantial expense for Fire Dept. floor and other prior expenses.
- Connie R. read a letter describing the benefits to current and future stakeholders in support of the ARPA funds request. The letter was entered into town records.

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Small Plow Truck Replacement Discussion

- Roger moves to approve the purchase of an International small plow truck from the vendor Allegiance and financed by KS State Bank; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.

Old Tanker Discussion

- Roger explained that the “old tanker” is town equipment that was originally used by the Highway Dept and more recently by the Fire Dept. Now that the Fire Dept. has a new tanker, the question before us is how best to utilize the equipment in the most cost-efficient interest of the town.
- Brian explained that existing parts on-hand with the Highway Dept. plus a minimal cost of perhaps a hundred dollars in additional parts would allow the Highway Dept. to deploy the “old tanker” for chloride, i.e. to spread liquid, calcium chloride salt treatment on town’s dirt roads to help stabilize the roadbeds and control dust. The old tanker would still be deployable for Fire Dept. use equipped with the specific accessories and connectors so it can serve as a second water tanker in response to fire calls within or beyond the town.
- John moves that the old tanker remains a multi-use vehicle for the Town of Worcester, and be housed at the Highway Dept, and be used for highway maintenance, and be available for emergency use by the Fire Dept; seconded by Carter and unanimously accepted.

Correspondence

None

Bills

Signed as presented

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the town office on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Attest,  
Carter Stowell