

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting
Minutes 12/5/22

These minutes were approved at the Selectboard meeting on 12/19/22.

Monday, December 5, 2022, 6:30pm

Selectboard members present: Roger Strobridge, John Kaeding, Carter Stowell
Guests present: Katie Miller, Jennifer LeStat, Brian Powers, Mike Utton, Peter Fitz, Will Sutton, Noah Weinstein

Housekeeping

- Roger called meeting to order at 6:35pm
- John **moved** to accept the minutes from the November 21st, 2022 Selectboard Meeting; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.
- Additions/Deletions – N/A

Department Review

Town Clerk Report

- Jennifer reporting
- Jennifer read a letter from sheriff's department and request to meet regarding upcoming change of sheriff and a proposed change in rates, details not mentioned
- Jennifer read a request for a new snow shovel and sand in a bucket for use at the Town Hall, from Jean; Mike agreed that sand should be no problem; the shovel purchase will require more info to proceed
- Jennifer read a letter from WCSU re: school ballot handling, requesting mailed ballots and a response in time for the 12/21 school board meeting; this request will be warned for the next meeting (12/19)

Treasurer report

- Katie reporting
- An updated preliminary town budget was presented for review and discussion later in this agenda, and will need to be finalized and approved at the next selectboard meeting

Highway Department report

- Brian reports
- A portion of Eagle Ledge Road was closed starting today for the box culvert work
- The updated purchase order for an International truck was reviewed and now includes the 5-year warranty; Roger signed it; the truck purchase itself had been previously approved

Public Input

N/A

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New Business

Town Plan Review To Set A Public Hearing Date And Schedule A Warning Date

- Roger **moved** to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023 to review and accept the public input on the proposed town plan, and to post a notice of the meeting open to the public on the town website by this week, and in the Times Argus as soon as possible; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.

Town Budget Discussion

- Katie discussed with Mike how town employee healthcare was funded. About 10 years ago, there was a health savings account of about \$1000 per employee that was later reduced to \$200 per year and to help cover small costs like co-pays; Katie suggested eliminating the health savings account benefit due to fees and low utilization, and instead reducing employee contribution from 10% to 5%. No objections were raised.
- Wrightsville Beach budget line will be updated based on information received during our 11/21/22 meeting, where Collin informed the selectboard of an increase from 1.50 to 2.50 per capita for 2023
- Final updates to the town budget will need to be approved at the next Selectboard meeting

Rescue Squad Request For 6 AED/Defibrillators Using ARPA Funds

- All selectboard members and Treasurer discussed ways to explicitly include Defibrillator/AED equipment funds in budget, to be addressed in next update
- Will said the Fire Department equipment fund is inclusive of Fast Squad and has no objection to adding a separate line item
- Peter noted that some AED/Defibrillators will be with Fast Squad, some with Fire Dept., and some in town buildings
- Roger **moved** to add a separate line item to the town budget under the Fire and Fast Squad Dept. as a capital fund for the defibrillators/AEDs with a starting balance of \$3,000 and increase by \$3,000 each subsequent year; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.
- Roger **moved** to earmark \$15,000 of ARPA funds for the defibrillators/AEDs, pending review of bids; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.

Old Business

Noise Ordinance Discussion

- Noah shared a proposed noise ordinance draft for review; all members of the selectboard engaged in the discussion and Roger indicated it would not be possible to finalize in time for next town meeting, and other possible process

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considerations respective of public processes and satisfying generous opportunities for any and all town input

- As a next step, John will meet with Noah as a study group to work out the proposed language for the draft noise ordinance

Unauthorized Road Repairs Ordinance Discussion

- Roger shared draft from attorney that seemed too broad and inclusive of trail use in general, and no other concerns were raised
- As a next step, Roger will work with the attorney to update the draft to focus more narrowly on the issue of unauthorized repairs

Correspondence

None

Bills

Signed as presented

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the town office on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Attest,
Carter Stowell