

WORCESTER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Tuesday, Jan 18, 2022, 6:30pm

Select Board members present: Ted Lamb, Roger Strobridge, John Kaeding

Guests present: Katie Winkeljohn, Jennifer Lestat, Will Sutton, Connie Dobbs, Toni Kaeding, Brian Powers (zoom)

HOUSEKEEPING

- Ted called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- Ted moved to accept the minutes from Jan 3, 2022, seconded by Roger, and unanimously accepted.
- Ted moved to add Brian Powers to Agenda, seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Department

Will reports that Worcester has added a new firefighter this month. He also reports that Worcester responded to a mutual aid run in Middlesex to battle a structural fire. Finally, Will noted that he will be backing away from the mutual aid/dispatching issue as it has shown dysfunction without evidence of being resolved. Will added that fire and emergency reserve use radio, not cell phone communications.

Clerk/Treasurer

Katie reports that Worcester will have three ballots for Town Meeting this year.

- Town ballot
- Washington Central School District
- New Spaulding Technical School District

This year polling hours will be 7am to 7pm on March 1.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Warning for next Town Meeting

Given present COVID levels and state recommendations, the Selectboard decided to have Town Meeting occur as it did last year. Roger moves Town Meeting occur via Australian Ballot on March 1, 2022 with Informational Meeting via ZOOM on Feb 21, 2022. Seconded by John and unanimously passed. Given the complex nature of the multiple mailings required for dispersal of

ballots to all voters, John moves we use Jett Services for mailing. Seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.

Equipment Woes

Brian Powers reports that the motor on Worcester's backhoe has failed. Middlesex has loaned us their backhoe til ours is repaired. After discussing multiple options, we decided to replace the motor with a remanufactured replacement for about \$15,000. Roger moved this expenditure, seconded by John and unanimously passed.

Norton Road Cell Tower

Worcester has hired an attorney to clarify our options concerning this cell tower. Ted will be coordinating with him as John has recused himself regarding this issue. Ted and Roger again stated that they would not support a tower with a height of 198.8 ft but would support a tower consistent with Town Ordinance. The desire for increased cell service is understood by all.

In order to clarify this issue for Worcester citizens, the Selectboard has scheduled an informational meeting for Wednesday Jan 26 at 6:30pm. This will be a hybrid meeting at the Town Hall or via ZOOM. Katie noted that having Survey Monkey Business Edition will ease compiling citizen input. Ted moved we purchase Survey Monkey on a monthly basis, John seconded, and unanimously passed.

ARPA Funds Coordinator

The individual we hoped would join us as ARPA Fund Coordinator has withdrawn from consideration. We will assess the need for assistance.

OLD BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

BILLS

Signed as presented.

ANOUNCMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard Meeting will be held at Town Office on **Monday, Feb 7, 2022, at 6:30pm**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

ATTEST

John Kaeding