

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting
Minutes 1/3/23

These minutes were approved at the Selectboard meeting on 1/17/23.

Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 6:30pm

Selectboard members present: Roger Strobridge, John Kaeding, Carter Stowell
Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Will Sutton, Mike Utton, Allen Gilbert, John Hughes, Ana Burtnett

Housekeeping

- Roger called meeting to order at 6:30pm
- Roger **moved** to accept the minutes from the December 19th, 2022 Selectboard Meeting; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.
- Additions/Deletions – N/A

Department Review

Town Clerk Report

- Jennifer reporting
- Getting ready for warning for town report, and will have draft for review at next selectboard meeting
- Food shelf received a significant donation

Treasurer report

- Katie reporting
- Invested 250K in CDs staggered at 3-month and 6-month at favorable rates (150K approx. 4.6% APY) and no expected impact on cashflows
- Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) was received from State of Vermont and was around 85.4% which is narrowly within the 85%-115% range needed to avoid a mandated reappraisal. In short, it's good that our listers have already started moving forward with reappraisals.
- Preparations are on-track for town-wide audit scheduled for Jan. 24th

Highway Department report

- Mike reports
- Loader/backhoe had a “catastrophic failure”; the hub broke off; it's become a money pit.
 - o Temporary loaner equipment from Middlesex is currently in-service.
 - o Facts gathered: (A) the department has received a quote for a loader, lightly used, with a 3-yard bucket; (B) the primary use of the failed loader/backhoe—which has a 1-yard bucket--was loading; (C) the town excavator could be moved around easily with a flatbed trailer to satisfy most backhoe functions. **Saving questions and discussion for next selectboard meeting.**

Public Input - N/A

New Business

Town Plan Final review with public input.

- John **moved** to open the meeting for Town Plan final review input; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.
- No comments

Town Plan acceptance

- John **moved** to accept the Town Plan as written; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.
- John **moved** to close the public hearing for the Town Plan final review; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.
- The Planning Commission Chair, Chani, or a representative, will bring full documentation for town records by this week.

Christmas 2022 storm after action report and discussion.

- The storm left the highway department with no power, no generator, and no communications except radios
 - o There was no power to the fuel pump to get fuel from the fuel tank.
 - o A personal generator was provisioned by an employee as a workaround.
 - o There was a generator available at the Fire Department that wasn't put into use due to lack of power outage planning and communications.
- There was a long discussion about more general issues of resiliency ranging from access to information (radios, weather, who may need/want help, E911 signage, etc.), and potential use of town property (e.g. Town Hall when/if it has electricity sooner than other places), as well as potential outreach to school board regarding their building (not a town building), e.g. Calais school board worked in some way with the Red Cross to setup their elementary school as an emergency shelter.

Old Business

Fast squad AED request for bids update.

- Peter solicited three bids for AED's from Striker Emergency Care; Bound; and Allied 100 (Milwaukee, WI). Only Allied responded with a quote of \$10,163.55 (quote # Q1016492)
- Roger **moved** to authorize the Treasurer to spend funds in the amount of \$10,163.55 for the package with six AED as provided under the quote # Q1016492; John seconded and unanimously accepted.

Road commissioner appointment discussion

- Roger **moved** to appoint Mike Utton as the Road Commissioner for the Town of Worcester; seconded by John and unanimously accepted.

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Fire department floor repair update

- Work-in-progress continues toward completion as soon as mid-January with only a couple of adaptations. Specifically, low-capacity electrical wires led to a mishap that fried the fire dept. radio equipment which had to be replaced. Also, engineer (Chris T.) advised on securing the new floor to existing foundation structure using resin-filled holes around rebar, and not the concrete slurry. Addressing these issues the “right” way is deemed necessary, acceptable and relatively minor to overall costs.

Proposed No Parking Town Ordinance final review

- There was a long discussion and review of the final draft and enforcement provisions.
- We discussed improving signage along Minister Brook Rd. to warn drivers of pedestrians
- Roger **moved** to approve the language of the Parking Ordinance; seconded by John and passed with one dissenting vote by Carter.

Proposed Unauthorized Trail Repair Town Ordinance discussion.

- There was a discussion of the revised draft ordinance and enforcement language. Roger will continue working with attorney toward a final draft as soon as the next selectboard meeting.

Correspondence

None

Bills

Signed as presented

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the town office on Tuesday, January 17, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Attest,

Carter Stowell