

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting
Minutes 10/17/22

These minutes were approved at the Selectboard meeting on 11/7/22.

Monday, October 17, 2022, 6:30pm

Selectboard members present: John Kaeding, Carter Stowell

Guests present: Katie Winkeljohn, Jennifer LeStat, Will Sutton, Judy Knapp, Stewart Clark, Peter Strobridge (Lister), Chris Lyon (Lister), Alan Erdossy (Lister), Joe Audet

Housekeeping

- Roger called meeting to order at 6:31pm
- John moved to accept the minutes from the October 3rd, 2022 Selectboard Meeting; seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.
- Additions/Deletions – N/A

Department Review

Town Clerk Report

- Jennifer reporting
- Tomorrow the tabulator will be tested, joined by Paul Hanlon
- On Oct. 27th, a person named Yehunda will be coming to review 2020 election documentation, joined by Paul Hanlon
- Town Hall new keys have been issued
- Appropriations deadline for fund requests is this Friday
- Exploring funding options for wired CO2 monitors for Highway Dept

Treasurer report

- Katie reporting
- ARPA funds received for this year are complete (approx. \$200K); Katie's looking at best ways to bank ARPA funds, such as 3-month CDs, etc. within the town's policy; the remaining amounts of approx.. \$100K will come next year
- Taxes are coming in

Fire Department report

- Will reports
- Service delivery going well
- No new membership
- The space under Fire Dept. floor was cleaned out in preparation for upcoming floor repair work. There was a lot of accumulated material; some items were too heavy to remove by hand and will be extracted using equipment. The work was conducted as confined space training. Some extra hoses will go to Berlin's Fire Dept.; some brass nozzles and other misc. items have value and will be liquidated as scrap metal; other misc. items will be go to trash.

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting
Minutes 10/17/22

Public Input

4th of July Fireworks

- Susan and Judy informed the selectboard that 4th of July fireworks fees have increased again from \$10,000 last year to \$12,500 this year.
- There was a general discussion of ideas to potentially lower costs, if possible, such as finding alternative dates for fireworks besides the 4th of July, maybe in the fall, or maybe looking at other event dates (arts, etc.).
- Susan and Judy will continue looking for ideas and exploring options

Will Sutton

- Will passed along an inquiry he'd received from Worcester resident Chad Hollister who is interested in using electrical power from the Fire Dept. for an event on June 10th, 2023 to power sound equipment for a musical performance.

Joe

- Joe expressed concerns about the road crew being overstretched last year and questioned crew availability and vacation policies
- Roger explained that the selectboard does not micromanage town employees and that he would share Joe's feedback with the road foreman; Joe said he was satisfied with this response

New Business

Worcester Town Listers Town Reappraisal Discussion

- Listers explained that Worcester, like many other towns in Vermont, needs to be thinking about reappraisal of all grand list values, based on its CLA change over the past two cycles.
- Notes:
 - o The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is the result of an annual Equalization Study by the State of Vermont that compares the ratio of the grand list value to the sales value over a three-year period.
 - o Worcester's 2020 Equalization Study (12/21/20) reported a CLA result of 99.55%. The 2021 Study (12/23/21) reported a CLA of 90.65%.
 - o Equalization Study results for all towns are available online via the Vermont Department of Taxes, and state the following:
 - "A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A § 4041a)."
 - "A CLA greater than 100% will result in a downward adjustment of tax rates, and a CLA less than 100% will result in upward adjustment."
- Listers have discovered that appraisal companies are extremely busy due to real estate markets in recent years leading to reappraisals across the state
- Listers presented the selectboard with a draft proposal that would involve the listers receiving training and then performing data gathering tasks. Listers sought the selectboard's feedback of the proposal and advice around competitive bid

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting
Minutes 10/17/22

requirements for outside services that would be necessary to effectively complete a grand list reappraisal

- John moved that the selectboard start evaluating the proposal from the Listers
- Roger advised the Listers to pursue competitive bids to satisfy legal requirements, and then follow up with the selectboard to provide those results and make a recommendation

Town Plan Update

- John reviewed the checklist for Town Plan adoption provided by the Central Vermont Planning Commission, finding it confusing and hard to follow
- Upcoming public comments will be warned and should position the town to proceed

Old Business

Use Of Petition Discussion

- Last date is Jan. 19th, 2023 for petitions to be received for a town meeting article

Shepards Hill Trail Unauthorized Repairs

- Action: Carter to draft a letter that can be used to educate people by addressing the concerns and associated laws regarding Unauthorized Repairs to roads; if people see someone making alterations to the road, they can record a time and date and notify the selectboard of that occurrence

Historical Society Tree Problem

- John spoke with several people and found that a portion of the wood can be removed aside from a few legacy trees that were planted by the Ladd family; at least one bid was received for the work with others in progress; recommendations to follow

Correspondence

None

Bills

Signed as presented

Announcements

The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the town office on Monday, November 7, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Attest,
Carter Stowell