

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2023

Monday, November 20, 2023 6:30 pm

Selectboard members present : Roger Strobridge, Carter Stowell, John Kaeding

Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Will Sutton and Peter Fitz

Housekeeping

- John called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm
- Roger moved to accept the draft minutes of November 6, 2023 as written, seconded by John and unanimously approved
- John moved to accept the draft minutes of the special emergency Selectboard meeting of November 9, 2023, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved
- Additions/Deletions to the agenda - Carter moved we update MTAP progress during old business, seconded by John and unanimously approved

Public Input - none

Department Reviews

Town Clerk report

- MERP (municipal energy assessment) will take place on 11/30 @ 8:00 am starting at the Town Highway Department building then moving to the office complex then the Town Hall. Results will direct the Town toward more efficient energy use and perhaps assist in grant access
- Worcester Neighbor Network met 11/13 to assess appropriation's requests. The totals are \$8700 and are less than last year.
- LBJ's has filled out preliminary applications for EV chargers on their premises.

Town Treasurer report

- 11 of the total 14 FEMA projects have gone through the initial review and will be submitted to the next level for review before funds can be obligated. An in person meeting will take place on November 29 to review the last 3 projects for submission.
- Taxes have been collected and "delinquent" letters sent out. A total of \$61,590.00 is outstanding.
- school tax obligation has been paid

Fire Department report

- Will and Peter were present to address the SB. Will notes we have two new fire dept members but are regrettably losing two present members
- Worcester Fire assisted at the RK Miles fire in Montpelier where they worked successfully at preventing damage to the Hunger Mountain Coop
- Waterbury Fire Department kindly donated their old air bottle filling station to our Worcester Fire Department saving our team from traveling to Montpelier to fill air bottles
- there has been a change in funding for Central Vermont Dispatch. The federal component to the State fund has been withdrawn until further consideration and conversation early next year.

We will be attending meetings urging renewed state/federal funding for the outdated system that presently exists.

Town Engineering report

- Tyler submitted his report 11/16. He reports Tatro has completed the West Hill slope failure, culverts and ditching. Final top dressing and grading are nearly complete.
 - Bridge 30 - the footing has been poured, the rock slope rebuild is in progress. Things will slow this week with Thanksgiving holiday.
 - Calais Road - the upper slide wall is complete except for grading/paving/guardrail. The middle failure section retaining wall was poured last week and backfilling has begun. The lowest slide section repair will begin the week after Thanksgiving. Pavement patching will begin next week. We anticipate the contract will be wrapping up in the first week of December.
- The Town of Worcester is grateful to Tyler Billingsley for his outstanding advice and unwavering support throughout this enormous disaster project.

New Business - none

Old Business

Draft Budget work

- we continued reviewing budget projections which will take shape over the next several weeks

Telecommunications Ordinance review

- the ordinance was reviewed by SB members over the last 2 weeks. It was accepted without change. At the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting we will open the meeting for comment/alteration regarding the draft revised ordinance prior to its final approval. Anyone wishing to review the the draft Telecommunications Ordinance can find it on the Town website.

Municipal Technical Assistance Program update

- Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission has eagerly worked to help the Town under the MTAP(technical assistance) program, providing guidance on timelines and strategies for grant opportunities. Initial progress has been made regarding potential assistance next year for Worcester's independent water board as well as EV chargers. Rooftop solar on the Town office complex may not be feasible as a new roof would be required prior to solar installation.

Correspondence - none

Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Town Office Complex on Monday Dec. 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Attest. John Kaeding