

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2023

Monday December 4, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

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

Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Mike Utton, Tyler Billingsley and Toni Kaeding

Housekeeping

- John called meeting to order at 6:35 pm
- Roger moved to accept the draft minutes of November 20, 2023 as written, seconded by John and unanimously approved
- Additions/Deletions - John moved to add to New Business the handling of bills, usually signed at the SB meeting, they are unavailable tonight as the power and internet have been out at the office complex today - seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Public Input - none

Department Reviews

Town Clerk Report

- MERP (municipal energy assessment) will take place 12/6 starting at 8:00 am. Testers will evaluate heat loss and energy use in the Highway Department building, the Town Hall and the Office Complex. Once all information is analyzed, they will make final recommendations to the SB for energy use improvements.
- preparations are in progress for Town Meeting reports
- Jennifer is drafting the Town Meeting Report warning

Treasurer Report

- FEMA update - all 11 completed project's final reports are in to FEMA
- Calais Road project will be broken into 2 parts so that 2023 work will be separated from summer 2024 work
- the Vermont bond bank has offered low rates which will help improve financing while the Town awaits FEMA funding
 - our "umbrella" insurance policy from VLCT covering such things as vehicles, buildings and workman's compensation, increased from \$30,925 to \$33,453

Highway Department Report

- the new small plow truck is working well
- occasionally Worcester's Highway department assists neighboring Towns when their equipment is down. This is routine neighbor helping neighbor. The same dynamic occurs when multiple fire departments converge to fight a structure fire in a neighboring Town. Mike will keep the SB updated when out of Town assistance will be rendered.

Town Engineering Report

- Three road projects are at or near completion
- West Hill repairs are complete
- Bridge 30 is nearly done, guard rail work needs completion
- Calais Road temporary pavement patch is done, retaining walls on upper two slide sections are complete, concrete pour on lowest slide section will be completed soon followed by guard rail positioning. Expect completion around middle of next week.

New Business

Open Meeting for public input regarding the revised Telecommunications Ordinance

- There was no public input for the ordinance. John moved to adopt the draft ordinance, seconded by Carter and unanimously approved. The ordinance will now go through the required public posting and opportunity for further public input before completion.

Discuss school ballot distribution for town meeting

- John moved to allow the Washington County Supervisory Unified Union School District to mail their ballots to all active voters in Worcester, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved. The cost of this mailing will be covered by the school district.

Select alternate SB representative for potential Trail Ordinance civil case

- John moved to have Roger be an alternate representative for the Town of Worcester in the upcoming civil case regarding Trail Ordinance violations, seconded by Carter and unanimously approved.

Rough draft of replacement ordinance for 911 numbering and road naming

- Roger provided the SB with a proposed updating of our old 911 numbering and road naming ordinance. The board will review and offer suggestions at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Vermont Bond Bank Municipal Climate Recovery Fund discussion

- Katie reported on the bond bank's plan to pool funds with multiple towns allowing a 7 year note at about 1.3%. This would help the Town pay off the costly Calais Road repair.

Handling of bills

- due to power, phone and internet outage, the Town was unable to prepare bills for signing tonight, therefore, John moved that the SB give him the authority to sign for the entire board later in this week when bills are ready, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved. This authority is for this week's signing only.

Old Business

Brief draft budget work

- there was no further budget work to accomplish tonight

Correspondence - none

Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Office Complex on Monday December 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

Attest John Kaeding