

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday December 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Selectboard members present: Roger Strobridge, Carter Stowell

Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Tyler Billingsly, Chani Waterhouse

Housekeeping

- Roger called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- Roger moved to accept the draft minutes of December 4, 2023 as written, seconded by Carter and unanimously approved
- Additions/Deletions - Roger moved to add to the agenda..... authorize Roger Strobridge to be authorized to sign on behalf of the selectboard this evening, seconded by Carter and unanimously approved.

Public Input - N/A

Department Reviews

Town Clerk Report

- Election preparations. Reviewed election administrative questions for school ballots with attorney Paul H. and separately discussed logistics with East Montpelier town clerk (Rosie LeClare). Confirmed Shawn McManis to be available for election in March.
- Monitored MERP grant next steps with CVRPC support.
- Secretary of State group meeting was cancelled in December due to flooding. They're working to create some short films.

Town Treasurer Report

- Closing business for the year with engineering and road work invoices
- Delinquent taxes are down to \$35,000

Fire Department Report

- Not available

Town Engineering Report

- Road repairs and construction are nearly complete at all three sites (West Hill Rd., Bridge 30, and Calais Rd.). All work is satisfactory. There will be minor cleanup work in the spring to retrieve any cones, sandbags, etc. lost in snow banks.
- Looking to next year, current work revealed better Calais Rd base condition than expected. Engineer evaluated a cost-saving reclamation approach vs. a full reconstruction. Either approach would require and include repairs to damaged stream bank/road embankment slopes with stone, replace/upsized culverts, add some guardrail, etc.

New Business

Energy Task Force Report

- Chani reported the group met three times recently
- Has received generous support from Sam Lash from CVRPC

- Has been reviewing plans from other towns in consideration of drafting energy plan for Worcester
- Energy plan would have three sections: Heating, transportation and electricity
- Next steps to go back to review goals in our Town plan and consider what other towns came up with, in case there's anything to learn there

Submit Town's FEMA expenses for attorney's opinion for bond eligibility

- 7-year bond package by state has very favorable terms and was only available for town's impacted by July flooding event. It does not require a town vote, but does require an attorney's opinion to review bond requirements per our obligation to townspeople.
- July flood cost total was \$1,697,876.91 including work in-kind and equipment costs.

Roger moved that the SB instruct the Town Treasurer to submit the town's FEMA expenses and 7-year bond package for attorney's opinion for bond eligibility; seconded by Carter and unanimously approved.

Roger moved to authorize Roger Strobridge as the sole selectperson on-site at the town complex to sign on behalf of the selectboard this evening, seconded by Carter and unanimously approved.

Old Business

Court report regarding Trail Ordinance violation

- Roger described the court proceeding that resulted in Shawn M. moving to dismiss the ticket and the judge giving closing comments

Review Street Naming and Street Numbering Ordinance

- Roger moved to table this topic due to pending input from Tyler Hermanson with Enhanced 911, seconded by Carter and unanimously approved.

Correspondence - none

Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Office Complex on Tuesday January 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Bills

- Signed as presented

Attest,

Carter Stowell