

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday January 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm

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

Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Mike Utton and Bodo Carey

Housekeeping

- John called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- Roger moved to accept the draft minutes of December 18, 2023 as written, seconded by John and unanimously approved
- Additions/Deletions to the agenda - none

Public Input - none

Department Reviews

Town Clerk Report

- Jennifer is learning how to work with Vermont State 511 online service which will help the town stay abreast of road closures
- Preparations for Town Meeting continue
- Jennifer will assist in proposed "neighbor helping neighbor" program development

Town Treasurer Report

- 4 of 13 FEMA projects have been "obligated", meaning they have been fully reviewed at all levels and payments of \$71,708.38 should be made within the next month
- Delinquent taxes stand at \$27,802.00, that's less than last year at this time
- Auditors will arrive at the Worcester Town Office Complex next week

Highway Department Report

- Mike reports the new small plow truck had a hose break. It's fix is being covered by warranty
- The road crew is busy trying to mitigate the damage caused by the freezing of our recently muddy rutted roads

New Business

Articles to be included on the Town Meeting Warning

- John moved to authorize an article to be included in the Town Warning for outside organizations totaling \$8700; seconded by Roger and unanimously approved
- John moved to authorize an article to be included in the Town Warning for 4th of July fireworks totaling \$6000; seconded by Carter and unanimously approved

Discuss inviting ANR representative to open meeting re: Worcester Range Plan

- Bo Carey educated the SB on some of the issues involved with this plan.
- John moved to arrange a special open SB meeting with ANR representatives to allow a question and answer opportunity for interested members of the Worcester community regarding the Worcester Range Management Unit Long Range Plan; seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Discuss “ neighbor-helping-neighbor” plan

- John notes members of the Worcester community will be investigating ideas for a program that would do “checks” on Worcester folks who live alone or have special needs. Such “checks” would occur during times of weather emergencies/power outages etc.

Facilities/Asset Department consideration

- John moved that Roger develop a Town Facilities maintenance plan and represent the SB in coordinating the activities of facilities maintenance; seconded by Carter and unanimously approved

Old Business

Approve final draft 2024 budget

- John moved to authorize the proposed 2024 budget; seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Emergency Watershed Protection Program results

- 2 of 3 applying properties qualified for funding regarding stream bank reinforcement. The Town will be notified when funding comes through. Funding will be distributed to qualifying recipients.

Municipal Energy Resilience Program results

- Evaluation of the Highway Department Building, the Town Hall and the Office Complex have been completed. The Town now awaits results. Once results are in, we can apply for appropriate grants to improve such items as ventilation/ insulation for the Highway Building etc.

Correspondence - none

Announcements

- the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Office Complex on Tuesday January 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm

Attest John Kaeding