

TOWN OF WORCESTER, VERMONT
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD-REGULAR MEETING

06 August 2018

Selectboard members present: Ted Lamb, Chris Casey and Paul Hill, Jr.

Selectboard members absent:

Guests present: Katie Winklejohn, Brian Powers, Alan Erdosy, & Josh Ledwith

Ted called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM.

Ted moved to approve the 7/16/18 minutes, Paul seconded, minutes approved.

New Business:

Old Business:

Chris brought up the issue suggested at a previous meeting from Stew Clark. Stew suggested the Board take a different approach in developing the town budget. Ted said he would reach out to Stew for more details.

Road Commissioner's Report:

Brian recapped the conversation with Jim Cota, who works for the State of Vermont and is responsible for determining if a town is eligible for State funding of road repairs. The Selectboard and Brian had questions about the recent change in the formula which determines which towns and their respective upcoming road projects could receive state assistance. These program/formula changes recently affected Worcester in a negative way, pushing back by years when Worcester could begin making substantive repairs/upgrades to Minister Brook Road. Cota defended the process but also said he would consider a change, taking into consideration only those funds disbursed to the Town in the last 10 years. Ted asked Brian what the next steps are in making some repairs to Minister Brook Road. Brian said he would prepare a scope of work and a cost estimate, saying that he thought the town had reserved about \$12K¹ and would likely spend all of that in patch work.

Brian reported that the work on Hancock Brook Road is more than 75% finished which will complete the grant funding allocated for that project.

The Regional Planning Commission's Road Inventory for Worcester was done last week.

Brian reported that the YTD expenses for roads are running tight to the budget and thought that he would not hire a FTE replacement but rather a part time worker on an "as needed" basis.

¹ For these minutes, "K" will indicate thousand.

Town Clerk's report:

Katie reported that the fire safety monitors have been installed in the Town Hall and the Passive Grant from the State will cover half of the total \$6K bill.

Katie is still looking for bids to do the scope of work on the Grange Hall. Mic Eckhart submitted on bid for the carpentry portion. No bids for painting have been received. Katie ran a RFP on the state's Dept. of Labor web site, without receiving any responses.

The town clerk's computer system suffered a hard drive crash and Katie is taking steps to have the systems repaired with possible upgrades for better reliability and performance. Ted asked for cost estimates for this work.

Public Input:

Josh Ledwith attended this meeting to offer an explanation about the events he was involved with concerning former town employee Joe Audet. Josh was concerned that there may have been a misunderstanding as to Joe's interactions with Josh. Alan Erdosy had heard that Audet no longer worked for the Town and offered up support for him. The Selectboard listened but, due to the confidential nature of this personnel situation, could not offer any responses to Josh's or Alan's inquiries/input.

Correspondence:

None

Announcements: The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the town office on August 20th, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Bills: Signed as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Attest: