

TOWN OF WORCESTER, VERMONT

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

16 September 2019

Select Board members present: Ted Lamb, Ben Jones and Paul Hill, Jr.

Select Board members absent:

Guests present: Katie Winklejohn, Brian Powers, Stew Clark, Will Sutton, Matt Whalen,
Jim Cota (District 8 manager, AOT)

Ted called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

The minutes for the 06 September 2019 meeting, moved by Ted (with minor amendments) and seconded by Ben, were approved.

Public Input: None

Road Commissioner's Report – Brian invited Jim Cota from AOT to our board meeting to explain the formula in allocating road repair funds to the towns in his district and to answer questions from the board. Jim explained that the awards take into account all monies a town has received from all previous grants along with how many miles of road surface the town has to maintain. In the early 2000s, Worcester had received a few large/grant awards and this places Worcester further down on the list of 34 towns in District 8 when applying for and competing for funding. Jim said that another strategy is to apply for smaller grant amounts, possibly in successive years and the odds are better when requesting smaller amounts, more often, versus applying for a maximum amount in any one year. The board had many questions; Jim had responses for most, but two remained unclear... Ted asked how towns on Jim's list, who were ranked on a 'historical funding' basis lower than Worcester, did those towns receive grant funding in the last round of applications? And Will asked, do all districts use the same formula to allocate the funding? Jim said he would look into both of these issues and get back to the board.

The board discussed several options concerning road maintenance but nothing firm was decided. The board will continue to discuss possible strategies in funding road maintenance.

The paving/patching on Minister Brook Road appears to be underway.

Town Clerk's report – Katie reported...

- Delinquent taxes were reduced by about 50%, down from \$37K to \$18K, which is more typical this time of year.
- Warrants to sign include the library and cemetery commission.
- A town resident asked Katie if the Town could use its equipment/tanker to fill a home's water well that had gone dry. Will replied that the water in the tankers is not potable. Stew commented that once the leaves have fallen, water table levels should come back up and the well may be replenished.

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- Katie suggests continuing to develop the capital fund account in the budget process for ongoing road maintenance needs. She will investigate how other towns are financing their road maintenance projects.
- Matt Whalen has expressed an interest in joining the Town's "Social concerns Committee."

New Business: The Board decided on the next steps, to:

- Make available on the Town website the "Expectations for Development in Worcester" information (approved by the Board and copy -see attached).
- Ted explained that Chris Guerin has planned to hold a concert at the Old Grange/Town Hall and asked about serving wine and cheese, not for sale but asking for donations. Town policy requires he have a licensed server, approved by the State Board of Liquor.

Old Business:

Stew explained that the Town needs to apply online for the Municipal Grant for funding in creating the maps to accompany the updated Town Plan. The Select Board approved a "municipal resolution" in favor of this resolution and appointed Ted and Ben as "Municipal Authorizing Officials" and Katie as "Grant Administrator".

Correspondence: Sue Peterson expressed concerns about increasing tax rates.

Bills: Signed as presented.

Announcements: The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be held at the town office on 07 October 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Attest: Paul Hill, Jr.