

November 18th 2019

## Minutes of Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting

Present: Ted Lamb, Benjamin Jones, Paul Hill

Guests: Katie Winklejohn, Stewart Clark, Will Sutton, Brian Powers and Myles Chater

Meeting Called to order: 06:30pm

Minutes from the previous Selectboard meetings were moved forward by Ted and seconded by Ben, no amendments were needed.

### -DEPARTMENT REVIEW-

#### Town Clerk / Treasurer Report - Reported by Katie

- We discussed the town budget for 2020 and that we may need additional Selectboard meetings to complete the budget planning.

#### WFD - Will Sutton

- We discuss the general condition of the Worcester Fire department and per Will all goes well.
- Membership has been steadily, no gain or decrease
- We discussed the WFD budget for 2020 and Will recommends leaving budget at current limits
- Will feels there is enough to meet future training needs
- Will mentioned concerns with the future construction/repair of the Rt 12 Bridge at the north end of town. He is concerned with the flow of traffic and ease of access to homes north of the bridge if it were to be shut down.
- The state has contacted the Selectboard regarding the bridge repair and we have relayed out concerns to them.

#### Road/Highway Dept. - Brian Powers

- We discussed the recent flooding the town experienced and the damage it has caused
- The state is putting in new culverts under route 12 as a result over near the ledges.
- Work was also done near the pull-off at the corner of Westhill and Minster Brook.
- The State has also approved work to be done directly to the river south of the pull-off
- Brian discussed that the town is set to receive 98K back from the state due to billable hours of the highway dept. and its excavator use.
- Brian discussed the purchase of a new town pick-up truck that will be used as a snow plow and sander. He provided three different options for the Selectboard to choose

from.

- Financing options will be discussed at the next Selectboard meeting
- Will Sutton raised concerns with the purchase of the pick-up which he feels is ahead of current set vehicle purchase schedule that was agreed on some time ago.

#### PUBLIC INPUT - Myles Chater

- Myles Chater attending the meeting to discuss his concerns with the listers home/project visitation process.
- He stated that he received a letter from a town lister stating that they would be stopping by his home on November 6th to inspect his recent renovation project and if he had any concerns regarding the visit or to change the date he could contact them directly however the letter was postmarked November 5th which did not provide enough time for a reschedule
- The letter was also addressed solely to him as the tax payer and not his wife which is also a tax payer on the home.
- He also complained that he was visited by a lister twice in five months which he felt was excessive.
- Ted will be relaying these concerns to the town listers.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Stu Clark was present discuss the towns social concerns committee, funding of maps and the town plan.
- Stu discussed the social concerns committee review of organizations asking the town for funding.
- The committee has agreed to fund less than asked in some cases but it's possible the organizations affected will petition for more.
- The current funding amount, minus larger requests which will be address through separate articles of funding, is estimated to be \$10,450.
- Per Stu funding has been steadily increasing since 2003, increasing from \$10,479 per year to an estimated \$29,027 for 2020.
- The Selectboard discussed the possibility of establishing a hard cap on social concerns funding in the future.
- Also we approved the extending of the funding petitions from December 1st 2019 to December 13th 2019 along with approving the proposed funding amount of \$10,450.
- Stu also discussed the funding of maps which are needed for the town plan.
- Current proposed cost to the town is \$5,280
- The town has been seeking a grant to pay for the map creation however if the grant is not approved the Selectboard will consider other funding methods such as putting it in as a line item in the town budget or rearranging existing budget line items to pay for it.
- The Selectboard discussed and approved, per the town listers request, a reduction in property tax for Joseph Audet due to an error in the initial listing.

- Lastly the Selectboard discussed and approved the signing of CV Fibers broad band grant application.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Various town bills where signed off on at this time.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Regular Meeting – December 2nd 2019 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm

Respectfully Submitted

Benjamin E. Jones