

December 16th 2019

Minutes of Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting

Present: Ted Lamb, Benjamin Jones, Paul Hill

Guests: Katie Winklejohn, Stewart Clark, Will Sutton

Meeting Called to order: 06:35pm

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

TOWN CLERK / TREASURER REPORT - Reported by Katie

- Katie discussed the development of the 2020 town budget and mentioned that the town has about a 12% buffer in our operating budget which helps sustain the town during the low periods of the year (summer months).
- We discussed the state owing the town approximately \$80,000 due to an overpay in the 2019 school tax.
- Said monies will come back to the town and will go into the town's capitol fund.
- Katie discussed the town being overdue for a reappraisal, the last one was done in 2007 and it should be done every 10 yrs or so.
- We discussed the town maintenance list for 2020, for example pumping the septic tanks. In the near future we'll work on determining which items are priorities.
- During discussions about the town budget it was determined that there will be a potential increase in the operating budget of 4.7% over 2019 however since there will also be money coming back to the town from the state that will in turn decrease the tax rate.
- We also discussed the purchase of a new town pick-up truck to be used in the roads dept and how that would work into the town budget.
- Ted would like to see an operating/maintenance schedule worked into a budget so we can see what the cost to the town will be with its ownership.
- We discussed that the roads dept is due money from a state grant. Part of that can be used towards the purchase of the new pick-up and the remaining balance used to offset the roads dept. Budget which is currently over projected amounts.
- Lastly we discussed the need to plan for an increase in the ambulance budget for 2020 as we have been informed that there will be an increase.

WFD

- There will be an annual meeting and election of officers for the WVFD on December 18th.
- We discussed the need for a plan of succession for Will.
- Will proposed level funding for the fire dept. and fast squad for 2020

NEW BUSINESS

- Stu Clark discussed the cost for the town maps of \$5280. Ted proposed we move forward with that cost and it was seconded by Ben. The maps will be part of the new town plan.

PUBLIC INPUT

- Caroline P. brought up concerns regarding the intersection of Hampshire Hill and Minster Brook. She feels there needs to be a right of way for the traffic coming down Hampshire hill.
- Per Ted the state did a study of the intersection some yrs back and it was determined that only signage would be needed.
- The Selectboard received a letter from Arlene regarding the removal of the pine trees at the town cemetery. She is concerned that funds spent on the project were not appropriately warranted and publically discussed.
- Ted will discuss the matter with Arlene but it was determined that the Selectboard has delegated it's authority in regards to the cemetery to the cemetery commission. Concerns with the cemetery must be taken up directly with the cemetery commission. The Selectboard has no direct oversight of the Cemetery commission.

CORRESPONDENCE

Various town bills were signed off on at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Regular Meeting – January 6th 2020 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm

Respectfully Submitted
Benjamin E. Jones