

TOWN OF WORCESTER, VERMONT

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING

02 December 2019

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

Select Board members absent:

Guests present: Katie Winklejohn, Brian Powers

Ted called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

The minutes for the 18 November 2019 meeting, moved by Ted and seconded by Ben, were approved, with an amendment to clarify the language about the State tax rate.

Public Input: None

Road Commissioner's report – Brian reports...

- Brian suggested that the Highway Dept. purchase a new small, crew-cab style pick-up truck with necessary equipment for plowing and sanding be purchased. The terms of purchase appear to save considerable money with the dealer quoting a special rate for a municipality. The Board has requested Brian and Katie to draft a proposal as to the source of funding from the HW/Town budget and how the forecast looks in replacing this equipment over its useful life.
- Brian intends to apply for a State paving grant and will know the results in late-February, early-March. If the grant is awarded, the Town isn't obligated to take the funds, as Brian mentioned accepting any award would likely be a small amount of money and would move Worcester farther away in years for the next substantial award of, say, \$175K. At the present time, Brian estimates the Town is about 10+ years away from getting a substantial award due to the State's formula in calculating a town's eligibility for an award/grant. Ted brought up the issue of paving and our present lack of funds to do a complete, long-lasting job (versus triage patching) for both Minister Brook Road and the Calais Road, altogether about 3 miles of surface in need of repair. He feels this could be an issue residents bring up at Town Meeting and we should have some options to explain how the Town plans to address the paving needs. The Board asked Katie to find out more info about possibly bond financing for the paving costs and to draft some numbers in setting aside funds into the Capital Paving Fund over the next several years. Brian can assist, confirming cost estimates for both paving over the work already in place as well as continuing to patch/shim the roads every four or five years.

Town Clerk's report – Katie reports...

- The draft budget is in place and looks good. The estimated 2020 town tax rate could be \$0.6033. Katie reviewed many of the line-items showing increases...all seem reasonable and relatively minor. Katie explained a particular increase due to

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the vendor supply cyber-security support to the Town. The cost will increase from \$1,400/year to \$5,000/year. Health insurance also took a leap, increasing in many departments. Overall, the budget increase by 7.5%, from \$682K in 2019 to a projected \$733K in 2020.

- The gutters have been installed on the Town Hall. Brian mentioned they have helped a lot in reducing the maintenance needed to deal with ice buildup in that area.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Correspondence: None

Bills: Signed as presented.

Announcements: The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be held at the town office on 16 December 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Attest: Paul Hill, Jr.