

TOWN OF WORCESTER, VERMONT

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

15 March 2021

Select Board members present: Ted Lamb and Roger Strobridge, John Kaeding.

Guests present: Katie Winklejohn, Will Sutton, Brian Powers

Meeting called to order at 6:33.

Roger moved to accept the minutes from Feb 15 2021 as submitted, John 2nd. The motion passed.

The select board set about duties for the annual restructuring of the board. Roger nominated Ted Lamb to be Chair for the ensuing year John 2nd the motion and Ted was elected unanimously. Roger nominated John Kaeding to be keeper of the select board minutes Ted 2nd. John was elected unanimously. Regular meetings of the select board will continue to be the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month with the exceptions of being held on the 1st Tuesday of months when the preceded by a Federal Monday Holiday. The Barre Times Argues will be the official paper public notices when needed. Local postings of town business will be at the Worcester town hall, the Worcester town office complex and on the official Worcester Town Web page. Gloria Rice will continue as the Town Attorney for tax collection purposes. Ted moved to table until April 5th the review of committees and the adoption of the local EM plane LEOPE.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

Department Reports:

Town Clerk: Katie reported that our software provider NIMERIC has added an upgrade that will enable land records for the past 40 years to be searched, viewed and downloaded by anyone requesting them through the town of Worcester web page. Access to the records is by a fee paid by credit card. The fees would be similar to what is now charged when done in person. The land records can be scanned and downloaded by the Records Force Company into the towns cloud based system. The estimated cost for scanning and downloading of all 40 years of records is a onetime charge of \$7,940.40. Ted moved to have Katie contract with Records Force to scan and download the 40 years of land records. John 2nd. The motion passed unanimously. Katie also explained how she will be working remotely during most of April and will be using vacation time on Thursdays and Fridays with office coverage provided by her assistants.

Fire Department:

Will Sutton reported the department has had some calls in the past few weeks including mutual aid to other departments in the area. He also reported that Peter Fitz, Paramedic and director of the Worcester Fast Squad had been busy and is hopeful two additional members may soon be available to help answer calls. There also was a continuing discussion of purchasing a new tanker truck for the fire department with a final review of financing options through the Municipal Leasing Credit Corporation.

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MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD CONTINUED

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Ted made the motion to move forward with the lease purchase agreement of a 2022 Freightliner M2, 1500 gallon tanker fire truck. By using \$40,000.00 of the current \$47,945.58 funds available in the fire departments equipment schedule fund and to agree to begin a 7 year lease purchase agreement with annual lease payments of \$21,35.00 beginning in 2022. John 2nd the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The new truck will take 120 days to build and will be available to the town later this year.

New Business:

Ted moved to have the select board go into executive session to have a discussion of personnel. Roger 2nd and the board votes unanimously to go into executive session at 7:35 PM and resumed the regular select board meeting at 7:48PM.

Brian Powers long time road commissioner for the town of Worcester submitted a letter of retirement to the town effective today March 15, 2021 his retirement will be effective March 27,2021. Brian has offered to stay on as a part-time employee for the highway department assuming some of the administrative duties including grant research other duties to be determined. Mike Utton will assume new duties as Road Forman and will perform duties to be outlined in a new job description.

Ted, Roger, John and Katie all recognized Brian for his long and outstanding commitment to the town, thanked him for his many year of dedication and look forward to working with him beginning sometime in April after he takes a well-deserved brake.

Old Business: NONE

Correspondence:

None

Bills:

Signed as presented.

Announcements:

The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will be held by way of video conferencing on Monday April 5 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

Attest: Roger Strobridge

DRAFT