

WORCESTER SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Monday, Dec 20, 2021, 6:30pm

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

Guests present: Katie Winkeljohn, Brian Powers (zoom), Will Sutton, Peter Fitz, Toni Kaeding

HOUSEKEEPING

- Ted called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- Ted moved to accept the minutes from Dec 6, 2021, seconded by Roger, and unanimously accepted.
- John moved we discuss proposed cell tower at top of Norton Road as an addition to agenda, seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire Department/First Responders

We discussed the deteriorated floor in the Fire Department. Roger received an evaluation from DeWolfe Engineering. Repair will require not just concrete replacement, but the realigning of buried electrical circuitry and plumbing service.

Peter Fitz reports Worcester Fast Squad usually has 30-40 runs per year but that rate has doubled in 2021. He will be compiling a list of items needed by the Fast Squad for the future.

Town Clerk/Treasurer

Katie provided estimates of lost revenue during pandemic emergency dated March 13, 2020 to June 15, 2021.

The Selectboard reaffirmed its wishes to provide hazard pay for highway department workers during the 15 month emergency. John moves we provide an additional \$1.50/hr to road crew over duration of pandemic lockdown – not to exceed a total disbursement of \$12,057. Roger seconds and unanimously passed.

We had a brief discussion regarding Town Meeting – ZOOM or in-person? Decision was tabled until covid trending becomes apparent.

PUBLIC INPUT

Peter Fitz spoke in favor of the outstanding job done by the road crew over the last year.

NEW BUSINESS

John notified Board of a letter from MSK Attorneys in Burlington regarding plan to build a cell tower at top of Norton Road. While we are receptive to a properly dimensioned tower, this is much taller (198.8ft) than Worcester ordinances allow.

ACTION: John will call MSK attorney for more information and Katie will contact Town Attorney for opinion.

OLD BUSINESS

Toni Kaeding presents the final version of the proposed Town Plan following consideration of public input (13 comments from 6 sources, including the CVRPC). After the Selectboard reviewed the final changes, Ted moved to accept the new Town Plan as amended. John seconded and the motion was unanimously accepted.

Toni made note of Will Baker's request to serve as Commissioner on the Worcester Planning Commission. John moved he be accepted to that position, seconded by Roger and unanimously accepted.

ARPA Funds

Ted spoke with Leslie Sabo and she agreed to assist Worcester in proposing a way to most appropriately use ARPA funds.

Budget

Katie presented a revised Town Budget for 2022. The Selectboard was pleased with her proposal – John moved we accept budget, Roger seconded, passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

BILLS

Signed as presented.

ANOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled Select Board Meeting will be held at Town Hall on **Monday, January 3, 2022, at 6:30pm.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

ATTEST

John Kaeding