

## DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, October 2, 2023 6:30 pm

Selectboard members present: Roger Strobridge, Carter Stowell, John Kaeding

Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Mike Utton

### Housekeeping

- John called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- John moved to accept the draft minutes of September 18, 2023 as written, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved
- Additions or deletions to agenda - none

Public Input - none

### Department Reviews

#### Town clerk report

- applications for appropriations are due October 13, 2023
- we had discussion about the office complex oil tank monitor

#### Treasurer report

- Katie reports a successful meeting with FEMA last week. They identified 43 separate grant sites. Administrative work with FEMA will continue for many months.
- Town wide auditing is scheduled for January 8, 2024

#### Highway Department report

- Mike reports our new to us grader is working great, making repairs progress more quickly
- road closures for storm repairs will occur when Tatro Construction arrives later this month. Calais road will have one way traffic during repairs. West Hill will be closed to traffic from 8-3 daily until the reconstruction is complete. Bridge 30 will have one way traffic with traffic light as earlier this year.

#### Town Engineering report

- Tyler's written report states contracts are signed, construction easements are nearing completion and permitting is in place

### New Business

#### Beginning Budget consideration

- Katie reports health insurance costs for town employees will go up 20% next year. This is a dilemma being faced by all surrounding municipalities.
- the town budget will be in the red at the end of the year due to overwhelming storm damage costs, however, reimbursements from FEMA will be arriving in 2024 and into 2025 and will be reimbursing Worcester's fund balance.

## New Business

### Town road repair progress

- Calais road will require major repair. Questions have arisen regarding the necessity of paving all the way to Eagle Ledge Road. Several factors favor pavement. Historically, when that road segment was gravel, each spring it became a mud bog refractory to any amount of gravel fill, much like sections of Minister Brook Road. Pavement helps stabilize the road and protect the road base. The Town is reimbursed by the state at a higher rate for paved vs. gravel roads. It is unlikely that ANR would allow reversal to a gravel road as run off of material and debris into the brook would occur at unacceptable levels.

### Correspondence

- none

### Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Town Office Complex on Monday October 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Attest. John Kaeding