

Tuesday September 5, 2023 6:30 pm

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

Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Mike Utton, Tyler Billingsley, Chani Waterhouse, Fred Jones, Sabra Fairbanks, Wayne and Donna Wojtyna, Bob Thompson

Housekeeping

- John called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- Roger moved to accept the draft minutes of August 21, 2023 as written and amended, seconded by John and unanimously approved
- Additions/Deletions - John moved that we add to the agenda a brief presentation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Program, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Public Input: none

Department Reviews

Town Clerk report

- Jennifer notes election preparations are beginning
- the Town is working on standardization of procedures

Town Treasurers report

- taxes payments are coming in
- the Town has only \$5000 in delinquent taxes
- a majority of Katie's time is dealing with FEMA requirements

Highway Department report

- the department is nearing completion of repairs to Minister Brook Road, the crew is working hard to restore all Worcester's roads to pre-storm conditions
- the new grader is working well

Town Engineering report

- Tyler received bids last Friday and reports tonight that GW Tatro Construction Inc. had the lowest bid for all 3 repair locations
- if Tatro were to get the contract, they would plan on starting work in early October
- there were no local Worcester contractor bids on these projects

New Business

Energy Task Force Consideration

- Chani Waterhouse, chair of the Worcester Planning Commission, informed the SB that the Commission is working on developing an Enhanced Energy Plan. Such a plan would allow Worcester to be eligible for financial opportunities around weatherization, renewable energy, EV chargers and more. The Commission will apply for a grant to support the energy planning process. The task force members thus far are Chani Waterhouse, Kim Buldoc, Avram Patt, Darlene Olson and Pete Bogart. Their first meeting will occur on September 20, 2023.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Program

- several Worcester residents requested the Town assist them in applying for help from this program to stabilize insecure stream/river banks that threaten their property. This program requires the Town to act as sponsor but requires no financial input from the Town. A request to participate in the program needs to be submitted by Thursday of this week. Roger moves to allow John to sign on behalf of the SB for the Vermont NRCS EWP Assistance Request, seconded by Carter and unanimously approved.

Road Repair Bid Review

- GW Tatro was the lowest bidder on all 3 major projects and was recommended by Tyler Billingsley for all 3 projects. Roger moved to have the SB chair sign for the SB for repairs on West Hill, Bridge 30 and Calais Road, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

- John signed the contract with GW Tatro for repairs on West Hill
- John signed the contract with GW Tatro for repairs to Bridge 30
- John signed the contract with GW Tatro for repairs on Calais Road.

Health Officer report

- John reports a case involving a bat contact. The case was reviewed and handled appropriately.

Town Posting Location Addition

- With the unfortunate loss of Goodheart Farm Store, the Town needs to specify a new official posting location. Carter moves we use Doty School as our 5th posting site, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved. The official posting sites are LBJ's , Post Office, Town Clerk Office, Town Hall and Doty School. The website also posts official announcements.

Old Business

MTAP Statement of Work Proposal

- Carter presented the proposal which allows Worcester to receive support from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. This support will allow Worcester to pursue such projects as a solar array on the Town Office Complex, power generators for the Highway Department and EV chargers. John signed the proposal.

Correspondence: none

Announcements

- the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Town Office Complex on Monday September 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Attest John Kaeding