

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2024 at 6:30 pm

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

Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Brian Powers, Tyler Billingsley and Cheri Goldstein

Housekeeping

John called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

John moved to accept the draft minutes of July 1, 2024 as written, seconded by Carter and unanimously approved

Additions/Deletions to the agenda - none

Public Input

- Cheri Goldstein expressed her opinions about the performance of the Worcester Road Crew and the Worcester Selectboard in their response to the recent flooding and to road maintenance in general.

Department Reviews

Town Clerk Report

- Jennifer continues work on upcoming elections
- Work continues on the LEMP (Local Emergency Mitigation Plan)
- She is clarifying responsibilities of the Animal Control Officer and may be able to fill that position

Town Treasurer Report

- Tax rate will be set at the August 5, 2024 SB meeting
- As tax bills are distributed, Katie will include a document that helps folks understand what to do regarding questions with the tax bills.
- Katie presented an updated Uniform Grants Guidance Policies/Procedures guideline based on the previously reviewed draft of March 18, 2024. John moved to accept that guideline, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved.

Fire Department Report

- there was no FD report. Roger moved to replace the Fire Department report with the Highway Department report, seconded by John and unanimously approved

At 7:00 pm Roger moved to enter executive session for attorney discussion.

The SB came out of executive session at 8:05 pm. No actions or motions were taken.

New Business

Storm Damage discussion and Highway Department Report

- Tyler Billingsley and Brain Powers described the extensive damage due to the flash flood event of July 10, 2024. Repair requirements are so extensive that hiring large construction companies will be needed to complete reparations. That will allow the Town Road Crew to work on necessary road, ditch and culvert maintenance. Comprehensive assessment in support of FEMA approved bidding processes will happen as soon as possible. That will help us move toward fulfilling FEMA grant requirements and enhance our bid for reimbursement. For that process, Worcester needs grant administration assistance. Roger moved to hire a temporary part-time position in support of grant administration for FEMA purposes no more than 16 hours per week until FEMA activities are complete. Seconded by John and unanimously approved. We hope to hire some local smaller contractors to do culvert clean-out and other emergency work, however, we need to make sure that proper protocols are followed or the Town will not receive repayment.

Old Business

No Parking Ordinance discussion

- Roger moved to table this topic until a future meeting, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

LHMP update

- Katie emphasized the importance of timing this update in order for the Town to reach the highest State reimbursement level. The intention of the SB is to have a draft ready for state approval after the meeting scheduled for July 18, 2024.

Correspondence - none

Bills - signed as presented

Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Office Complex on Monday August 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Attest

John Kaeding