

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm
Worcester Town Office Complex

Selectboard members present: Roger Strobridge, Carter Stowell and John Kaeding
Guests present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Mike Utton, Chani Waterhouse and Avram Patt

Housekeeping

- John called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- John moved to accept the draft minutes of October 7, 2024 as written, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved
- Additions/Deletions to the Agenda - none

Public Input - none

Department Reviews

Town Clerk Report

- Jennifer's efforts are all around elections
- she is hosting a training for poll workers tomorrow
- she has completed the job description for the custodial position

Town Treasurer Report

- Katie has started work on the 2025 budget process that will include items related to flood disaster recovery and next year's audit

Facilities Department Report

- Roger reports the Office Complex underground fuel tank protective outer tank is faulty. It will be decommissioned and replaced by a new above ground 275 gallon tank inside the Fire Department area.
- A voluntary VOSHA visit was arranged to clarify the best placement for the new fuel tank and to answer questions regarding electrical updates related to the "cascade system". There were several suggestions about eliminating trip hazards and other safety measures. All recommendations must be addressed within 60 days.
- An Office Complex roof support inspection showed reinforcements would be needed to support solar panels. A forthcoming reinforced design will help maintenance planning and readiness for the possibility of grant funded solar panels.

Fire Department Report

- none

Executive Session

- Roger moved that the SB go into executive session at 6:51 pm to include the Town Treasurer and Town Clerk, seconded by John and unanimously approved
- Roger moved to close the executive session at 7:00 pm, seconded by John and unanimously approved

New Business

Review 2025 out of town appropriations request as reported by WNN

- Katie read the list of appropriation requests. The total amount is inline with previous years.
- Carter moved to accept the Town appropriations request as reported by the Worcester Neighbor Network for a total of \$11,300, seconded by John and unanimously approved

Highway Department used 10-wheeler truck discussion

- Mike notes the small plow truck remains in the shop and may not be available for many months. He has found a couple of used trucks, one of which might work for the Town this winter and into the future.
- John moved to authorize Mike and Katie to put a bid on a 10-wheel truck consistent with allowances of the equipment fund, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Old Business

ARPA funds balance review

- Katie noted that obligated ARPA fund definitions have changed. Funds need to be obligated by the end of this year and she recommends obligating all remaining funds to the 2024 general fund for wages. John moved to obligate the remaining ARPA funds totaling \$37,589.97 to the general fund for wages, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Driveway permit approval

- Roger moved to accept the driveway permit on Calais Road for Robert LaClair, seconded by John and unanimously approved

Energy Task Force letter

- Chani described the motivation and substance of a letter being prepared by the task force regarding the disproportionate financial impacts to certain categories of rate payers as net metering grows to support local small scale electrical generation; the letter will be revised for review ahead of the next Selectboard meeting.
- Chani also provided an update on the work of the Energy Task Force including draft plan goals and objectives related to thermal and transportation energy, and how the CVRPC is supporting the process.

Correspondence

- none

Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Office Complex on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm. Roger moved to adjourn the [meeting.at](#) 7:57 pm, seconded by John and unanimously approved.

Bills

- signed as presented

Attest

- John Kaeding