

Worcester Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Worcester Town Office Complex

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

Town staff present: Jennifer LeStat, Katie Miller, Mike Utton and Will Sutton

Guests present: Rodney Campbell, Chris Pollard and Jeff Boudreau

Housekeeping

- John called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm
- Roger moved to accept the minutes of January 6, 2025 as written, seconded by John and unanimously accepted
- Additions/Deletions to the agenda - none

Public Input - none

Department Reviews

Town Clerk Report

- Jennifer presented the Town Meeting draft warning for review and SB signatures
- Ballots are being prepared for Town Meeting
- Jennifer updated the Town website with the addition of the State Code of Ethics link

Town Treasurer Report

- Katie reported on FEMA funds
- Reimbursements received from the 2023 storm will go toward the 2023 bond repayment
- Regarding the 2024 storm - 11 projects are documented with FEMA and 4 are already obligated. Reimbursement schedule remains unknown.

Fire Department Report

- Mike reported on results of annual meeting election held 1/12/2025
- Prior to the election process Fire Chief Will Sutton retired from the Department after 18 years of service. Will shall continue as Fire Warden as he has 3 years remaining in a 5 year appointment by Forest, Parks and Recreation. Sue Sutton also noted her retirement after many years of assistance as secretary for the Fire Department.
 - Mike Utton was elected Fire Chief of the Worcester Fire Department; Rodney Campbell as President of Worcester Fire and Rescue and Albert Campbell as Vice President
 - Secretary and Treasurer positions remain vacant, Roger suggested using appointments to fill those spots until elections can occur at the next annual meeting in December.
 - Fast Squad Director Peter Fitz has requested an extended leave of absence
 - Roger noted the importance of confirming the location and responsible person for each AED and 2-way radio under control of Worcester Fire and Rescue
 - Going forward the Fire Department will provide the SB with monthly meeting minutes and treasurer's reports

New Business

Accept resignation of Michael Close from the Recreation Committee and discuss Committee future

- John moved to accept the resignation of Michael Close from the Recreation Committee, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

- John noted dwindling committee membership and enthusiasm

- Jeff Boudreau was present and reported his interest in Committee participation.

He suggested that he, Tracker Johnson and Chris Eaton meet to reinvigorate the committee. John will work to coordinate that meeting.

Old Business

Review of Fire Department election results

- John moved to accept the Fire Department election results, seconded by Roger and unanimously approved

Municipal Energy Resilience Program update

- Katie noted that before bidding occurs on any project, historical review permits will be required for the Town Hall and the Office Complex

Review Parking and Animal Running at Large ordinances

- Roger moved that since the Parking Ordinance and the Livestock Running at Large Ordinance have satisfied all legal steps, that they be recognized as law and moved into the Town record; seconded by John and unanimously approved

Correspondence

- the SB reviewed letters drafted by John in appreciation of service by past Fire Chief Will Sutton and Secretary Sue Sutton

Announcements

- the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting will be held at the Office Complex on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:30 pm. Roger moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm; seconded by John and unanimously approved

Bills

- signed as presented

Attest - John Kaeding