

Coordinator report March 19, 2020

The Ed committee has been using Uberconference.com successfully. I opened an account today and in order to get a local area code paid the first \$20 monthly fee. There is a free service. One thing that paid account will do is get rid of the need for a pin number input by users. The current status of this phone and internet conference tool is that the California area coded phone number below works, and I have submitted a ticket to the company to change the number. That change will I hope be made subsequent to Monday's published meeting.

The meeting is wholly on-line. There is no place-based meeting. It is slated as a meeting of both the Warwick Selectboard and Finance Committee. To join the telephonic Meeting the dial-in number is 720-835-5086 and you enter the following PIN: 70560 when prompted. You can also join the call on the web <https://www.uberconference.com/coordinator10>

The most recent time the Town authorized remote participation was by a vote of the Selectboard. My recent reading of the law says it is now a power of the Chief Executive Officer. So, we have an item on the agenda to have the chair review and renew the of authorization of remote participation for all public bodies in Warwick.

I included approval of minutes of previous meetings in the agenda. This is something which the board may wish to pass over / delay.

For discussion and action are Coronavirus response and Chief Shoemaker is invited as Emergency Management Director to join us. One question, should the Selectboard declare a state of emergency? Doing so has spending and possible reimbursement implications. Is probably wise to do so. Also, do we want to establish any policies beyond what we have done so far which include: closing town hall to the public and having employees work from home or from within their closed office?

There is an item that arose before the virus issue regarding highway clothing allowance to establish and clarify Selectboard a policy regarding highway clothing allowance to avoid repeats of the recent disagreement.

In terms of grants, I request the board vote to authorize the chairman to sign the MBI Broadband grant extension. Building and Energy is working on Green Communities grant projects which include our school. There is a rolling application deadline alongside an extension to 1 May hard deadline. We may not need all the extra time and it is our intention to file as soon as we are ready and not delay. The measures are outlined in other documents and result in savings of \$8k per year. In addition, Janice K and BEC are working on electric utility funded upgrade projects which are: WCS lighting upgrades; and conversion to LED Streetlights town-wide instead of HPS which use a lot more energy. It is not a huge number, about ten lights.

We can discuss Warwick Elementary and the DESE meeting for which we await a decision by and owe the Commissioner a budget proposal. As we are included in the coming year PV budget, this is the subsequent year. We are working on this and have I believe a request for some additional time to prepare this given the current emergency has been made. Members of the Ed

committees and our consultant have discussed accepting donations for our project and concluded that we need “clarification” of the Selectboard’s previously voted “donation account”. We need to frame it as helping children in a way to not make donated funds subject to School Committee approval. I think that is the meaning of the requested Foundation and contingency funding item and others can elaborate.

Former Baystate Accountant is working on our FY19 closeout and free cash certification. I request the board appoint Derek Geser as our Consulting / Acting Town Accountant for the rest of the fiscal year; and that the board authorize funds formerly contracted with BMAG for his compensation. He has estimated 40 hours. In part we need to authorize somebody to be able to sign these filings; and we don’t have a contract with Derek who is doing this work on our behalf. I expect to see the draft close balances very soon and he provided Stabilization report to me for the recent Special Town Meeting.