

Town of Warwick
Selectboard
October 29, 2018
Minutes

Members present: Lawrence Pruyne, James Erviti

Others present: Town Coordinator David Young, Town Clerk and Town Secretary Rosa Fratangelo, Tree Warden Sharon Matthews, Highway Advisory Committee member Todd Dexter, School Committee member Sue O'Reilly McRae, Dawn Magi, Todd Weed

I. Call to Order

Chair Pruyne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

II. Minutes

Erviti MOVED to approve the October 15, 2018 minutes as printed. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

III. Presentations and Discussions

1. Ethics Exemptions —Fratangelo explained that in order for people who have other positions in Town to also serve as Election Workers, they should be granted an MGL 268:20D Ethics Exemption.

Erviti MOVED to grant Laurette Crane, John Bradford and Jim Erviti Ethics Exemptions under MGL Chapter 268 Section 20D to be Election Workers. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

2. Appointments—Erviti MOVED to make the 5-member Highway Advisory Committee an official Town committee, advisory to the Highway Superintendent. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

Fratangelo said that three more people have agreed to count ballots and requested that they be appointed by the Selectboard.

Erviti MOVED to appoint Dawn Magi, Dashiell Barney and Jim Erviti as Election Workers. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

3. Recruit a Wiring Inspector—Young said that Brian Peters has agreed to serve as Wiring Inspector. He also said that Todd Weed, the Wiring Inspector for Montague, will serve as Deputy Wiring Inspector to cover for Peters and inspect any work done by Peters. These terms will expire on June 30, 2019.

Erviti MOVED to appoint Brian Peters as Wiring Inspector and Todd Weed as Deputy Wiring Inspector. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

Weed was sworn in by the Town Clerk.

4. Discussion of Finance Committee Representation in Multi-Town School Budget Discussion Group—Pruyne noted that Bill Foote, the sole member of the Finance Committee, had just resigned effective today, so as of now the Town has no Finance Committee. Young said that this is a process in which we should participate, as we need to figure out what we can and should spend on education. He suggested that the Selectboard and Town Coordinator could participate until new people can be appointed to the Finance Committee. Young said that this is the time to put forth a tough front. Magi inquired as to whether this will be an ongoing or short-term process. Young said to begin with we need someone to attend the next meeting. He noted that he hoped whoever does not get elected to the Selectboard will be willing to serve on the Finance Committee. Magi said that she was willing to attend the meeting and will contact the appropriate person to schedule a date and time.

5. Hazard Trees—Tree Warden Sharon Matthews came before the Board to discuss hazard trees. Pruyne said that he had noticed a few trees on the lower Wendell Road that appeared to be diseased and possibly problematic. Matthews said she will go check the area. The first group of hazard trees Matthews discussed involved six healthy pine trees on Athol Road near Clubhouse Pond. She explained that the root system of these trees will eventually destroy the culvert. Young said that as the trees are on Town land, Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney has to fill out paperwork and the Planning Board must hold a hearing because Athol Road is a scenic road. Matthews said that this is a matter of preventative maintenance to prevent costly culvert damage, as the trees are healthy, but the root system will cause damage. There was a consensus of the Board to direct Larry Delaney to initiate the paperwork.

Matthews addressed the second group of hazard trees involving two small trees at the end of the WCS driveway. She said that because the trees are under six inches in diameter and on School/ Town property she can have them taken down. There was a consensus of the Board that the two dead trees on the north side of the WCS driveway should be cut down.

The next group of trees discussed are in the Gulf. Matthews said that there were some extremely dangerous trees that fell and have now slid down the embankment. She said that they are on State land so as Tree Warden she cannot do anything but DCR should be notified about these State trees that are in danger of striking the public way. Young said that DCR would either work with us or handle it themselves. It was noted that there are some small trees that could pose problems in the future. There was a consensus of the Board to have the Tree Warden contact Phil Gilmore at the State level.

Matthews said that in the matter of last hazard tree she could not, as Tree Warden do anything because this tree is on privately owned land next to the Cemetery and therefore belongs to property owner Brian Peters. She said this tree is a large, dead white pine tree that will go down soon and when it does will surely take down power lines and block the road. Young said that per Town Counsel the Town can intervene and could even be considered legally liable if no intervention leads to damages incurred from the tree falling. He said that since this tree is leaning out over the road we should mitigate the Town's liability and suggested having National Grid cut it back so nothing hangs over the public way. Erviti said that the fact it hangs over a Town road makes it a Town tree.

Magi asked if Brian Peters would be willing to give the tree to the Town, so we could have it taken down by National Grid. Matthews said there are five or six other trees National Grid could take down on Route 78 besides that one. There was a consensus of the Board that the Tree Warden contact Brian Peters in writing and propose that he give the tree to the Town for removal before it falls.

6. Selectboard Reports—Pruyne mentioned a recent mushrooming expedition during which he discovered a cove of elm trees off of Gale Road and said that he was encouraged to see so many healthy elm trees.

7. Coordinator Report—Young said that we received an additional \$44,677.00 in Chapter 90 funds to bring our FY 19 total to \$268,064.00. He said that this reflects a 20% increase Statewide.

8. New and Other Business Unanticipated at Time of Meeting Posting —Erviti said that he wanted to be sure that the Police Chief will get a new computer. Youngs aid that since malware was removed from the current computer it is working better, but a new refurbished computer can be easily obtained if necessary.

Erviti also expressed anger over the State law that requires the Highway Commission to have only three members with no alternates. He said that he wanted a very strongly worded letter sent to the Attorney General's office to see if there is any way we can have a 5-member Commission. He said to include Town Counsel's opinion. Erviti wanted to make a vehement complaint about the statute. Young suggested a letter be sent to our State legislators requesting special legislation. There was a consensus of the Board that Town Coordinator Young investigate the best way to pursue the Town Meeting and election process to establish Highway Commission.

Todd Dexter said that the Highway Advisory Committee will be meeting with Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney on November 7th at 6:30 p.m. at the Highway Garage.

9. Public Comment—Sue O'Reilly McRae said that she has been named the PVRSD School Committee representative to the HEART Committee, so she needed to resign as one of Warwick's representatives and open up a seat for someone else. Young suggested Emily Hemingway, who is a teacher in another district.

O'Reilly McRae said that a deadline in April was missed by the District which is why the two-year term for Warwick on the School Committee is not on the ballot. The Moderator will appoint someone to that seat after the November 6th election.

O'Reilly McRae requested to be on the next agenda to discuss proposed changes to the District agreement.

Adjournment

Erviti MOVED to adjourn at 7: 07 p.m. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Draft Minutes of October 15, 2018

*Town Coordinator Report dated October 23, 2018

*Emails between Jeremia Pollard to David Young dated October 23 and 24, 2018

RE: Ch 41:S69D boards of public works, composition