

Town of Warwick

Selectboard

December 10, 2018

Minutes

Members Present: Lawrence Pruyne, James Erviti, Todd Dexter

Others Present: Town Coordinator David Young, PVSRD School Committee and HEART Committee member Sue O'Reilly-McRae, Broadband & HEART Committee member Tom Wyatt, Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney, Broadband Committee member Andrea Woods, Dawn Magi.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Pruyne called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM in the Town Hall.

II. Minutes

Pruyne MOVED to accept the minutes of November 26, 2018 as printed. Dexter SECONDED, Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

III. Presentations and Discussions

1. Ethics Exemptions (MGL 268::20D) — None.

2. Appointments— None.

3. Transfer Station— Coordinator David Young brought up issues with cleanliness, and the Transfer Station grounds being kept up per DEP standards. The site failed its most recent

inspection, and DEP will fine the site if it is not cleaned up to standards. The Transfer Station Commissioners met last week to discuss the issue at hand. Commissioner David Koester will ask Mark Fellows of Chestnut Hill Road if he would be interested in working Saturday Mornings along with Transfer Station Attendant George Roaf. The Commissioners are working on establishing a check list which will need completion at the end of each Saturday shift, including trash bag counts and money to balance the spread sheet. DEP wants a letter of correction on how the facility will be cleaned up, and Young will work with the Commissioners to draft the letter. Young also reported that trash bag fees will increase January 1, 2019. Currently bags cost \$3.00 at the Transfer Station and will increase to \$5.00, while bags sold at the Library will increase from the current \$2.50 to \$3.00. Young reported the reopening of the composting area. Pruyne asked that this information be posted to the “L” and printed in the next Newsletter for public awareness.

4. Highway Department— First issue discussed was an update on road salt usage. Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney reported for FY18 the department applied 950 tons over the course of 51 storm events, and for FY17, 1300 Tons over 48 storm events. Erviti asked about the use of the segmented cutting edges on the snow plows, and why the Highway Advisory Committee voted to remove them. Delaney stated he was against removing the edges. He explained they do a much better job cleaning the roads. The Advisory Committee wanted them taken off because they were under the impression the edges were tearing up the black top. Delaney said that was not the case, and that he took the committee out in the garage at their last meeting and explained how they worked. After a better understanding the committee said they may rescind their decision. Erviti asked what he thought was causing the roads to break up. Delaney replied the constant freezing and thawing caused the break up; Erviti agreed.

Young continued the conversation on salt usage. He said the mixing of salt and sand decreases the effectiveness of using straight salt. Delaney said salt does not provide traction and pointed out that there are times sand must be applied. Young has suggested Delaney keep a running log of the amount of salt being applied each storm. Erviti would like to see temperatures also being recorded for trending history.

Pruyne asked how much salt fits in the loader bucket. Delaney said around 3 cubic yards, or 3-4 tons.

There was no report from the Highway Advisory Committee.

5. Overview of December 5th Forum PVRs, HEART Committee, Towns—PVRSD School Committee Chair Sue O'Reilly-McRae reported that the School Committee will meet on December 13th at PVRs to discuss the recent meeting. Pruyne expressed his concern regarding the spread sheets presented at the Forum. He noted that in the presentation given by Mark Abrahams, of the Abrahams Group and Steve Hemman, of MARS there was a discussion about the closing of Pearl Rhodes in Leyden and WCS, and said it was difficult to understand the savings shown. Pruyne expressed the need to attend a School Committee meeting to ask questions about expenses, the cost of the extra kindergarten class at Northfield Elementary, and teacher expense. He expressed the need for realistic numbers for school choice impact on WCS. O'Reilly-McRae stated that there was a need for a count on how many school choice students would follow to Northfield Elementary if WCS was closed.

Pruyne spoke with Rick Kingsley from the State recently and discussed PVRSD teacher's contractual step and longevity raises. Pruyne stated that the District needs to cut these down as none of the four member towns can afford to continue funding them. Dexter asked about contacting State Representative Susanna Whipps about attending some of the PVRSD school committee meetings, and also meeting with the Warwick Selectboard to discuss State mandated funding and Chapter 70 transportation funding. O'Reilly-McRae noted that the conversation of shared services with the Franklin County Technical School and the Gill Montague system is still being looked at. O'Reilly-McRae, as a Warwick resident, brought up the idea of the town sharing space at WCS with town offices occupying one area while the school uses another section of the building. This idea of sharing space and instead of remaining solely as a school was thought of as a way to cut costs.

Pruyne brought up the fact that the PVRSD transportation issue has not been brought up by the school committee yet. He noted that Diana Noble had looked at this issue and has suggested several ways to cut costs. O'Reilly-McRae said this issue is also being looked at, but right now another area the School Committee is concerned with is that 70% of school costs are staff and materials. Pruyne noted that Rick Kingsley has said salaries for our area are low, but the state health insurance is extremely high. Young said the state only has three insurance vendors for municipal health insurance and currently GIC is the vendor in use.

6. BMAG Accounting Report and Update—Young reported that the Town books are closed. He also said that the tax rate has been set at \$21.24, which has been approved by the state DOR. Schedule A will be submitted at the beginning of January 2019. Erviti said the accountant Justin Cole is supposed to be on site here in Warwick once per month. Cole has not been showing up and he feels it is a breach of contract by not doing so. Erviti further noted that he wants a face-to-

face meeting with Cole. Young said that he will contact Baystate Municipal Accounting and arrange a meeting.

7. Town-Wide Holiday Hunger Abatement Issues— Pruyne wanted to make sure all families in town were not without a meal during the holiday season. Young suggested that he contact WCS Principal Elizabeth Musgrave for a list of any families in need. Dexter proposed also contacting the Orange Food Pantry to see if they could assist with meals if needed. Pruyne said that he will check into this.

8. Alternate Meeting Date to Monday, December 24th— There was a consensus of the Board that the next Selectboard meeting will be after New Years on its next regularly scheduled date of January 7, 2019.

9. Town Hall Christmas Eve Day Hours or closing of Town Hall for Christmas Eve— The Board agreed that Town Hall will be closed on Christmas Eve.

10. Selectboard Reports— Pruyne reported that he had spoken to Rick Kingsley from the State regarding PVRSD Teacher's salaries and related expenses. Neither Dexter nor Erviti gave a report.

11. Coordinator Report— The report was accepted as written, with no questions from the Board.

12. New and Other Business Unanticipated at time of Meeting Posting— None.

13. Public Comment— Magi asked why the outdoor lights have not been put up around the Town Common yet. Young reported they are a bit late but will be put up this week.

Erviti MOVED to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Dexter SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

Documents consulted at this meeting”

*Draft Minutes of November 26, 2018 Selectboard meeting

*Coordinator Report dated December 6, 2018

*DOR Division of Local Services Bureau of Accounts Tax Rate Recapitulation Fiscal Year 2019 for Town of Warwick

* DOR Division of Local Services Bureau of Accounts Levy Limit Fiscal Year 2019 for Town of Warwick