

Town of Warwick

Selectboard

May 13, 2019

Minutes

Members present: Lawrence Pruyne, Todd Dexter

Member absent: James Erviti

Others present: Town Coordinator David Young, Town Clerk and Town Secretary Rosa Fratangelo, Finance Committee members Diana Noble, Police Chief David Shoemaker, Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan

I. Call to Order

Chair Pruyne called the meeting to order at 6:017 p.m. in the Town Hall.

II. Minutes

Dexter MOVED to accept the Selectboard minutes of April 29, 2019 as printed. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

III. Presentations and Discussions

1. Appointments—Young said that Robert day will handle the placement of Memorial Day flags, but he does not wish to be appointed Veterans Flag Agent. Young noted that younger people should be placing the flags to honour the older veterans. He said that he will put a notice in the June newsletter looking for someone to accept an FY 2020 appointment.

2. Review of May 6, 2019 Annual Town Meeting—Pruyne said that we got some good things passed, and that a message was sent to PVRSD by voting down the assessment and proposed Superintendent's contract. Young noted that Bernardston passed over their assessment and voted down the proposed contract for Superintendent Scagel. He reiterated that Warwick voted unanimously to repudiate the proposed Superintendent contract. Pruyne said that he will write a letter after Yung consults with Town Counsel and call a Selectboard meeting to draft a letter to DESE and DOR.

Pruyne said that he was overjoyed to have a full Finance Committee sitting in front of the Selectboard that was ready and able to address financial issues on Town Meeting floor.

3. Warwick Community School Safety—Dexter said that he had asked for this topic to be added to the agenda after the most recent school shooting in Colorado. He noted that smaller

communities are being targeted and elementary school students are vulnerable. Dexter wanted to start a discussion on how to secure WCS, and that he was seeking suggestions and options from law enforcement. Police Chief Shoemaker said that there has been an ongoing discussion throughout this past year. He explained that there is a School Security Officer at PVRSD but no District-wide School Resource Officer. Franklin County Sheriff Christopher Donelan said that last October the process began to establish collaboration between the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) and PVRSD regarding school security and a School Resource Officer position. The Sheriff reiterated that there are currently no security officers at the elementary schools, only PVRSD. Donelan said that he has started a pilot program to see what can be provided to the District. He explained that the Life Skills curriculum extends to include FCSO Deputy School Resource Officer paid for out of the FCSO budget for FY 2020. Donelan said that an MOU has been drawn up for consideration by the PVRSD School Committee at their May 16th meeting. He explained that there would be a School Resource Officer who would split 20 hours per week between the elementary schools, with a marked cruiser parked outside the school. Sheriff Donelan also pointed out that Sheriff's Deputies can also drive in, park for a few minutes and drive around the parking lot slowly, as the unpredictable presence of law enforcement serves as a deterrent to those seeking soft targets. He said that within the Life Skills curriculum teachers and school nurses work with students to promote anti-bullying and educate on how to deal with anger in an appropriate manner. Donelan also said that there is opioid task force training to help school nurses spot substance abuse.

Pruyne said that Massachusetts has strong gun laws and asked the Chief and Sheriff if this helps at all with security measures. Sheriff Donelan replied that as Massachusetts has the strongest gun laws in the country it is more difficult for someone with a history of mental illness to obtain a gun permit/license to carry. He said that he recommends the School Resource Officer be armed as he might have to face an active shooter. Dexter said that the School Resource Officer would be a professionally trained and duly sworn law enforcement officer.

Donelan said that when he first became Franklin County Sheriff, he promised not to step on any Police Chief's toes and would not interject into a town where the Police Chief is not on board with a project, despite the fact that the Sheriff has jurisdiction over all Franklin County towns. He noted that Warwick and Bernardston have welcomed his pilot program, but Northfield has not. Sheriff Donelan said he will proceed even if it is only Bernardston and Warwick, as he is looking to collaborate with town Police Chiefs.

4. Highway Department—Dexter said that he was out of town and unable to attend last week's Highway Advisory Committee (HAC) meeting. He said that he could report that new Highway Department employee Kevin Bickford is being well received, that he likes his new job and is working well with Brian Hubbard. Dexter noted that the comp. time issue will be within Warwick Personnel Policy parameters by June 30, 2019.

Dexter that a notice of intent for general culvert work, the cleaning of ditches and culverts had been filed with the Conservation Commission. He said he had spoken to Con. Comm. Member Greg Brodski and that a letter of determination handled by the Con. Comm will allow for seasonal permits to be granted at their meetings. Dexter explained that some areas are more vernal than others and that there is a need for more maps and greater care for areas with year-round water. He pointed out that an evaluation by an engineer was required for the culvert on

Athol Road by Gale Road. Dexter said that HAC is exploring funding options and more details need to be worked on prior to moving forward. Dexter said that HAC Chair Kevin Alden will work with Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney on the STRAP grant, which has an application deadline sometime in July of 2019.

5. Discussion of District Finances, Building Lease and Related Topics —Dexter said that we are coming into June and must figure out by the end of December what we will do. Young said that on the May 16th agenda, the PVRSD School Committee has under Old Business “WCS closure and vote”. He said that he would challenge that if the intent is to reconsider, as it then must be worded as a reconsideration and not simply brought up again under Old Business. Pruyne said that we need to find out how much it would cost to run WCS independently. Young said that we want to be the next thing and not just a continuation of things as they are. He stressed that we need to develop an alternative publicly funded education. Finance Committee Chair Diana Noble pointed out that transportation costs must be considered. Young said that it could be just our kids and we could get out of school choice and model the curriculum more like a home school. He pointed out that if we remained a part of the PVRS District we would have to offer school choice. Noble said that it would be Town public funds for a private school. Pruyne said that he initiated contact with Union 28 business manager and that he should now take that further and explained that the Union 28 business manager was waiting on approval of the School Committee to pursue talks with him on Warwick’s behalf. Pruyne also said that he had called acting Superintendent Scagel about WCS Principal Elizabeth Musgrave, but Scagel did not return his phone call.

Dexter said that he hopes the Education Task Force will still be actively involved in exploring our options. There was a consensus of the Board to invite the Task Force members to the next Selectboard meeting and/or to attend a Task Force meeting.

The next Selectboard meeting scheduled for May 28th will be a joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

Dexter MOVED to open the June 17, 2019 Special Town Meeting warrant now and close it on May 28, 2019 at 5 p.m. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

Noble spoke a bit about the possibility of the Warwick Police Department trading in a cruiser long with the possibility of acquiring a used cruiser from Northfield. She said should there be any costs associated with obtaining a surplus 4-wheel drive cruiser an article could be placed on the STM warrant.

6. DCR — Pruyne signed one announcement form as Chair and Dexter signed another form as Clerk. The Certificate of Announcement forms were signed so that DCR might acquire an interest in a parcel of land located in Warwick as shown on the locus map marked as “Exhibit A”

7. Selectboard Reports—There were no reports given at this meeting.

8. Coordinator Report— Young said that he was pleased with the way the Warwick Broadband staff was working while he took some time off last week.

9. New and Other Business Unanticipated at Time of Meeting Posting — None.

10. Public Comment—None.

Adjournment

Dexter MOVED to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Draft Minutes of April 29, 2019 Selectboard meetings

*Coordinator Report dated May 13, 2019

* DCR Certificate of Announcement