

Town of Warwick

Selectboard

July 2, 2018

Minutes

Members present: Dawn Magi, Lawrence Pruyne, James Erviti (arrived at 6:02 p.m.)

Others present: Town Coordinator David Young, Town Secretary Rosa Fratangelo, Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney, Nancy Kilhart, Bruce Kilhart, Bob Croke, Kevin Alden

I. Call to Order

Chair Magi called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall.

II. Minutes

Pruyne MOVED to approve the June 18, 2018 minutes as printed. Magi SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

III. Presentations and Discussions

1. Appointments—Young said that Town Clerk Fratangelo informed him that Jim Toth is willing to serve on the Cemetery Commission until the May 2019 annual election.

Pruyne MOVED to appoint Jim Toth to the Cemetery Commission until the May 2019 Annual Town Election. Magi SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

At this point, Jim Erviti arrived at the meeting. For FY 18 Dawn Magi served as our representative to FRCOG and “Doc” Pruyne was the Alternate; both said they were willing to continue serving in those capacities.

Pruyne MOVED to maintain the appointments of FY 18 for the FRCOG Representative and Alternate. Erviti SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

No decisions were made on the FRCOG Regional Emergency Planning Committee or FRTA Advisory Committee appointments.

2. Notarize Verizon Warranty Covenant Right and Easement— Young said that former Town Clerk and notary Jeannette Fellows was not able to attend tonight’s meeting to notarize the

documents. There was a consensus of the Board to arrange for another appointment for Ms. Fellows to notarize the paperwork.

3. Highway— Highway Superintendent said that he has separated all bad sections of road into individual projects to best determine how to get the most amount of work done with the money we have. He said that he has settled on four projects: Orange Road, Winchester Road, Northfield Road and Athol Road. Delaney explained that the Orange Road project, from the Orange town line to Hockanum Road will have 1 and a half inches milled off and one and a half inches of asphalt applied at an estimated cost of \$180,000.00 start to finish. He said that the Winchester Road project will go from the intersection of Route 78 and Northfield Road to the new pavement at the bottom of the Gulf, about 4,500 feet, with the same milling and overlay process as Orange Road for an estimated cost of \$109,500.00. Delaney stated that Northfield Road from Route 78 to the section repaired last year is about 10,000 feet and will cost around \$242,000.00. He said that Athol Road from Clark Lumber to the start of the shim by Tony Miner's property is around 3,450 feet and will cost approximately \$83,600.00. Delaney noted that another section of Athol Road was originally considered, but due to its condition being deemed good enough to last through another winter season, it will be put off until next year in favor of the approximately 1980-foot section of Wendell Road from the Moss Brook Bridge to the Orange town line, which will cost roughly \$40,000.00. Delaney explained that he adds in an additional 10% as a contingency should prices and/or amount of material change, so the total with the additional 10% is \$718,880.00. He said that after all these projects are completed, we will have \$103,746.00 remaining Chapter 90 funds.

Delaney said that after July 11th he will know what company won the FRCOG bidding process and he will be able to schedule the paving. He said that Winchester Road will be milled down and smoothed up first, even if it is not immediately paved. Young asked if crack sealing could be done with funds from the contingency money if it is not expended. Delaney said that three days' worth of crack sealing would use about 2,400 gallons of material at a cost of around \$28,968.00 and could be used on Winchester Road, Flower Hill Road, and maybe Hastings Heights Road as well. He noted that he expects the other projects to come in under budget. Delaney said the projects would be completed in the following order: Winchester Road, Northfield Road, Athol Road, Orange Road.

Delaney spoke about emulsion chips which cost \$4.50 per square yard while 1-inch hot mix costs \$3.50. He said that crumb rubber chip seal on other roads in the future, which he said was an expensive but effective way to repair roads that are not yet in bad shape. Erviti said that during his recent cross-country motorcycle trip he observed that chip seal on roads in pretty good shape keep them in good shape.

Delaney presented the Board with Chapter 90 project request paperwork as well as the environmental punch list. Chair Magi signed the Chapter 90 documents, and all three Board

members signed the environmental paperwork needed by Delaney for his 7p.m. meeting with the Conservation Commission.

Delaney reiterated his desire to get as much done as possible with the funds we have available. Bob Croke asked about lower Northfield Road; Delaney said that patching will begin this week on that rough section of road. Delaney said that by the next Board meeting he should have a project timeline firmed up.

Young had bridge reports from the Mass DOT on the Moss Brook bridge (Wendell Road), Gale Pond small bridge, the outflow from Clubhouse Pond (Athol Road), Darling Brook (Hockanum Road) and Orcutt Bridge (Orange Road), all of which he gave to Delaney for his review and discussion at a future meeting.

Kevin Alden said that the water needs to be able to drain off our roads properly. He noted that catch basins in the center of town have not been cleaned for 15 years, but wash-outs could be averted if the ditches are cleaned out as they should be. Delaney said that he will be speaking about this issue with the Conservation Commission at their meeting tonight. Alden asked if the Town could petition the State to take over Route 78. Young said that while he deemed this a waste of time due to the State's inevitable denial of such a request, it would be a benefit to us except for road salt issues.

Baystate Roads Program has recognized Larry Delaney as their newest Master Road Scholar. Delaney attended a minimum of 22 training sessions presented by Baystate Roads. Magi congratulated Delaney on his accomplishment.

4. Format of Selectboard Minutes— Young said that the current format of Selectboard minutes was initiated by Patricia Lemon about ten years ago. Town Secretary Fratangelo asked that the Board allow her to make some changes to make the format easier for the Newsletter editors to work with. She said that the use of text boxes has proved onerous and problematic for the Newsletter. Young noted that it would also be of benefit to Ed Lemon for posting on the website. There was a consensus of the Board to change the format, including the elimination of text boxes and the use of bold type for motions and votes.

5. Selectboard Reports— Pruyne said that he met with Warwick School Committee members Martha Morse and Sue O'Reilly McRae, Representative Marks and some others about the PVRSD deficit. He said that the legislation was largely taken from information and a template of another school district whose debt was less than that of PVRSD. Pruyne noted that some changes were made specific to our situation, including the closure of elementary schools. The bill will authorize PVRSD to borrow up to \$2,000,000.00. Young said that the debt is 1.1 million dollars minus the school lunch debt which was addressed separately by the four towns at their 2018 Annual Town Meetings and the borrowing would be done at a 2-3% interest with 10 years to repay beginning in 2020. Young note that he was the only School Committee member to vote against the borrowing; he said a couple of others abstained. He said that the borrowed funds will

wipe out the FY 17 and FY 18 losses and pointed out that PVRSD has been losing money every year with student enrollment falling from 1,000 ten years ago to 664 this year. Young said that best case the bill would be voted on in the Legislature by the end of July. He explained that the bill temporarily suspends part of the District Agreement that all elementary students must be educated in their own towns, the very element that allowed it to be passed in all four towns to begin with. Pruyne said that the bill must be passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Baker by January 1, 2019 or it is dead. The bill is currently still open for revision and has been filed with the attorney for the Legislature but still needs to go to committee. Young said that either DESE or DOR added on the suspension of certain District Agreement elements.

Young pointed out that it would be possible for WCS to handle overflow from Northfield, which would save on the salary of an additional teacher as their students could be taught by a WCS teacher in one of our classrooms. Erviti favored leaving a District that cannot run properly. Pruyne said it was time to start investigating the process and associated costs of leaving the District; Erviti concurred. Pruyne said that he preferred if only the Leyden elementary school be in the bill as up for possible closure.

Nancy Kilhart said that this issue needs to be dealt with now and get to a point where there will be no deficit spending. She said declining school enrollment needs to be addressed as well. Ms. Kilhart went through several a list of several points and questions she had written down before coming to this meeting about how we got here, how to get through it and move past it.

Pruyne said that the school district is a sub-set of State government and as such the State, as a Commonwealth, dissolve the District. Young said that this is consistent with State regulations and the State Constitution. He said ruthless cuts are ahead as the District is still over-budget. Young flatly stated that there is no way WCS will close this coming school year. He said that the Leyden elementary school building is insufficient, whereas Warwick's is the best and newest building in the District.

Nancy Kilhart mentioned marching in Boston to draw attention to the problems of PVRSD as a rural school district and noted that transportation costs have never been fairly funded here since the 1950's.

6. Coordinator Report— Youngs aid that he will be on vacation all next week.

7. New and Other Business Unanticipated at Time of Posting Meeting—Erviti asked if there was anything that needed to be done regarding the road salt issue before next winter season. Young explained that the Board of Health has funds in its budget for water testing, and that Town Counsel approved the letter they will be sending out to affected households. He noted that follow-up testing will allow the Board of Health to gather information on the salt levels in the affected wells.

Erviti said that he thought the vote to change the person who is chair in his absence was “a little underhanded” and he wanted to revisit the reorganization of the Board, which was done at a meeting while he was on vacation. He said that he wanted to do what he would have done had he been at that meeting.

Erviti MOVED that Lawrence Pruyne be Chair of the Selectboard. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-1-0: Aye – Pruyne and Erviti; NAY – Magi.

Magi pointed out that business has to be conducted even when one member of the Board is not present.

8. Public Comment— None.

IV. Adjournment

Magi MOVED to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Draft Minutes of June 18, 2018

*Town Coordinator Report dated June 28, 2018

*An Act Relative to the Financial Condition of the Pioneer Valley Regional School District

*Letter to the Warwick Selectboard from Baystate Roads dated June 20, 2018 RE: Master Roads Scholar Larry Delaney