

**Town of Warwick**

**Selectboard**

**August 27, 2018**

**Minutes**

Members present: Lawrence Pruyne, James Erviti

Others present: Town Coordinator David Young, Town Secretary and Town Secretary Rosa Fratangelo, Dawn Magi, Bob Croke, Kevin Alden

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 August 13, 2018 minutes as printed. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

III. Presentations and Discussions

1. **Verizon Upgrade and Repairs**—Young spoke about the promised upgrade by Verizon, saying he had received assurances from Ellen Cummings that all components are on order and that they want the install to be completed before the ground freezes. He noted that in his conversation with Ms. Cummings he did not address the issue of slow response to scenes involving downed wires. Young said that some junction boxes between the Orange line and Hockanum Road had been worked on already.

Erviti said that he had asked Police Chief Shoemaker to check with police departments in other towns about their experiences with Verizon's response time with respect to downed wires. He said the Chief had told him that his initial impression would be that it is about the same as ours. Erviti stated that if this is true then all the towns should get together and present a united front when dealing with Verizon on this issue. Young said he could check with other town managers for their input as well. Erviti said that he would wait for more information from Young and Shoemaker. He asked Young to check with Town Counsel for an opinion on how best to proceed, specifically whether this can be handled along with the upgrade and repairs or whether it is best kept as a separate issue.

**2. Selectboard Reports**—Pruyne said that he met the new PVRSD Superintendent and cannot yet tell what this man's role will be and if he will put things on the right track. Pruyne noted that the School Committee meeting held last week was basically a rehash of what has been said at previous meetings and was not very substantial.

Erviti said that he had Emailed the other member towns' Selectboards and so far had only heard back from Northfield. He said the purpose of his Email was to encourage all four member towns meet and come to a mutual agreement on the PVRSD budget. Erviti said that the response he received from Northfield was to wait until October. Erviti said he would again Email Leyden and Bernardston if he had no word from them by the end of this week. Pruyne noted that at the last School Committee meeting there was a good discussion about forming an advisory panel made up of members from the governments of all four member towns.

**3. Coordinator Report**—Young commented on the PVRSD School Committee meeting. He said that the proposed advisory panel would be made up of representatives from each of the four towns and include the School Committee members plus two people appointed by the Moderator. Young said that he found it appalling that the person from DESE (Department of Early and Secondary Education) spoke inaccurately on budgets versus assessments and capital debt versus repudiation of capital debt. He said that he was angered by what he called the continuation of the mythology of surprise over the whole situation and the perception that we do not communicate well. As Budget Committee Chair, Young expressed concern that he just received an updated budget last week which may work on paper but not in reality which would in turn lead to another budget fiasco. He said that he felt the last meeting had no value at all and said we need the overseer to stop the District from running unchecked. Young noted that the majority resist change and downsizing and that at this point he sees no hope for a consensus.

Kevin Alden said that the Board needs to have a meeting with the people and decide what is the general direction in which we want to go and how to adjust the budget. Erviti pointed out that it will be more impactful if all four towns agree and bring it forward together.

**4. New and Other Business Unanticipated at Time of Meeting Posting**—Young said that he forgot to ask that the electrical aggregation deal with Colonial Power be placed on this agenda, so he wanted it put on the agenda for the next meeting as a discussion item.

**5. Public Comment**—Kevin Alden said that he has formed a Highway Advisory Committee with four people from different areas of town: Bob Croke, Dave Lambert, Vern Bass and Todd Dexter. Alden said that they have already met twice and have met with Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney. He said that they will meet with the Conservation Commission on September 17<sup>th</sup> to hopefully reach a ditch clean-out and general maintenance agreement to make things run more smoothly without the need to meet for every project. Pruyne said that the advisory committee should come up with projects for the Highway Department and also research the personnel policy too see if it would be possible to rotate shifts.

Young said that we need to evaluate and assess what is needed to improve efficiency and

prioritize effectively. With regards to the Secretary/Assistant position, Young foresees the process taking at least a couple of months for evaluation, the development of a job description and determination of the necessary qualifications for applicants. Pruyne said that it is clear that the Highway Department needs to evolve.

**6. Review Rules for Going Into Executive Session** —Young read aloud the ten specific reasons for going into executive session. He suggested that the Board consult with Town Counsel or labor counsel prior to calling an executive session for reorganization of the Highway Department.

Erviti said that he had conducted research gathering information from larger towns and went through point by point what a highway superintendent should do. He declared that our current Highway Superintendent has exhibited a failure to plan in every respect. Erviti suggested that potentially the way to deal with this is to hire an individual to do the planning, which would free up Larry Delaney for overseeing the Highway crew out on the roads. He said that he felt having someone in place to do the planning would be a good direction in which to go. Alden asked if the town should have a road commission who oversees the Highway Department, creates assignments and generates projects. He cited to the 3-person commission in Wendell as an example. Dawn Magi said that she had told Delaney that he needs to do planning but that he may not really understand what planning is. She said that Delaney is very willing to do the regular work but needs some help and direction with the administrative work. Alden said that Delaney is more of a worker than a manager and that he is good at getting his crew out to work. He suggested that we look at towns our size to compare expenses and procedures.

Bob Croke said that the advisory committee can assist Delaney with planning. Young said that assessment with possible reorganization, pavement assessment and planning, and data gathering could ultimately result in a potential change in job title and pay rate.

As Pruyne will not be available for the regularly scheduled meeting September 10<sup>th</sup>, there was a consensus of the Board that the next meeting will be held Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in Town Hall.

#### IV. Adjournment

**Erviti MOVED to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.**

Documents consulted at this meeting:

\*Draft Minutes of August 13, 2018

\*Town Coordinator Report dated August 23, 2018

\*Open Meeting Law Guide Office Commonwealth of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura

Healey October 6, 2017

\*Town of Warwick Job Description for Highway Superintendent