

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person & Virtual Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
February 27, 2023
6:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Brian Snell, Chairman; Alan Genovese, Vice-Chairman; Keith Ross, Clerk

Others Present: David Young, Town Coordinator; Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; Larry Delaney, Highway Superintendent

Present via Zoom: Carole Learned-Miller, Founding Superintendent; Susan Hollins, Education Consultant; Diana Noble, Finance Committee Chair; Jess Marshall, WCS Administrative Assistant; Janice Starmer, Education Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brian Snell called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m.

II. MINUTES

The Board tables the February 13, 2023 meeting minutes until their next meeting.

III. APPEARANCES

a. Larry Delaney – Highway Commission wood debris, storm damage, help wanted advertising

Young is seeking the Board’s approval to utilize storm damage money (from the July 2022 flooding) to address hanging trees/branches and roadside wood all around town. There is a significant amount of wood that needs to be taken care of. The funds would be used to hire an outside tree company to take care of it. Delaney has not obtained a quote from the tree company yet. He recently hired a tree company for previous jobs and those cost was about \$1,500 per day. This includes a boom truck, chipper, and 2 laborers. Young suggests appropriating \$35,000 of the storm damage money.

Ross MOVED to appropriate \$35,000 of the July 2022 flooding storm damage money to be used to hire a tree company to clean up roadside debris. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED.

Young reports that there is a need to hire Highway laborers. He proposes a quote to run a job advertisement on a local radio station. It is \$1,000 to run eighty 30-minute slots on the radio. Young suggests utilizing ARPA funds for the job advertisement. There is further discussion regarding the options to advertise in the newspaper and also on Indeed. Indeed costs \$65 per application if you do not deny them within 72 hours. Ross will ask if someone from the Highway Commission is willing to monitor and review the applications within the 72 hours.

Genovese requests a copy of the personnel policy and the Highway Superintendent and Laborer job descriptions be distributed to the Board.

Ross MOVED to appropriate \$3,000 of ARPA funds to be used to advertise to hire Highway laborers. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Currently we are paying Highway laborers \$21.42/hour. Delaney states that most surrounding comparable towns are paying about \$31/hour. Delaney currently makes \$26.90/hour as the Superintendent but is able to earn overtime in the winter. Young suggests the possibility of making the Superintendent a better paid position but not be eligible for overtime. Ross will discuss this with the Highway Commissioners.

Genovese MOVED to advertise a highway laborer position for up to \$26/hour. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Genovese MOVED to accept the 1 million dollar strap grant for guard rails and authorize the Chair to sign. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Genovese requests the Highway Commissioners to attend a Selectboard meeting in the near future.

b. Carole Learned-Miller – report from founding superintendent

Miller reports that she recently attended a workshop to learn how to successfully apply for the next round of the New Schools Grant. If we were to receive this next round of the grant, we would receive \$250,000 over three years based on enrollment. Miller will submit our information in early May, give a presentation in mid-May and will know if we are awarded by the end of June. They will want to know about our facility, enrollment, registration events, who is on our school committee, budgets, and curriculum. These are all things they are working on. The first part of the grant application is due May 5th.

Miller reports that the Library Committee is meeting this Friday. They recently had a beneficial crisis team meeting with Fire and Police. They discussed procedures for lock downs and such. Young submitted a grant for updating the safety and security of school. The grant does not include key cards for entrance but the priority is the addition of a window and front lobby for the front office.

The next Arts and Nature event is scheduled for March 22nd at 3:30p.m.

Genovese MOVED to hire Faye Brady, as a Special Education Administrative Consultant pending negotiations. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

c. Susan Hollins – senior education consultant report on new district planning

Hollins' advice for the month of February was to look over finance policies. The policies have been reviewed with Liz Gilman. Hollins will send the policies to the Board for review. Hollins' recommendation for March is to focus on personnel policies and for April is to start to look at systems and make sure all are in place

for a successful opening and also to start looking at salaries and benefits. Hollins needs the Board to discuss finances and transportation.

Hollins feels that the two most important things to bring to legislation are transportation reimbursement and tuition for school choice students to continue to high school. Genovese suggests providing Senator Comerford with a document beforehand to review that shows what reimbursable routes are for transportation. Hollins will send this to Genovese.

Items that need to be on the next agenda include financial policies and the potential hiring of Liz Gilman.

IV. ACTIONS

a. Authorize Town Coordinator to accept and sign electric supply municipal aggregation bid

Young explains that the three year contract with the current electric supply municipal aggregation bid is set to expire in December 2023. We are going to bid in late April and decisions with these bids have to be made very quickly. Young requests the Boards approval to accept and sign the new bid when the time comes.

Genovese MOVED to authorize the Town Coordinator to accept and sign the electric supply municipal aggregation bid in consultation with the Chairman of the Building and Energy Committee. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

b. Forest Management of public lands letter

Ross and Young worked on this letter and presented it to the Board. Genovese suggests adding language requesting feedback from the State house and a discussion to be had. It is the consensus of the Board to send this letter.

c. Identify items to discuss with Senator Jo

Senator Comerford is visiting on March 13th via Zoom. She would like to know our issues and topics to discuss in advance so she can review. The Board agrees to send all of our previously identified issues that were provided to FRCOG.

Snell MOVED to appoint Alan Genovese to FRCOG Council. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

V. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

a. Selectboard Reports – nothing to report

b. Coordinator Report – Young had nothing to add to his Coordinator Report dated February 23, 2023.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, March 13, 2023.

Ross MOVED to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Meeting agenda dated February 27, 2023

*Coordinate Report dated February 23, 2023

*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes February 13, 2023

*Forest Management Letter