

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

**Selectboard Members Present:** Brian Snell, Chairman; Alan Genovese, Vice-Chairman

**Selectboard Members Present via Zoom:** Keith Ross, Clerk

**Others Present:** David Young, Town Coordinator; Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; John Pagnetti, Town Clerk; Tracy Styles, Assessor's Clerk; Sharon Matthews, Tree Warden; Domenic Poli, Greenfield Recorder; Kelsey Walker, Scott Walker, Bruce Kilhart, Zachary Marti, Rita McConville, Lawrence Pruyne, Bill Lyman, Shaunna Olmstead, Dan Dibble

**Present via Zoom:** Diana Noble, Finance Committee Chair; Carole Learned-Miller, Founding Superintendent; Clyde Perkins Sr., Finance Committee; Jess Marshall, WCS Administrative Assistant; Bill Foote, Claudia Lewis, Tracey Dawn, John Cassinari, Wilson Sundin, Bob Frye, Martha Morse

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Brian Snell called the meeting to order at 6:02p.m.

**II. TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING, 6:00P.M.**

**Genovese MOVED to open the Tax classification hearing. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.**

Tracey Styles recommends a single tax rate. The rate at \$20.62. Property tax bills will go out after this rate is set.

**Ross MOVED to accept the single tax rate for the Town of Warwick. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.**

**Genovese MOVED to close the tax classification hearing at 6:07 p.m. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.**

**III. MINUTES**

**Genovese MOVED to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting as presented. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.**

**IV. APPEARANCES**

**a. Conservation Commission – Mirey Brook Bridge**

Young explains that the Conservation Commission approved the replacement or repair of the foot bridge over Mirey Brook but they are requesting the use of ARPA funds for the project. The Board will discuss this at their next meeting.

**b. Carole Learned-Miller – report from Founding Superintendent**

Miller reports that there will be an upcoming kindergarten screening, registration, and family engagement activity on Friday and Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am-noon. The New Schools Grant awarded us an additional \$8,000 to create a professional district website.

**c. Susan Hollins – policies**

This item will be discussed at the next meeting as Hollins is not present.

**d. Finance Committee – Budget and Warrant**

**Genovese MOVED to open the May Special Town Meeting warrant for a two week period. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.**

Young reports that he has been researching revolving accounts. It is not common to go from a regional district to an independent district, so it has been a learning curve. Town meeting acts on revolving accounts to authorize for the following year and to set a spending limit. Annual Town Meeting will establish revolving accounts for the senior lunches and the café under Chapter 44. The new school district will have needs for several revolving funds. Those are enacted differently. Most can be enacted by vote of the School Committee, some by Town Meeting vote.

At this time the only other articles for the warrant is to authorize the appropriation of 5% to stabilization and the appropriation of \$40,000 for the EPZ account. The \$40,000 would be to assist in the completion of the fire station. The EPZ account currently has about \$30,000.

Noble reports that the Finance Committee supports the presented increase to salary lines. The proposed salary lines increased about 4.5%. It should be noted that they did not increase the previous year and the cost of living is up substantially. There will be a public hearing held the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the school budget.

Young explains an increase in the Town Hall improvement line. It includes funding to bring the elevator up to code. Young would also like the budgeted amount for audits to be reviewed, as the cost for audits has increased and we will also need to include the funding for school audits now. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**V. ACTIONS**

**a. Education Consultant approvals – nothing**

**b. Authorize the Town Coordinator to bid and contract fuel oil and diesel via FRCOG bids**

**Genovese MOVED to authorize the Town Coordinator to bid and contract fuel oil and diesel via FRCOG bids. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.**

**c. Authorize 1-year contract extension for Housing Rehab with HRA/Franklin Regional Housing**

Young explains that this extension would allow us one year to negotiate a new contract. The latest round funded four housing rehab projects. The goal is always to eliminate sanitary code issues.

**Ross MOVED to approve the one-year contract extension for Housing Rehab with HRA/Franklin Regional Housing. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.**

**d. Shall Warwick participate in more Opioid settlements and seek to enact a bylaw?**

Young has attended a meeting regarding opioid settlement rules/regulations and states that it can be difficult. The Town of Athol put a Town Meeting article together and Young suggests that we adopt that same language and create a single purpose stabilization fund. It is the consensus of the Board to participate in opioid settlements and seek to enact a by law.

**e. ARPA appropriations and spending review**

Tracy Styles reviewed the Board’s meeting minutes and identified all ARPA appropriations. Young provided the Board with a spreadsheet. The Board will review and discuss at their next meeting.

Genovese feels that it would be helpful to have a running list put together of the Town’s needs that would be eligible to be funded through ARPA funds.

Ross has met with both the Highway Commissioners and the Fire Department and has requested that they put together lists of their current inventory, life expectancy, and what they need for equipment.

**f. Local Cultural Council appointments**

**Genovese MOVED to appoint Sue O’Reilly McCrae, Nancy Harndon, and Linda Paquet for 3-year appointments to the Local Cultural Council. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.**

Keith Ross left the meeting at 6:48p.m.

## **VI. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS**

### **a. Selectboard Reports**

Genovese reports that the Six Town Planning Board recently put together an opportunity for students from Turners Falls and Gill-Montague to visit Pioneer to discuss and provide ideas regarding potentially combining/regionalizing. They will meet again with staff and then parents. Following, they will put all of the information together including what the costs to each town would be. The project is moving along.

Snell thanks all of the individuals working hard on the school projects.

### **b. Coordinator Report**

Young explains that we are having a Special Election on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, from noon-4:00p.m. to elect a School Committee. Votes can be mailed in. There are three open School Committee seats and three candidates have taken out papers. These elected members will serve until the Annual Town Election, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of May. Then this election will have 1 year, 2 year, and 3 year seats, with staggered terms. There will be an article at the Annual Town Meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> asking to establish a seven member School Committee. There is a lot of work involved with opening up the district and the school, so the bigger board is necessary. If the article passes at Annual Town Meeting, there would then be another Special Town Election held to elect the remaining four members. They would then be elected until the next year's Annual Town Election where new members would then be elected with staggered seats.

### **c. Citizen's concerns and suggestions for future agenda**

Sharon Matthews expresses concern regarding many trees down and limbs falling in the cemetery.

Lawrence Pruyne suggests an idea to create a garden space on the intersection of 78/Revere Hill Road. It is currently just dirt. He suggests offering the Garden Club the opportunity to take care of it. The Board approves of the idea and directs Pruyne to move forward with the project.

Bill Lyman addresses complaints that he has about the fire station project being incomplete.

Shaunna Olmstead states that she supports the completion of the fire station project, and specifically for necessary health facilities to be installed.

Rita McConville also expresses her concerns that the fire station needs health facilities.

Dan Dibble speaks in favor of doing something at the fire station. As a member of the Building and Energy Committee, they have concerns about insulating and ventilating properly.

Lawerence Pruyne suggests the use of ARPA funds to complete the fire station.

Sharon Matthews points out that the Command Post is currently still the original fire station which has bathrooms and was also opened for any emergency crews in Town this year.

Shaunna Olmstead asks the Board to put together a plan and timeline for the building to be finished and bring it to their next meeting.

**Genovese MOVED to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 2-0-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey  
Selectboard Secretary

*Documents consulted at this meeting:*

- \*Meeting agenda dated March 27, 2023
- \*Coordinator Report dated March 23, 2023
- \*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes March 13, 2023
- \*School Department Chart of Accounts
- \*ACA 3.23.2023 LT.CLM
- \*Recorder front page SC election
- \*ARPA Project Summary Warwick 3.14.2023