

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person & Virtual Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
April 10, 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; Joe Larson, Fire Chief; Greg Brodsky, Christine Duering, Mary Williamson, Bob Paquet, George Day, Zack Marti, Bill Lyman

Present via Zoom: Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; Diana Noble, Finance Committee Chair; Jess Marshall, WCS Administrative Assistant; Randy Crochier, FRCOG; Claudia Lewis, Nadia Woodson, Jessica Foote, Jack Cadwell, Eric Carron, Janice Starmer, Zee Zilligen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brian Snell called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

II. MINUTES

Genovese MOVED to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2023 as amended. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

III. APPEARANCES

a. Joe Larson, Fire Chief – fire station project

Young states that the Town has hired a Plumber and Electrician as Town employees that can be utilized for the fire station project. The current balance of the EPZ account is about \$21,000. A petition article to appropriate \$250,000 for the completion of the fire station project has been brought forward for the Annual Town Meeting. Young states that the Board needs to decide if they are going to support this article. It has previously been discussed to appropriate \$40,000 to add to the current EPZ account to begin the next phase of the project. Chief Larson suggests continuing the project by phases.

Bill Lyman expresses his concerns with doing it in phases and feels that the project will take longer. Zach Marti states that he would like to see this project move forward. Claudia Lewis requests some clarification as to what the plan is going to be moving forward.

b. Conservation Commission – Mirey Brook Bridge

The Conservation Commission reports that the Mirey Brook Bridge is not in good shape. They offer to restore the bridge with volunteers doing the work but request the Town to purchase the necessary pressure treated lumber for the project. They

believe the cost will be about \$3,700. The bridge is on private owned land but is in a conservation restriction that allows public access.

Young does not support using Town funds for this project because it is on private owned land. Ross asked if the landowner is in agreement and the Conservation Commission confirms that he is. Ross suggests using Town funds for half of the project expenses and fundraising for the remainder.

Ross MOVED to provide the Conservation Commission with half the estimated cost (\$1,800) to repair the Mirey Brook Bridge with ARPA funds to give incentive to fundraise for the rest of the project. Snell SECONED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

IV. ACTIONS

a. Vote to close the ATM warrant

Genovese MOVED to close the ATM warrant. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

b. Review Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Town Meeting Warrant

Diana Noble, Finance Committee Chair, presents the proposed FY24 budget. She explains that the salaries did not increase in FY23. The Finance Committee decided to increase salaries 4.5% due to inflation and the cost of living increases. The Town Coordinator salary line looks appears to be more than a 4.5% increase but it is not. Young has been getting paid out of three separate line items: Town Coordinator salary line, broadband, and the school. Those have all been combined and then given a 4.5% increase. Noble will put this explanation together for presentation at Town Meeting. Young explains that the Town Clerk salary has increased because they are adding website work to his job. This funding will include about 8 hours of website work per week. The Police requested wages to increase \$1.00/hour. They increased Highway Maintenance and High Machinery each by \$5,000 due to the increase in diesel price and other equipment needs. They increased the Highway Superintendent salary to \$32.00/hour due to the recently increased full time highway employees to \$25.00/hour. Noble is still waiting on the Highway Commissioner's confirmation of support on the Superintendent's salary.

c. Vote, sign, and post ATM Warrant

The Board reviews the articles of the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Genovese points out that there has been no discussion for School Committee member salaries. It is the consensus of the Board to amend Article 28, Section 8, to a five member School Committee rather than the proposed seven. Young will send the warrant to Town Counsel to review tomorrow.

Snell MOVED to accept the Annual Town Meeting warrant subject to Town Counsel approval. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

- d. Vote to delegate oversight of tasks for planning the elementary school to the School Committee**

Genovese explains that the authority currently lies with the Town.

Snell MOVED to delegate to the School Committee oversight of tasks for planning the opening of the elementary school. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

- e. Selectboard education consultant selection approval – Suzanne Linden**

This item is skipped over.

- f. ARPA appropriations and spending review including Fire Capital expense**

This item is tabled until the next meeting.

- g. Nominate Rosa Fratangelo Inspector of Animals to MA Dept of Agriculture**

Genovese MOVED to nominate Rosa Fratangelo as Inspector of Animals to MA Department of Agriculture. Ross SECONED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

V. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

a. Selectboard Reports

Ross reports that Highway and Fire are working on their lists of needs and current inventory.

Snell discussed the Board's summer schedule for meetings. He suggests planning a meeting once a month and scheduling a secondary meeting via zoom for Town issues with one item agendas only unless there is emergencies.

The proposed schedule:

- May 1st – Annual Town Meeting
- May 8th – Selectboard Meeting
- May 15th – Town Elections
- May 22nd – Selectboard Meeting
- June 5th - Selectboard Meeting
- June 19th - Selectboard Meeting
- Week of July 3rd – Selectboard do not meet
- July 10th – Selectboard Meeting
- July 24th – Selectboard Meeting
- August 7th – Selectboard Meeting
- August 21st – Selectboard Meeting
- September 5th – Selectboard Meeting (Tuesday meeting)
- September 18th – Selectboard Meeting

Snell reports that the Kindergarten screenings went well and they had a great turn out.

- b. Coordinator Report** – nothing to add

c. Citizen's concerns and suggestions for future agenda

Bill Lyman reports that he is not happy with the results he received from a recent records request. Snell gave him his email address so Lyman can send his requests to him.

Genovese MOVED to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

- *Meeting agenda dated April 10, 2023
- *Coordinator Report dated April 5, 2023
- *Draft Selectboard meeting minutes March 27, 2023
- *Report to Selectboard 3.27.2023 SH
- *1-21469_IRA Status Report No. 3
- *Suzanne Linden
- *2024 ATM Warrant FY24 Workspace JDY
- *ARPA Project Summary Warwick 3.14.2023
- *RPAC Final Priorities