

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person & Virtual Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
June 5, 2023
6:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

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

Others Present: David Young, Town Coordinator; Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; Diana Noble, Finance Committee Chair; Bruce Kilhart, Highway Commission; Jessica Foote, Tax Collector

Present via Zoom: Carole Learned-Miller, Founding Superintendent; David Shoemaker, Police Chief; Jess Marshall, WCS Administrative Assistant; Susan Hollins, Education Consultant; Michael Mankowsky, Transfer Station Commission, Zac Marti, Firefighter; Janice Starmer, Claudia Lewis, Nadia Woodsen, Mary Humphry

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ANNUAL POST-ELECTION REORGANIZATION

Genovese is currently the Chair of the Six Town Planning Board and the School Committee. Snell expresses his concerns with this and the possibility of him being the Chairman of the Selectboard as well. Genovese is not concerned with this; he feels that it could be a good thing for the Chair of the Selectboard and the School Committee to be the same person because then he could act as liaison and bring necessary agenda items to Young. Young points out that Genovese was elected to both positions, not appointed.

Ross MOVED to nominate Alan Genovese to Chairman. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Snell MOVED to nominate Keith Ross as the Vice-Chairman. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Ross MOVED to nominate Brian Snell as the Clerk. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Genovese thanks Snell for his time served as the Chairman. The Board has accomplished a lot. There has been a heavy plate with the opening of the school, they are making progress with the new fire station, the needs of the Highway Department and the Transfer Station.

III. MINUTES

Snell MOVED to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting as presented. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Snell MOVED to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2023 meeting as presented. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

IV. APPEARANCES

a. Carole Learned-Miller, Founding Superintendent

Mill reports that things are going well and they are pulling everything together for the opening of the school. They have hired three teachers. Miller is meeting with the New Schools Grant tomorrow to follow up on some of their questions. Hopefully that will result in another year of funding.

b. David Shoemaker, Police Chief – vote FY24 police hourly wage

In the proposed FY24 budget, the police wages were budgeted for an increase of \$1/hour and then a 4.5% increase applied to that.

Ross MOVED to accept the FY24 police hourly rates as recommended by the Finance Committee. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

V. ACTIONS

a. Vote ARPA funds – 6th grade tuition

Genovese explains that they have worked out a tuition agreement with Pioneer for two Warwick resident 6th grade students to attend Pioneer for this coming school year. There are a lot of good reasons that were presented as to why it makes sense for them to attend Pioneer this year instead of WCS. This would be a one time expense.

Ross MOVED to appropriate \$35,260 of ARPA funds for the one-time tuition payments for two 6th grade students. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

b. Vote FY24 Fire Chief Stipend

Snell MOVED to approve the recommended FY24 Fire Chief stipend in the amount of \$5,434. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

c. Vote FY24 Selectboard Appointments

Young provided the Board with a list of FY24 appointments. He recommends the following changes: change Accountant from Laurie Dell’Olio to Elizabeth Braccia, change Caretaker of the Town Flags from vacant to Gerry Flemetti, and change Veteran’s District Advisory Board Representative from vacant to Brian Snell.

Ross MOVED to approve the FY24 Selectboard appointments as amended. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

VI. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

a. Pavilion

Young reports that he will work on obtaining two more quotes for a delivered pre-cut pavilion kit in addition to the Bensonwood quote and then he will bring it back to the Board to vote. The pavilion will be 24 feet by 30 feet with a four foot overhang on each end. Bensonwood will provide eight hours of oversight with the kit. The frame that they are proposing is hemlock.

b. Donated solar electric at Highway Department

Young reports that the building inspection at the Highway barn was recently completed and they are on track to get the project started.

c. Selectboard Reports

Snell reports that he has heard back from the Farm School. They will be looking for a transitional home next year, not this year. They will be looking to share some space with us.

Ross and Young recently met with Phil Delorey, Building Inspector. They all agreed that Delorey will provide the Assessor's clerk with the two-page building permit application for each permit that is pulled. He will also provide quarterly reports. The Assessors will go through their findings of what properties have been updated and Delorey will search his records for recent building permits have been filed. Then, if building permits were not pulled for work completed, the Assessors will make appointments with the people that did not pull a permit.

d. Juneteenth Holiday

Currently Juneteenth is not a paid holiday because our holidays are listed by name in the Town's personnel policy, not by "all state holidays".

Ross MOVED to add Juneteenth to the list of named holidays in the town's personnel policy effective immediately. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

VII. UNANTICIPATED

It is the consensus of the Board to respond in support of the rural schools initiative.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

VIII. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Claudia Lewis asks for an update on the the timeline for the next steps at the new Fire Station. Ross explains that things will start moving forward in the near future. Ross will be in touch with Brian Gale to obtain some quotes. Lewis proposes the idea of establishing some sort of Road Side Plant Commission to take care of evasive plants, specifically knot weed. Bruce Kilhart will bring this concern to the next Highway Commission meeting.

Genovese asks the Board to think about who the liaison from the Board to the School Committee will be. Snell will possibly do it, they will discuss this at their next meeting.

Ross MOVED to adjourn at 7:16p.m. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Meeting agenda dated June 5, 2023

*Coordinator Report dated June 1, 2023

*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes May 8, 2023

*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes May 22, 2023

*FY2024 Selectboard Appointments

*Juneteenth Opinion