

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person & Virtual Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
August 14, 2023
6:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

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

Others Present: David Young, Town Coordinator; John Pagnetti, Town Clerk; Aaliahna Marietta, Reporter; Christine Delmost, George Day, Janice Starmer

Present via Zoom: Janice Kurkoski, Buildings and Energy Committee; Steve Kurkoski, Buildings and Energy Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alan Genovese called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ETHICS EXEMPTIONS OR DISCLOSURES – none

III. MINUTES – none

IV. CITIZEN’S CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR AGENDA ITEMS – none

V. APPEARANCES

a. Keith Barnacle of FRCOG for Municipal Priorities check in

Mr. Barnacle was not able to attend this meeting. Young will re-schedule him for another meeting.

VI. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

a. George Day

George reported that they have been working on the Meeting House. Recently, someone brought a drone to obtain views and pictures of the building and property. The building is currently vacant. They are looking for a way to restore the building. The building sits on Town property. The First Parish built it but does not have the deed to the property. The only remaining members of the First Parish Religious Society are Arlene Lincoln and Elaine Brown. Their bylaws require three members to sign in order to process a real estate transaction. Arlene Lincoln appointed two additional members to satisfy the bylaw. The Parish has been paying taxes all these years, but the State does not recognize them paying years of taxes as ownership. An attorney is looking to see if there is another avenue to accomplish the Town taking possession without taking it for nonpayment of taxes. Brian Snell recused himself from the discussion because he is an abutter. Ross questioned whether it could be gifted to the Town. George Day will look into it to

see if that is an option and will report back to the Board. The First Parish pays for all of the expenses and maintenance to date and they are looking to get out of that.

b. John Pagnetti

Pagnetti announced that there will be a Special Town Election held on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 12:00p.m. for additional School Committee member elections. These elected members' terms will run until the Annual Town Election in May 2024. September 5, 2023 will be the last day to take out papers for the election.

Snell MOVED to approve and sign the warrant for the Special Election to cast votes for two School Committee member positions, set for October 23, 2023 from 12:00p.m.-6:00p.m. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

c. Coordinator Report Highlights

Young reported an error on Article 18 of the May 1, 2023 Annual Town Meeting discovered by DOR and Accounting. The article was as follows: "Shall the Town transfer available loan proceeds in the amount of \$31,102 to reduce the FY 2024 tax levy; or take any other action related thereto?". DOR will not allow us to use the correct number, \$19,382, without it being re-voted. If we do not hold a Special Town Meeting before the tax rate setting, this will be added to the levy.

Young found a former Northfield highway truck that seems to be in good shape. Porter Diesel has it for sale and they are asking \$40,000. A new one is close to \$300,000. It is a 2014 and the truck we need to replace is a 2010. The Highway Commissioners have asked Larry to go look at the truck. The board would like to discuss this again after the truck has been looked at. There is supposed to be a Highway Commission meeting next week where Ross will discuss this.

Young explained that in early October we will need to pay for a new police cruiser that we ordered. The cruiser is supposed to be delivered in September but will then need to be upfitted. We voted to borrow if we choose to, which we have until the end of the fiscal year to do so.

Young stated that we received a letter from our former insurance agent, CABOT Risk, disclosing that they had a data breach.

VII. ACTIONS – Approve administrative actions taken

a. Invoicing with representations MBI for grant

Young created an invoice for MBI for \$200,000 that explains that he followed procurement and that we actually expended the funds that we are asking for in reimbursement.

b. Highway credential review and approval of hiring

Young disclosed that Highway Supervisor, Larry Delaney, does not currently hold a valid Hoisters License and other issues of new hires not possessing the correct licenses/credentials. Young asked Delaney for the truck driver/laborer job description and Delaney had taken the Hoisters License requirement out of it. Young put it back in. Young had requested Delaney to attend this meeting and he is not in attendance. The Board would like Young to request all of the Highway employees' necessary licenses/credentials to be presented by the end of this current week. It is also noted that there have been a few emergency hires at the Highway Department that have not been brought to the Board for approval.

Snell MOVED to direct Town Coordinator, David Young, to request all proper credentials for all Highway employees to be submitted to the Town Coordinator for documentation as soon as possible but no later than the end of this week. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

c. Surplus Property

Genovese MOVED to declare 24 Dell Pentium desktop computers and 25 fabric covered swivel chairs from the school as surplus property. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

d. Letter from Ted Cady

The Board discussed a letter received from Ted Cady regarding highway/road concerns. There was a suggestion to use the Franklin County Jail work release inmates for roadside cleanup. The Board supports this idea.

e. Funding for Outdoor School Program – ARPA

Janice Starmer is looking for funding to continue the outdoor program at the school. The Board would like an estimate of how much is needed. The Board agrees to approve the funding for the outdoor program for September.

VIII. SELECTBOARD REPORTS

a. Ross on Fire construction progress

Ross reported on the progress of the Fire Station construction. They have the outside completed and cleaned up except for the back of the Fire Station. Brian Gale is off until November. Brian Peters is scheduled to do the electrical work. They are still trying to find a plumber for the necessary work of two bathrooms, a shower and a couple of sinks in the new addition. Once the plumbing and electrical is done it can be insulated and sheet rocked. Janice Kurkoski reported that National Grid got back to her and is going to provide \$16,270 for work in the main equipment garage through the Green Communities grant.

Kurksoki has been in touch with John Hicks (the proposed installer of the heat pumps at the west wing of the school). She has asked him to provide a quote for the installation of min splits in the school office.

b. Snell – First reading of the draft school use policy

Genovese explained that the School Committee is partnering with the Town/Selectboard to draft a building and grounds community use policy for the school. Snell brought up a couple of areas of concern/discussion from the draft policy that include making public safety aware of when the school is in use for functions outside of normal school hours/activities and who permission needs to be granted by for use (Superintendent/Selectboard). Young has concerns with the entire school building being used for only 30 students as it is not energy or financially efficient. Genovese suggested a central calendar between the school and the Town of the scheduled building use.

IX. Items unanticipated at time of posting

Snell brought forward a request for the Town to fund a water bubbler to be replaced with a water bottle filling station at the school. it is about \$2,200.

Snell MOVED to authorize \$2,200.00 for the purchase and installation of a touchless hygienic water bottle filling station from the WCS improvement account. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Snell MOVED to adjourn at 8:05p.m. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

***It should be noted that these minutes were produced from a recording of the meeting.*

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Meeting agenda dated August 14, 2023

*Coordinator Report dated August 10, 2023

*TCady highway concerns 8.2023

*Cabot incident data security

*Transportation support letter

*CDBG correct former program income

*Pressure vessel compliance reply

*Maxi ihc motor

*Highway payroll PR2403

*Help Wanted August 2023