

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person & Virtual Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
February 12, 2024
6:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Alan Genovese, Chair; Brian Snell, Clerk

Selectboard Members Present via Zoom: Keith Ross, Vice-Chair

Others Present: David Young, Town Coordinator; Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; Bruck Kilhart, Highway Commission; Joe Larson, Fire Chief; Justin Gale, Potential Building Commissioner

Others Present viz Zoom: Tracy Styles, Board of Assessors & Highway Commission Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alan Genovese called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. by roll call.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young announced that Greenfield Community College will be hosting a Public Works Academy March 18-22. Workshop certifications will include Municipal Accounting, Flagger/Traffic Control, CPR, First Aid, Career Pathways in Water Departments, OSHA-10, HAZWOPER Refresher, and Succession Planning Bootcamp.

III. APPEARANCES

- a. Chief Larson updated the Board on Fire Department business. The department has been awarded an equipment grant that will be used to purchase an e-hydraulic spreader (jaws of life). He is purchasing a new four gas meter through EMPG. This tool measures four different gases and can be taken into the home to obtain readings. Anna Picard is starting the fire academy this week; she also works at our elementary school. Recently Chris Langely obtained his EMT basic. Another EMT, Marisa Atkins, recently joined the Fire Department. Chief Larson is going to be reaching out to the State soon to see if they will bring their trailer here to decontaminate the entire Department's gear.

Snell MOVED to authorize the Chair to sign the \$10,500 fire equipment grant contract from the Commonwealth. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0. Passed by roll call vote.

- b. Justin Gale came before the Board to express his interest in the Building Commissioner position. Our current Building Commissioner, Phil Delorey is retiring at the end of March. Brian Gale, Justin's father, is willing to fulfill the Building Commissioner role and allow Justin to work under him until Justin

obtains his certifications. Justin previously held the necessary licensing. He worked for the City of Marlborough and was laid off during COVID. He did not keep up with the licensing after that, but he is willing to take the exams again and work under Brian in the meantime. Ross expressed the importance of the Building Commissioner keeping the Assessors up to date on all permits provided. The current Building Commissioner has not sent them in a timely fashion. Justin has experience in construction as well and has worked in zoning and code enforcement in Marlborough. The Board requested this item to be on their next meeting's agenda to discuss the transition from Phil to Brian/Justin.

IV. MINUTES

The Board did not have time to review the minutes of the December 8, 2023 and January 29, 2024 meetings so they will review for the next meeting.

V. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

Young reported that the sump pump in the Town Hall elevator pit is scheduled to be worked on tomorrow.

Genovese requested the Home Rule Petition to be back on the next agenda. He explained that we need to get something in as soon as possible so it can be filed with the Clerk because it is still a process after that. If it passes legislation, we then need to find out if it needs to be approved at Town Meeting as well. Young will continue to follow initiatives with legislatures.

Young advised that there will be a pole hearing at the next meeting.

VI. ACTIONS

a. Vote to sign Cultural Council Grant

Snell MOVED to authorize the Chair to sign the Mass Cultural Council grant. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0. Passed by roll call vote.

b. Letter to Conservation Commission declaring public safety emergency Winchester Road/"Gulf"

Young advised that we are not ready to take this step yet and it should be on the agenda for the next meeting. Ross noted that the State has put their part of the project out to bid and they have someone ready to go. Eric Reynolds has been communicating with Chief Shoemaker to plan out the detour. They have a meeting with Mike Mauri this Saturday to look at the Warwick side and hopefully obtain an estimate for the project.

c. Summer Program for kids and ARPA or other appropriation

Snell explained that they have been working on the summer program at the school and would like it to be on the next agenda for discussion.

d. Second reading Policy on Flags on Municipal flagpole

Snell MOVED to adopt the Flags on Municipal flagpoles policy of the Town of Warwick to include only United States flags, Massachusetts flags, and Town of Warwick flags. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. Passed by roll call vote.

(This page of the minutes was sent to the Town Clerk to be added to the Town's policies.)

e. Highway Commission

Kilhart gave an update on the Highway Department. New guardrails were installed on Athol Road today. Gale Road signs were supposed to be delivered last Thursday. One of the newly hired laborers quit after only a couple of days. We will continue to advertise for the laborer position. The next Highway Commission meeting will be February 21st.

Discussion regarding Highway pay rate: Genovese explained that Highway Superintendent, Matthew Dorgan accepted the position at the pay rate that was offered. After this, we hired someone else as a laborer for 75 cents less an hour than Dorgan is earning. Dorgan does not feel that this is fair. The Selectboard does not feel that they should renegotiate what was offered and accepted. The Board would be willing to allow the Highway Commission to come back in a few months with reasons why they think Dorgan deserves a pay increase and what he has done to learn and prove that he deserves it. Highway Department pay rates were requested to be on the next agenda.

Kilhart will discuss a current Highway issue with Young to determine if there is a need for an executive session. The current Highway Commission Chair is out on medical. They will need to reorganize at their next meeting and appoint someone as Vice-Chair in the meantime. Ross asked if it would be allowed for someone else to be appointed in the meantime while the Chair is out. Young will research this and reach out to Town Counsel if necessary.

VII. ITEMS UNANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING

Genovese explained that a memo from the Six Town Regional Planning Board has gone out to the six Town's Boards. The STRPB voted to move forward with developing a regional agreement to eventually be presented to the six Towns in the spring of 2025. A District Regional Agreement Subcommittee will be formed. The STRPB is going to be asking each Town's Selectboards to recommend people that would have an interest in joining this Committee. The majority of the meetings will be remote. The subcommittee will bring topics for discussion back to the STRPB. The subcommittee will meet with the consultant to assist in the work on the agreement. The hope is that this process will conclude in February 2025. The STRPB is going to hire a professional website designer to revamp their website and make it more user friendly. Genovese requested this to be on the next agenda.

Snell requested the school gymnasium acoustics to be on the next agenda. The sprinklers and potential mini splits need to be considered when putting anything up.

Young pointed out that Nathan Swartz has not been sworn in or attending any meetings as the non-voting representative to the Pioneer Valley Regional School Committee. We need to appoint someone else to do this as Swartz is not going to be able to.

Snell MOVED to adjourn at 7:50p.m. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0. Passed by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

- *Meeting agenda dated February 12, 2024
- *Coordinator Report dated February 8, 2024
- *Draft Selectboard meeting minutes dated January 29, 2024
- *Letter of Interest Justin Gale
- *Justin Gale Resume
- *Joining Forces Police
- *Resume bgale 2-7-24
- *Governor's Award Letters_Merged_Part285
- *Delorey Recommendation for replacement BI
- *FY24 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Award List
- *120823 Minutes Highway and SB joint meeting
- *Summary Screening Committee recommendation 11.17.23
- *STAM Focus 55 on Regionalization and Police Reform – revised
- *Transcend Geographic boundaries with technology Recorder 2-5-24
- *Senator Mark 1-16-23
- *20240131 Mtg Minutes Warwick District Budget Sub
- *Notice of DoLabor Investigation jan 2024
- *FRCOG Inspection Services
- *Resolution to Endorse Senate Bill No. 303 (Gill-Montague SC)