

**TOWN OF WARWICK**  
**In Person & Virtual Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard**  
**Warwick Community School**  
**February 26, 2024**  
**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; Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; David Shoemaker, Police Chief; Sharon Matthews, Tree Warden; Tracey Styles, Highway & Assessor's Clerk; Bruce Kilhart, Highway Commission

**Others Present via Zoom:** Diana Noble, Finance Committee Chair; Janice Starmer, Claudia Lewis

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Alan Genovese called the meeting to order at 6:08pm

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

David Young presented the election warrant to the Board for the primary election on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Genovese MOVED to sign the March 5<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary election warrant. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

**III. MINUTES**

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

**Snell MOVED to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2024 meeting as amended to address spelling errors. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

**Ross MOVED to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting as presented. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

\*Diana Noble joined the meeting around 6:20pm via Zoom.

**IV. APPEARANCES**

**a. Police Chief David Shoemaker**

Chief Shoemaker informed the Board that he had applied for three grants last year and was awarded all of them. The Burnes Grant is a federal grant, we were awarded just under \$40,000. This grant was used to purchase a message board and mobile data terminals for cruisers. The Body Worn Camera Grant is a state grant, we were awarded just under \$9,000. The Municipal Road Safety Grant is a state grant. This grant will be used to purchase new Portable Breath Tests (PBT's) and

will fund for extra shifts for officers to perform traffic enforcement. Chief Shoemaker reported that the new cruiser that was ordered over a year ago has finally come in. The cable and Spectrum build out appears to be complete. It looks like they are just focusing on individual connections at this point. There is currently a road closure during the day time hours on Route 78 for the clean up of the hazardous trees in the Gulf area. This work is expected to continue all through this week until about 6:00pm on Friday. They have not had many issues with the detour so far.

Sharon Matthews asked if the old police cruiser has been declared as surplus property as she knows someone interested in purchasing it for \$1,500. Young instructed her to have them connect with him to discuss.

## **V. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS**

### **a. Coordinator Report Highlights**

The consultants that are working at the McKnight's property have been providing weekly reports. Young reported that he has not had any luck finding Zoning Board of Appeals members. He is not sure that the Board has any members at the moment, and he believes that we are in need of three people. Ross will work on recruiting some citizens.

### **b. Selectboard Reports**

Snell requested funding for the summer program at the school to be on the next agenda.

## **VI. ACTIONS**

### **a. Vote to continue membership in "Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's Service District"**

Snell volunteered to be the Selectboard's representative for the shared Veteran's Service District.

**Ross MOVED to agree to continue to stay in the shared Veteran's Service District. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

### **b. Set date for Pole hearing on joint request by Verizon and National Grid for Wheeler Road**

The Board agreed to hold a pole hearing for Wheeler Road at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Genovese MOVED to set the pole hearing for March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:10pm. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

### **c. Continuation of Building Commissioner, Building Inspector decisions and possible vote**

**Genovese MOVED to appoint Justin Gale as Building Inspector, subject to him obtaining the provisional licensing from the State, and to appoint Brian Gale as the Building Commissioner effective April 1, 2024. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

Young will include Janice Kurkoski on the next meeting's agenda to discuss the stretch code.

**d. Letter to Conservation Commission declaring public safety emergency at Winchester Road / "the Gulf"**

Young explained that the letter has been sent and the Conservation Commission has granted emergency approval for the work to be completed in the gulf.

**Genovese MOVED to affirm the administrative action taken for a letter to be sent to the Conservation Commission to declare a public safety emergency on Winchester Road/the "Gulf". Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

**Ross MOVED to authorize the Chair to sign the contract with Mayer Tree Service in the amount of \$38,611 and fund the project with the flood damage account. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

**Genovese MOVED to appropriate \$5,000 of ARPA funds to cover the police detail and forester expenses associated with the Gulf cutting project. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

**e. School Committee – Home rule petition**

Young researched the steps it will take for a home rule petition. He explained that our legislative body is Town meeting. So in order to move forward with a home rule petition and work with our legislators it has to be voted and approved at Town meeting first.

Snell reported that he has been in contact with a vendor for the gym acoustics, so they are making progress with that project.

**f. Appoint Warwick non-voting representative to Pioneer Regional**

**Ross MOVED to appoint Brian Snell as our non-voting representative to the Pioneer Regional School Committee. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

**g. Six Town Planning Board District Agreement Warwick Appointees**

Genovese announced that the STRPB will be meeting this coming Thursday. The STRPB will appoint district agreement subcommittee members based on recommendations from the perspective selectboards. The consultant will assist this Committee and their meetings will be remote.

**h. Highway Commission and discussion of pay rates**

Ross attended the most recent Highway Commission meeting. Bruce Kilhart was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Highway Commission. The Commission

recommended hiring Kyle Buckley as a laborer. He is from Winchester and has good experience. He currently holds a CDL Class A license.

**Snell MOVED to appoint Kyle Buckley as Highway Laborer at \$24.00/hour effective March 25, 2024. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

Ross explained that the Highway Commission has recommended increasing Eddie Matthews pay to \$24.00/hour. He holds the CDL and Hoisters licenses.

**Genovese MOVED to increase Eddie Matthews pay rate to \$24.00/hour effective next pay period. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

Highway Commission Chair, Kevin Alden, would like to fix the Gale Road Bridge as soon as possible. The Highway Superintendent would like to set up a walk way that will go across it with hand rails. This item is requested to be put on the next meeting's agenda.

**Ross MOVED to adjourn at 7:22pm. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.**

*Documents consulted at this meeting:*

\*Meeting agenda dated February 26, 2024

\*Coordinator Report dated February 22, 2024

\*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes dated December 8, 2023

\*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes dated January 29, 2024

\*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes dated February 12, 2024

\*Mayer proposal\_85264

\*Municipal Empowerment Act Section-by-Section