

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person & Virtual Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
March 25, 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; Bruce Kilhart, Highway Commission Vice-Chair; Sharon Matthews, Tree Warden, John Pagnetti, Town Clerk; David Shoemaker, Police Chief; Todd Dexter, Transfer Station Commission; Steven Soucy, National Grid; Seth Barger, 10 Wheeler Rd.; Lauren Petrain

Others Present via Zoom: Richard & Donna Astrella, 20 Wheeler Rd.; Tracy Styles, Assessors & Highway Commission Clerk; Claudia Lewis

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alan Genovese called the meeting to order at 6:04pm by roll call.

II. 6:00pm Pole Hearing – Wheeler Road on request of National Grid

Genovese opened the pole hearing at 6:07p.m. Steven Soucy, National Grid representative, presented a proposal to install a new pole on Wheeler Road for a new build. It is approximately 150 feet north of pole #1. Richard and Donna Astrella are building a new home at 20 Wheeler Road and this pole is necessary in order for them to hook up electricity underground to their new build. Genovese questioned whether any tree removal would need to be addressed for the installation of the pole. Soucy explained that there is a possibility in the future that some limbs may need to be cut that are overhanging but that will just be normal maintenance in the future. During this project, pole #186 will be updated as well. The proposed pole #2 is in the Town right of way. Abutter Seth Barger expressed his concerns with this proposal. He believes there are three trees that will be in the way of the line and he never received anything in the mail for the upgrade to pole #1. Barger went on to explain that there are a lot of lilac bushes around that pole. Barger and his family do not want their trees cut and feel it would be ugly to have huge cables hanging over their driveway. It would be industrial clutter in their yard/field of vision. Barger explained the trees provide shade for their dogs and for their house. Soucy explained that the trees and limbs are in the Town's right of way and National Grid is allowed to trim trees and limbs around pole #1. National Grid will not be cutting any trees, just trimming anything interfering. Soucy explained that this proposed pole #2 has to be where it is proposed in order for the new customer to be able to get service to their house. Young

and Barger inquired whether service can be run underground. Soucy explained that it would be at the customers expense if they did that. Snell asked if there is any possibility to put it on the other side of the road in front of 11 Wheeler Road. Soucy explained if that were to happen, they would have to obtain an easement from 11 Wheeler Road. Soucy reminded that it is in the Town's right to deny the installation of poles but the underground option would be at a cost to the new customer. Soucy explained that there is more room on the west side of the road than the east side. If the pole were installed in front of 11 Wheeler Road, an anchor would be needed. Richard Astrella explained that there used to be a pole there. Astrella hired an electric company take it down. He explained that the pole is on the Town's right of way of the road but if you are standing in front of the pole, it is on his property, atleast 10 feet from Barger's property. Astrella has already expended money for an engineer to design a site plan that has been presented with the Conservation Commission and they have been dealing with them for months. The have had a perk test done and would like to be able to begin the construction of their new home. He explained that delays in construction is becoming expensive, he originally requested this pole hearing back in November. Astrella feels that if there is ever any additions from that pole to other properties, the having it underground is unpractical. Astrella has lived in the area for almost 50 years. Electric services were there in the past when there was an old farm house but it burnt down. There was a wire going from pole #1 to pole #2 which had been taken down. Astrella had the building moved with a crane and refurbished the building that is still there and is about 200 years old.

Snell MOVED to close the pole hearing at 6:51pm. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.

Genovese MOVED to grant the petition to install the pole at 20 Wheeler Road. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. Genovese – no; Snell – aye; Ross – aye. 2-1-0.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Warwick School District Budget hearing is scheduled on March 27, 2024 at 7:00p.m.

IV. APPEARANCES

a. Police Chief David Shoemaker

Genovese explained that Chief Shoemaker will be turning 65 soon and would like to continue working. This will have to be voted at Town Meeting before the Town can move forward with it. Chief Shoemaker is fine with that.

Chief Shoemaker requested the Board to appoint Michale Cloukey as a Reserve Officer. He used to be a Reserve Officer for Warwick for about five years. He is

currently employed full time at the Franklin County Sherriff Department. Cloukey's schedule has changed so he has more availability to work in Warwick again and he accepted Chief's invite back to the Department. All of his training is up to date, he lives in Town, and he is also available as a notary for the Town if needed. This would bring staffing levels at the Police Department up to 5 officers which Chief considers fully staffed.

Snell MOVED to appoint Michael Cloukey as a Warwick Reserve Police Officer. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.

b. Sharon Matthews, Tree Warden

Matthews explained that there was a tree hearing that was held last year with the Planning Board for trees in front of Bower's old house. The house is now owned by Larry Kilroy. There are about three maple trees that Matthews would like cut. She received some push back from the Planning Board because they didn't want the trees cut down. Matthews informed the renter of the property now (Kilroy's daughter) that the trees are coming down.

Matthews asked if Josh Kirley is allowed to do some tree work for her. Young explained that Curley has been procured as Town Arborist at an hourly rate because at the time he did not have liability insurance. Now he does so he can be hired as a vendor. Young informed Matthews that she could hire him and pay for it out of the Tree budget.

c. David Young, Town Coordinator

Young informed the Board that the cost to operate the heat pump at the Fire Station is more expensive than originally thought. This gives more incentive to install solar there. Genovese asked for this to be put on the next agenda.

d. Bruce Kilhart, Highway Commission

Kilhart presented a Highway Laborer job description that the Highway Commission voted to approve at their meeting earlier tonight. Tracy Styles will send an electronic copy to the Board to review and it will be on the next agenda. Kilhart asked if they can seek out someone to write the Highway Department grants. The Highway Commission does not feel that any of themselves can write grants and that there is not any Highway Department staff that can write grants at this time. Kilhart explained that the Highway members have requested a water bubbler to have at the Highway Barn but they need the Highway budget to see what they can do. Tracy Styles will work on obtaining the most recent budget ledgers and share with the Commission. Kilhart reported that the Commission provided a response letter to Mary Neville-Wall in regards to her complaint of the newly installed guard rails. Kilhart reported that Highway Superintendent Matt

Dorgan went around to various sites with the guard rail company and they still have about \$232,000 in available funds to spend from guard rail grant. Northfield Road, Barber Hill Road, and a couple other sites are potential areas to look at for the rest of the funds. Claudia Lewis suggested that someone check in with Fire or Police Chief to see if there are places in town that have a lot of motor vehicle issues where there might need to be guard rails replaced. The Board agrees this is a good idea. The Highway Commission will check with Chief Shoemaker.

V. MINUTES

Snell MOVED to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting as amended, (changed Jessica Marshall to Jessica Foote on page 4) and to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting as presented. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED by roll call vote. 3-0-0.

VI. CITIZENS CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Todd Dexter brought his Capital Planning concerns before the Board. The purchase of a new fire truck was discussed by Fire Chief, Joe Larson, at a recent meeting. Dexter feels that the Town has a lot of capital needs. The Highway Department needs a lot. Most of their trucks are not in good shape and their Highway Barn is not in good condition and most of their trucks do not fit in it. The Police Department just got a new cruiser. Dexter feels the Fire Station construction should be completed and turn key before spending money on a fire truck. Dexter would like the Highway budget to be evaluated for their salaries and how many laborers we have and what can be afforded. Dexter also pointed out that the exterior of the school should be painted in the near future. Young has inquiry out to the jail to see if they would take on the painting job.

Claudia Lewis pointed out that the current fire truck is a 1988 International, and feels that is more important than a new highway truck.

VII. ACTIONS

a. Departmental Capital Plan/capital needs information

Genovese would like all Departments to make a list of their Capital Plan needs and he would like to see a set timeline for that. Then the Board can review and understand what the Town needs as a whole. Ross will send an email to the Board and Young with his idea of a timeline to get the ball moving and send out directives to Departments.

*Ross left the meeting at 7:58p.m.

VIII. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

Snell requested a Windsor vacuum from the school be declared as surplus property.

Snell MOVED to declare the School's Windsor large vacuum as surplus property to the Town. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 2-0-0.

Genovese MOVED to appoint Jessica Foote to the Six Town Planning Board Regional Agreement Subcommittee. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 2-0-0.

Snell MOVED to open the Annual Town Meeting warrant effective today, Monday, March 25, 2024, and close it at 7:00p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 2-0-0.

Young will present a draft town meeting warrant at the next meeting.

Snell MOVED to adjourn at 8:07pm. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 2-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

- *Meeting agenda dated March 25, 2024
- *Coordinator Report dated March 21, 2024
- *Warwick Scenic Roads Policy updated 2021
- *NGrid Transmission line refurb notice and timeline
- *Cloukey Resume
- *Fund 24 FB Revolving Funds 1.31.2024
- *Draft meeting minutes dated February 26, 2024
- *Draft meeting minutes dated March 11, 2024