

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person & Virtual Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
April 22, 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; Clyde Perkins Sr., Finance Committee; Laurette Crane; Finance Committee; Shane Barbarian, Fire Lieutenant; James McRae, Town Moderator

Others Present via Zoom: Diana Noble, Finance Committee Chair; Tracy Styles, Highway and Assessors Clerk; Joe Larson, Fire Chief; Zac Marti, Fire Department; Claudia Lewis, Nadia Woodsen

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alan Genovese called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

II. MINUTES

Genovese requested that a sentence be added to the April 8, 2024 meeting minutes that explains why the Town will assume the Parish electric bill. (Because necessary lighting is a safety issue for the person that has to climb the stairs to wind the clock.)

Ross MOVED to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2024 meeting as amended. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

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

a. Clyde Perkins Sr.

Perkins came before the Board with concerns regarding the proposed FY25 budget. Perkins explained that the proposed budget is about an 11% increase, and he does not support it. He is concerned with the majority of the Town's population being retired and on fixed incomes. Perkins recommends that all Department budgets be looked at again and cut 2%.

Young explained that it is always our desire to have a realistic budget. Inflation has gone up everywhere. A potential remedy that Young suggests is a Special Town Meeting later in the fall, if we receive the anticipated \$300,000 from our share of equity from Pioneer to level out the tax rate.

b. Claudia Lewis

Lewis brought a concern to the Board regarding free food Fridays. There have been people smoking in and around the shed when they get there to pick up food. Young explained that is church property and a church program, this issue should be brought to their attention.

IV. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

a. Coordinator Report Highlights

Young explained that we have a past practice where full-time employees that are called in outside of their regular work hours get overtime. We now have a situation where two part-time employees were not paid the same. One received overtime for working anything more than eight hours in a day and one did not. Young would like to have a policy in place, so it is the same across the board. Young recommended paying overtime for anything over eight hours but would like a recommendation from the Highway Commission as well. Ross is in favor of providing time and a half compensation for anything worked over 8 hours in a day to both full-time and part-time employees. Genovese would like to make sure there is not already a policy in place that needs to be revised or if a policy needs to be created and adopted into personnel policies. This is a back pay issue as it occurred over the past winter months.

Ross MOVED to recommend providing overtime retro pay to the part-time employee that did not receive time and half for anything worked over eight hours in a day, so both part time employees receive equal benefits. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Young met with a solar company. They are going to make an interconnection application for the Fire Department to see if the solar array would bring the station's electric bill to zero dollars. This application will be to advise if a solar array is feasible at the fire station.

Young reported that the check for the EV school bus will be available on Thursday. An EV charging station will be installed at the school, it will not be available to the public. Snell pointed out that the new EV bus has a great turning radius, this will help the buses that are having trouble on our narrow dirt roads.

V. ACTIONS

a. Assign ATM Warrant Articles

The Board will hold a short meeting prior to the ATM to assign warrant articles.

b. Make Recommendation on Fire Engine Article

Ross encouraged the Fire Chief to put together an informational packet regarding the fire engine request and make it available to the public prior to the Annual Town Meeting and also have it available at the meeting.

Ross MOVED for the Selectboard to support the article on the warrant for a new fire truck. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. Snell – aye; Ross – aye; Genovese – abstained. 2-0-1.

c. Possible Executive Session

At their last meeting, the Board received some documents from a citizen regarding a complaint against a public official. The Board does not feel that the complaint received is actually a complaint, but rather general thoughts. Therefore, there is no need for an Executive Session.

VI. ITEMS UNANTICIPATED

Genovese asked if the Finance Committee is supporting all of the articles on the warrant. The Finance Committee is not recommending the fire truck article at this time as they wish to see a Capital Plan made for all Department's needs first.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, May 21, 2024. The Board will hold a short meeting at 6:00pm on Monday, May 6, 2024, just prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Snell MOVED to adjourn at 7:34pm. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Meeting agenda dated April 22, 2024

*Coordinator report dated April 18, 2024

*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes dated April 8, 2024

*BVA March Expense Report

*2024 Specially Eligible (1)

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