

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
October 7, 2024
6:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

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

Others Present: David Young, Town Coordinator; Janice Kurkoski, Buildings and Energy Committee

Present via Zoom: Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; Eden Marti

I. CALL TO ORDER

Keith Ross called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m.

II. APPEARANCES

Janice Kurkoski came before the Board to discuss possible project proposals for the next Green Communities grant cycle. She presented four projects to the Board, gymnasium lighting (school), domestic hot water (school), and heat pumps/mini splits for the stage and the Library. Kurkoski obtained quotes for these projects and the estimates came in at almost double the cost from what they were expecting. Young reminded that we have completed some projects using Town employees rather than outsourcing in the past. Unfortunately, this approach is a lot of work and has a lot of moving parts. Because of this, an administrative decision was made to revert back to outsourcing projects. Kurkoski offered to search for some more quotes in the next couple of weeks. Todd Weed expressed interest in working on the mini splits project so that is an option to pursue as well and could potentially cut the cost down. Ross suggested Kurkoski and Young work to submit the grant application with the current projects and they find better options the Board can hold an extra meeting next week to vote on the revised application. The Board agreed.

Brian Snell joined the meeting at 6:30p.m.

Snell MOVED to authorize Janice Kurkoski to work with David Young to submit the grant application as discussed and authorize the Chair to sign it. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

III. MINUTES

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

Snell MOVED to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024 meeting as presented. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

IV. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

a. Community Use of Town owned School Bus

Ross thanked all those that helped obtain the school bus for the Town. Genovese indicated that the School Committee will be working on a policy for school bus use other than school use. He believes they will probably not allow use outside of school use for the first year to see how it goes, then they could reevaluate and consider it to be used for other purposes.

b. Policy regarding use of “Art’s Council Tent” of which Town replaced one top piece

Young explained that the community has been using the tent for a while. During COVID it got a lot of use in the school. The Town replaced the one-piece top with ARPA funds. Young feels that the Town should have a policy on use of the tent. In the past the tent had been available for rent to the public, but Young does not feel that should continue going forward, but should be available to Town organizations. Ross wants the Art’s Council’s opinion on this before moving forward. He requested this be put on a future meeting agenda.

c. File review of possible Special Town Meeting

Young explained that there are eight potential Town Meeting items so far. Some of items include reestablishing the opioid settlement fund, the State’s new housing law/Warwick’s small dwelling, consideration of using stabilization for payment of the school bus rather than financing, transferring funding that was received from Pioneer into the School’s budget, prior year bills, and replenishing the Highway’s machinery account. Young indicated that we could hold a Special Town Meeting between Thanksgiving and Christmas if necessary.

d. Report on PVRSDK12 Administration efforts for build a new campus

Young explained that the Pioneer Valley district wants to add on a \$100 million addition to the campus. Snell missed the last couple of Pioneer School Committee meetings but they meet again on the September 19, 2024.

e. Community Compact Senior and Digital Equity Project Report

Ross will work on this. He has been in touch with Lisa from the Warwick Inn.

f. Coordinator Report

Young had nothing to add to his coordinator report dated October 3, 2024.

g. Wetland crossing boardwalk to Lily Pond at WCS

Ross does not support a walk way to the Lily Pond. He feels it would be better to bush whack through the woods and have them walk through there to preserve the area. Genovese agreed.

V. ACTIONS

a. Vote on one-day wine license for Lori Perkins for Holiday Fair on 11/30

Snell MOVED to approve the one-day liquor license for Lori Perkins for the holiday fair on November 30, 2024 with the same stipulations that were in place for previous years.

Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

b. Discussion and vote on support for Northern Tier Rail

Eden Marti expressed his support for the potential Northern Tier Rail. Young does not support the idea of the Northern Tier Rail. The Board indicated that they support the project and would like to send a letter of support.

Ross MOVED to draft and send a letter of support for the Northern Tier Rail. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

c. Approval of Administrative Actions Taken

Young explained that he drafted a letter of appreciation to the Sheriff's Department on behalf of the Board for the work that they did at the school.

Snell MOVED to sign and send the appreciation letter to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Ross SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

VI. ITEMS UNANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING

Genovese expressed his concern in having a plan and building blocks for a transition for when Young retires from the Town Coordinator position. He requested that it be a standing agenda item for future meetings. It is the consensus of the Board to keep the Town Coordinator transition as an item for future meeting agendas.

Snell MOVED to adjourn at 7:36p.m. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Meeting agenda dated October 7, 2024

*Coordinator Report dated October 3, 2024

*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes dated August 12, 2024

*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes dated September 9, 2024

*Warwick Efficiency Narrative DRAFT 2024 v1.0

*FY25 Best Practices Compact Program Application_Submission_1264401510