

TOWN OF WARWICK
In Person Meeting of the Warwick Selectboard
Warwick Community School
November 18, 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; Amanda Carey, Selectboard Secretary; Kevin Alden, Highway Commission; Janice Starmer, School Committee

Present via Zoom: Diana Noble, Finance Committee Chair

I. CALL TO ORDER

Keith Ross called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

II. MINUTES

The Board has not had a chance to review the minutes of the November 4, 2024 meeting. They requested they be put on the next meeting agenda for approval.

III. DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS

a. Coordinator Report

Young reported on completed projects at the school including replacing the phone system and the addition of a new outdoor Wi-Fi access point. The Fire Chief has put an outdoor burning ban in effect because it has been so dry. Young filed the Green Communities Annual Report.

*Alan Genovese joined the meeting at this time (6:05p.m.).

b. Selectboard Reports

Ross indicated that he would schedule a meeting with the Forestry Committee regarding a pine harvest.

Genovese brought up a discussion regarding the charging station at the school. He would like to find a way to secure the charging station, so it is not being utilized by unauthorized personnel. Young indicated that staff would take care of this.

IV. ACTIONS

a. Act on recommendations of Highway Commission

i. Plow and Spreader Trucks

Kevin Alden indicated that the Highway Commission is requesting \$100,000 be transferred into their Highway Machinery account to

purchase a truck. This will be Article 3 on the upcoming Special Town Meeting Warrant. The Highway Department has a couple of used trucks they are looking at, at the moment but have not made any decisions.

ii. Gale Brook x Athol Road Culvert Headwall Repairs and Engineering Contract

Alden informed the Board that they are going to be looking at repairing the Gale Brook Culvert. Gill Engineering will be coming out to evaluate it if the Board approves their contract for about \$6,000. The Board feels that price is high for just an evaluation. Alden explained that is the going rate and he does not think they will be able to find anything cheaper. There is further discussion regarding the options for repair. They could repair what is existing or upgrade and repair it the correct way. This could mean the road could be closed down for a long period of time. Genovese pointed out that they should have someone come in to evaluate it and see if it is safe to repair as is for now and then really look at the long term repair/upgrade after. Alden indicated that he spoke with Police Chief Shoemaker regarding different/better signage that could be installed at the location.

Snell MOVED to approve and sign the contract with Gill Engineering for their structural evaluation and visual culvert inspection. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

b. Authorize BOH North Quabbin Collaboration Contract

Young explained that this will be the second year to contract with them and it is grant funded.

Snell MOVED to sign the Board of Health North Quabbin Collaboration Contract. Genovese SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

c. Discuss and approve December 9th Special Town Meeting action / agenda items

The Board reviewed the following Special Town Meeting Warrant articles:

- Article 1 – The Finance Committee used \$70,000 that they anticipated receiving from the Pioneer District in their budget model at the last Annual Town Meeting. This funding was not available for action at the Annual Town Meeting, so this article would allow the FY25 property tax rate to be reduced.
- Article 2 is to appropriate \$170,000 of free cash for solar PV on the new Fire Station.
- Article 3 is to appropriate funds for the Highway Machinery fund that was already discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Article 4 is to amend zoning bylaws on accessory dwelling units. Young indicated that a hearing was held Thursday night in regards to this. Town Council will review the language.

- Article 5 appropriates \$7,000 from free cash for after school and summer activities through June 30, 2024.
- Article 6 authorizes payment for prior year bills. Currently there is one prior year bill but Young will add any others that he finds while he is still able to add to the warrant.
- Article 7 rescinds a vote from the May 1, 2023 Annual Town Meeting for housekeeping purposes regarding the Opioid Stabilization Fund.
- Article 8 can be deleted. The school already funded the purpose of the article.

Young stated that the warrant is still open through this Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 12:00p.m. Young is requesting approval of the administrative action taken to open the warrant.

d. Approval of administrative actions taken including posting STM Warrant open notice, and paying Warwick Education Foundation registration and legal expenses from ARPA

Genovese MOVED to approve the administrative actions taken, including posting the Special Town Warrant open notice and paying the Warwick Education Foundation registration and legal expenses from ARPA funds. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

V. TOWN COORDINATOR SUCCESSION PLANNING

Ross requested Young to outline his job description/tasks. Genovese asked Young to keep track of what he is working on between meetings and to bring running lists of those tasks to future meetings.

VI. ITEMS UNANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING – none

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION

Genovese MOVED to move into executive session at 6:54p.m. with the intention to go back into open session only to adjourn. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

The Board came back into open meeting at 7:06p.m.

Genovese MOVED to adjourn at 7:06pm. Snell SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Carey
Selectboard Secretary

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Meeting agenda dated November 18, 2024

*Coordinator Report dated November 14, 2024

*Draft Selectboard meeting minutes dated November 4, 2024

*Amendment #1 to Designated Community Contract FINAL

*MRF contract amendment merged with original contract

*Springfield MRF Operations Summary

*STRPB news article DRAS 10.15.2024