



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2021

PRESENT: Mr. John Nason: Chairman, Mr. Marc Richard: Vice-Chairman, and Mr. David Dufresne, Clerk.

ATTENDEES: see attached list.

Opened the Meeting at 6:00 PM

Mr. Nason called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised all that this meeting is being video/audio taped and will be rebroadcast following the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE, read by Mr. Dufresne:

1. The office received the monthly report of the Police Department, and the Fire Department for January 2021.
2. The office is in receipt of CDBG funds of \$19,584.47 and \$16,045.46.
3. The Town is in support of the District Local Technical Assistance Funding to add the regional schools to the Town's Green Communities Energy Reduction Plan. Adding the regional schools will provide many additional opportunities for energy and cost savings that will benefit both the school district and the Town. Warren has been a designated Green Community since 2015 and has worked extensively with CMRPC on competitive grant projects and annual reports. The process to add the regional schools began in 2020 but due to delays related to Covid-19 and staff changes, the process will need to be completed in 2021.

MINUTES:

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of February 4, 2021 as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Richard,; Mr. Nason abstained - AIF.

Motion to approve and sign the Executive Session Minutes of January 28, 2021 -appointment of new Police Lieutenant James Early, as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second Mr. Richard, unanimous - AIF.

NEW HIRE – FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief Lavoie introduced Alex Haeseler as the new full time Fire Dept. employee. Mr. Haeseler has EMT background, Firefighting experience, and is already a certified Fire Fighter, and Hazmat technician. Mr. Haeseler stated that he is happy to be here and looking forward to the opportunity.

APPOINTMENT:

Mr. Dufresne motion to appoint Megan Sears to the Warren School Committee; second Mr. Nason, unanimous - AIF. Mr. Nason stated that she has a very impressive resume. Currently Ms. Sears is a school guidance counselor and a former public school teacher.

WARRANTS & INVOICES:

Motion to approve and sign Warrant & Invoices #65 Payroll \$38,036.79 #66 Vendor \$165,658.53 as written, made by Mr. Dufresne; second: Mr. Nason – AIF- aye.

Mr. Dufresne motion to approve Drawdowns Payment #161 \$19,584.47 and \$16,045.46 for CDBG Grants #844 & #875; second: Mr. Richard – AIF – aye.

BUSINESS:

Discussion on STM & ATM, Mr. Richard stated that the STM usually held in October, due to Covid-19 concerns and restrictions it has not transpired, and it makes no sense to have STM now and then a month later have the ATM. Mr. Nason stated he is extremely cautious especially now with new variants of Covid-19 being more transmittable. With no Finance Committee or Budget Committee, usually 2-3 months prior to a STM or ATM the Articles and Budgets would be reviewed and discussed. – a lot of debates and discussions will need to be done with the departments. It was agreed that starting next Thursday, the BOS will hold working meetings at 5pm to go over Budgets and Articles with the individual Departments, also to include regular business such as correspondence, minutes, warrants & invoices, etc.

Mr. Dufresne stated that he is looking into our permit fee system, whereas many fees are outdated and there are areas of inspections that we are charging no fee. Mr. Nason stated that there are a lot of businesses hurting right now, we need to be consistent and fair with our fees and not just use comparisons for what other towns are charging.

Mr. Nason requested to place on BOS Meeting agenda for a discussion on access to Town Website maintenance. It would be great if departments could update their departmental pages with access to the Town Website, to be done in a proper manner with certain restrictions.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS:

Mr. Soltys questioned the BOS if they have pursued looking into ways of getting a much-needed Town Manager. Mr. Nason stated that the first place to start is to approach the floor at town meeting with monetary amount, not to exceed a certain amount, get the approval and backing of the Town's people. Mr. Soltys stated that we need to get information up on the Town's website and indicate what can be accomplished by having a Town Manager – also a contract for the Town Manager would detail this.

Mr. Richard stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is holding a Spring Scavenger Hunt on March 6th, and an Easter Event on April 3rd, details on the Warren Parks and Rec's website.

Mr. Richard stated that there was a Covid-19 incident at the Senior Center recently and it had to shut down for 14 days and have deep cleaning work done. Jim Dusty did an exceptional job of deep cleaning the Senior Center for 9 days with hospital grade cleaner. Also, Mr. Dusty, his wife Karen, and volunteers from their church and the Food Bank in Worcester that they operate, volunteered to take over the meal program through the end of February. A tremendous amount of thanks goes out to them and we appreciate all they do. Thank you for all your community efforts, and please keep safe and healthy during these Covid-19 times.

Mr. Richard sending congratulations to Warren resident Isabella Clowes for making the Dean's List at WPI.

Next Meeting Date for a Working Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 2021 - 5:00 PM, Shepard Municipal Building.

Meeting dissolved at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Priscilla Clowes
Administrative Secretary



David P. Dufresne, Sr., Clerk