

Selectmen Meeting

October 26, 2023

In attendance: David Dufresne, Chair; Rich Eichacker, Vice Chair, Derick Veliz, Clerk, James Ferrera, Town Administrator; Karen Dusty, Administrative Secretary

Open Meeting:

Pledge of Allegiance:

1. **Discussion on relocating the polling place from West Warren Senior Center to the Shepard Building. (Anticipated vote)** Ms. Stockley stated that there are several reasons why she would like to move the polling place to the Shepard Building. 1. Save money, 2. Mail in Ballots, 3. New voting machines. 4. Low in-person turnout. After presenting her reasons the Board agreed. Mr. Eichacker made a motion to allow the Town Clerk to relocate polling place B to the Shepard Building, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
2. **Discussion on accepting the hours for Leona Wrobel for the Senior Tax Work-Off Abatement. (Anticipated vote)** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to accept the hours for Leona Wrobel for the Senior Tax Work-off program, 2nd by Mr. Veliz all in favor, passed unanimously.
3. **Review the Special Town Meeting articles that were tabled: 10, 11, 12, 14, 20, 24, & 34. (Anticipated vote)** Mr. Dufresne read the articles that needed more clarification one at a time. On #14, the Board decided to remove it and wait until the Spring for the Special Town Meeting. The rest were fine and will be voted on November 2, 2023
4. **Review and discussion of a draft of a proposed policy regarding the raising of flags on Town property. (Anticipated Vote)** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to approve the Flag Policy, 2nd by Mr. Dufresne, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- **Report back on the inspection of the Warren Levee with the US Army Corps of Engineers.** Mr. Dufresne stated all three selectmen, Mr. Ferrera, Mr. Olson, and Mr. McKeon met with Mr. Flemming and Mr. DiRocco from the US Army Corps of Engineers at the Wrights Mill Complex to go over the Levee system. Their report will let us know what needs to be completed so we comply with regulations.
5. **Warrants & Bills:**
 - a. **Warrants:** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to pay the following warrants, 2nd by Mr. Dufresne, all in favor, passed unanimously.

i. Payroll	#17	\$ 57,491.69
ii. Payroll	#18	\$ 62,810.09
iii. Vendor	#20	\$ 52,859.41
iv. Vendor	#21	\$233,359.43
 - b. **Bills:** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to pay the following bills, 2nd by Mr. Dufresne, all in favor, passed unanimously.

i. Marci Dineen (Constable)	\$ 35.00
ii. Mirick O'Connell	\$2,825.00+\$95.00= \$ 2,920.00
iii. Warren Water District	\$ 188.21

Selectmen Meeting
October 26, 2023

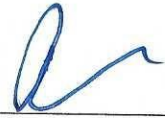
iv. National Grid	\$289.75+\$105.59=	\$ 395.34
v. Verizon		\$ 13.35
vi. Comcast Business	\$143.35+20.30=	\$ 163.65
vii. Smith Vocational		\$ 6,692.00
viii. MassCor	\$3,625.52+1,812.76+1,812.76=	\$ 7,251.04
Mr. Veliz made a motion to reimburse Joyce Eichacker for the zoom account, 2 nd by David Dufresne, all in favor, passed unanimously.		
ix. Joyce Eichacker		\$ 16.99

6. **Minutes:** Anticipated vote to accept minutes: from 9/14/23, 9/28/23, 10/5/23, & 10/12/23. Mr. Eichacker: made a motion to approve the minutes from 9/14/23 & 9/28/23 dog hearing and 9/28/23 regular meeting, 2nd by Mr. Dufresne, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- **Town Administrator Report:**
 - Mr. Ferrera addressed the Senior Center: the siding and gutters are moving right along, we will need to address the electrical, roofing, AC unit at some time.
 - Wastewater treatment plant stairs are being repaired this week.
 - Police and Fire Feasibility study: needed more adjustments but should have a report soon.
 - Our new Planning/Building Secretary started on Monday. She will work Mon.-Thurs 8:00-4:00 to start.
 - FinCom will meet one more time to go over all the articles for the STM.
 - Mr. Ferrera has been working with Mr. Olson, the Highway Surveyor, on the contracts for the bids that came in for materials and labor. We should have contracts ready for the Board next week.
 - Two Sludge Hauling bids came in and they are being reviewed now.
 - October 31st we should hear back from the Economic Development Administration on the grant for the Master Plan.
 - Mr. Eichacker wanted to know about the noisy A/C unit at the Senior Center. Mr. Ferrera said that they are looking at it and possibly putting up a stockade fence.
 - **New Business: NONE**
 - **Old Business: NONE**
 - 7. **Correspondence:** Jeff Trip email on bush on the sidewalk
 - 8. **Correspondence:** Letter from Senator Jake Oliverira on the One Stop Growth Grant award of \$75,000.00
 - **Comments and Concerns:** Mr. Kondrat stated that they received a grant and were looking to use it for a Health Inspector payroll.
 - **Comments and Concerns:** Things going on this week: Haunted House, Trick or Treating and the parade in West Warren, Spaghetti Dinner at the Fire Station on Saturday.

Selectmen Meeting
October 26, 2023

- **Comments and Concerns:** The Town Welcome sign on Maple Street on the corner has been removed for repair.
- **Next meeting is November 2, 2023**
- **Adjourn:** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, adjourned. 8:25PM

Respectfully submitted
Karen Dusty, Administrative Assistant



Rich Eichacker, Vice-Chair




LAURA J. STOCKLEY
TOWN CLERK

OFFICE OF
TOWN CLERK

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 603
48 HIGH STREET
WARREN, MA 01083-0603

TEL: 413-436-5701 EXT. 111
FAX: 413-436-9754
TOWNCLERK@WARREN-MA.GOV

TO: Board of Selectmen

FR: Town Clerk, Laura J. Stockley 

RE: Reserve Gymnasium for all elections in 2024

DT: October 16, 2023

I am requesting the gymnasium for the upcoming *four* elections in 2024.

2024 is a Presidential Election Year!! This means that we will have four elections, starting in March, with Mandatory Early Voting in February, and ending in November..

I respectfully request that I may reserve the gym from mid February thru the close of my Election in November, which is likely 5-10 days after the election due to the fact that we have to keep the Election open for any mail-in overseas ballots to be returned. I'm fine with meetings in the center of the gym with my booths off to the sides, however basketballs and baseballs flying around the expense booths would be a problem.

Thank you,
Laurie

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO RELOCATE POLLING PLACE B (SENIOR CTR)

I am here tonight seeking your approval to relocate Polling Place B from the Senior Center to this building, in the gym. Not to have one combined precinct, A & B would still be separated, but they those "polling places" would both be here at 48 High Street. A on one side, and B on the other. To do that, I need your vote.

I started this ball in motion when I received a call from the State Department, asking *why* we had two polling places. According to the law, only towns with **6,200** or more registered voters may have more than 1 precinct.

We currently have **3,800** registered voters. As you can see, we are well below the qualifying numbers.

In 1993, we were granted permission to do so, in an ACT of Chapter 144, allowing us to have two separate polling places, still considered 1 precinct, with 1 governing body, etc. There is nothing in the law that states any specific location for a separate polling place.

If we were to re-locate Precinct B to this building, it would still be a **separate** polling place, Warren would vote on one side and West Warren would be on another. It would not make the lines any longer for voters as each line will have the same voters as always.

Reason #1 Saving money

Only need 1 Police Officer- anticipated savings of over **\$3,000** in 2024 (4 elections)
In addition, I would expect to save money on election supplies and payroll

Reason #2 Mail in Ballots

Election law changes, specifically mail in ballots, I need my office/computer all day long, which isn't at the Senior Center

Reason #3 New Voting Machines

New machines will certainly bring lots of questions, anticipated quirks, etc. much easier to deal with if we are all together. I cannot be at two places at the same time!

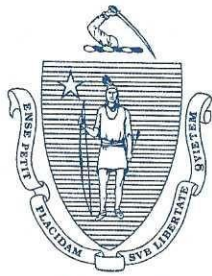
Reason #4 Low in-person turnout

Approximately 1,000 registered voters in Prct. B
We typically have a very low in-person turnout.

Last May	58 = 6% of the voters
November 2022	329 = 33% of the voters (Presidential Election)
September 2022	95 = 10% of the voters
May 2021	204 = 21% of the voters
November 2020	328 = 33% of the voters (Presidential Election)
September 2020	149 = 15% of the voters
June 2020	133 = 13% of the voters
May 2019	197 = 20% of the voters

In addition, this only has positive benefits for the Senior Center.

Won't be closed for lunches anymore, won't miss work because of elections, functions, shelter aspect, etc.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR JACOB OLIVEIRA
Hampden, Hampshire and
Worcester District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 416B
BOSTON, MA 02133-1054
TEL: (617) 722-1291
FAX: (617) 722-1014
DISTRICT: (413) 203-9368

JACOB.OLIVEIRA@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

October 7th, 2023
Chair David Dufresne
Town of Warren
P.O. Box 609 48 High Street
Warren, MA 01083

Congratulations!

Dear David,

My warmest congratulations on receiving \$75,000 from the FY2024 Community One Stop for Growth Grant Program. The funds for Community Planning acknowledge not only the terrific application you submitted but also the hard work and preparation you have done to demonstrate Warren's readiness to execute its planning. Knowing that one of the factors considered when awarding these highly competitive grants is a municipality's history of making the most of the grant funding you have received is a testament to you and Warren's ability to demonstrate highly competent and successful town development.

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Executive Office of Economic Development, and MassDevelopment have identified you as ready to execute this project that will have an incredibly high impact in Warren. I have no doubt they have made the right decision, and I look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish with the grant.

Congratulations once again. I look forward to working with you to address the Town of Warren's housing and community development needs and support the town's future growth. Please know that my door is always open to you.

Sincerely,


Senator Jake Oliveira

Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District

Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPALITIES
AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

Vice Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Vice Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, ARTS
AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEES:

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

ELECTION LAWS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
AND MANAGEMENT

FINANCIAL SERVICES



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

DATE: 10/26/23

Attendee: Joseph A. Kowalski Jr.

Attendee: G. M. Hettle

Attendee: Sharon M. M.

Attendee: Ray Kopacko

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____