

Selectmen Meeting
February 8, 2024, 6:00PM

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

Open Meeting:

Pledge of Allegiance:

1. **Discussion and appointment for Dimitra Stefanou to the Cable Advisory Committee for a one-year term (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to appoint Dimitra Stefanou to the Cable Advisory Committee for a one-year term.
2. **Discussion and appointment for Ostaquio Rodrigues-Filho to a full time Police Officer for a one-year Term (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to appoint Ostaquio Rodrigues to a full-time Police Officer, starting at a step two, for a one-year term.
3. **Discussion on the progress of the 24 North St., 38 Elm St., and 200 O'Neil St., from the Board of Health.** Mr. Thibodeau from the Board of Health reported that there has been work done at 24 North St. that does not need a permit. Once they start doing electrical, plumbing, and structural, they will need to pull a permit. Ms. Schmidt, the Tax Collector, stated that the owner, Mr. Habib, agreed to the terms that Ms. Schmidt set up and as long as he brings in the check on Monday, she has no problem allowing him to get the permits that he needs. Mr. Habib was on the zoom and stated that he would make sure that the taxes get paid. He went to the project and was upset at the condition of the property and deeply sorry that the residents were living in that situation. Mr. Dufresne stated that since communication is going on with the owner, the Board will step down.
Mr. Thibodeau stated that the Board of Health had sent out fines for 200 O'Neil Street in the amount of \$123,123.12 in fines to the owner but has not received the signature green card back yet.
Since 38 Elm is going to tax title, the Board of Health has nothing to do with this property.
4. **Discussion and appointment to Election Workers (Anticipated Vote)** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to appoint the following election workers for polling Places A and/or B: Karen M. Wilk; Sylvia Cummins; Linda Cunningham; Maryanne Potruzski; Kathleen Banas; Heather Bridges; Phyliss A. Dolina; Cathy M. Duncan; Virginia Flemming; Cheryl E. Gagnon; Karen Kelly-Garay; Kathy J. Kuprycz; Barbara B. Larkin; Patricia Morrison; Tracey S. Mazur; Donna L. Pina; Agnes E. Sablack; Carol Sanders-Sausville; James M. Stockley; Gwen Szyszkiewicz; Leona A. Wrobel, Linda L. Wrobel; Drue King term expires December 31, 2024, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
5. **Acceptance of a State grant in the amount of \$32,890.00 from the MA Office on Disability, Municipal ADA Improvement grant, and authorize the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the Town. (Anticipated Vote)** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to accept the grant from MA Office on Disability, Municipal ADA Improvement grant for the amount of \$32,890.00 and allow the Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the Town, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed, unanimously.
6. **Discussion on possibly entering into an agreement with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to provide technical and professional services for the Town's ADA**

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Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. (Anticipated Vote) Mr. Eichacker made a motion to enter into an agreement with Central MA Regional Planning Commission to provide technical and professional services for the Town's ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.

7. **Discussion on proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Selectmen's Budget. (Anticipated Vote)** Tabled until next week.
8. **Discussion and possible vote to support the 2024 legislative priorities for Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts. (Anticipated Vote)** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to support the 2024 legislative priorities for Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts.
9. **Discussion and possible vote to sign the certificate of substantial completion for the School Street, Phase 1, and Prospect Street Improvement Project. (Anticipated Vote)** Tabled until next week with a site visit at 3:00 pm. A discussion and possible vote at the 6:00 pm meeting.
10. **Discussion and change the Senior Work Off application due date. (Anticipated Vote)** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to change the application and hours completed date to November 1st of each year, all in favor, passed, unanimously.
11. **Discussion and appointment for the Town Levee compliance committee Jeremy Olson, James McKeon, Gerry Millette for a three-year term. (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to appoint Jeremy Olson, James McKeon, Gerald Millette to the Town Levee Compliance/Safety Committee for a three-year term, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
12. **Warrants & Bills (Anticipated Vote)**
 - Warrants Mr. Eichacker made a motion to pay the following warrants, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.

i. #42	Payroll	\$ 61,991.67
ii. #43	Vendor	\$815,944.10
iii. #44	Payroll	\$ 51,234.58
 - Bills Mr. Eichacker made a motion to pay the following bills, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.

i. Northeast IT		\$ 3,531.00
ii. Mirick O'Connell	\$1,828.92+\$995.00=	\$ 2,823.92
iii. Verizon		\$ 140.87
iv. C2MA Adams II LLC	\$ 333.19+452.32=	\$ 785.51
v. Buffone	\$1005.00+1350.00=	\$ 2,355.00
vi. WB Mason		\$ 9.24
vii. Marlin Leasing		\$ 1,107.23
viii. Town of Rutland		\$ 73,688.50
ix. National Grid		\$ 1,854.99
13. **Minutes:** Review and possible acceptance of any minutes (Anticipated Vote). Mr. Eichacker made a motion to accept the minutes for January 4, 2024, January 11, 2024, 6:00PM Meeting

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and January 25, 2024, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously. Mr. Eichacker made a motion to accept the minutes from January 11, 2024, at 10:00AM, 2nd by Mr. Dufresne, all in favor, passed unanimously. With Mr. Veliz abstaining.

- **Town Administrator Report:**

- On the Accountant position we are doing 2nd interviews next week and should have a candidate for you by the 22nd.
- The 2nd round of police interviews is going on now.
- There is a company called "All in One Health" that works with MIIA and is willing to come out and do some employee training on handling difficult residents. This is at no cost to the town. It will be a 2-hour class.
- FinCom is meeting to look over the budget on February 13, 2024.
- The One-Stop-for Growth grant is opening up for this year.
- A new form has been made up for departments to put in a request for Capital Planning.

- **New Business:**

- Mr. Eichacker stated that there is water bubbling up out of the ground under the underpass. Highway is aware and working on it.
- Mr. Eichacker stated that he would like to get a key to the Town to give to Chris Dunphy for all he has done for the Town.

- **Old Business:**

- Mr. Eichacker asked if the grit screw is up and running well. Mr. Ferrera said that it is working very well.
- Mr. Dufresne asked the Police Chief if they were using the MILO room and if we could set up a demonstration for Mr. Smola and Mr. Oliveira. The Trial Court would also like to see a demonstration.
- Mr. Dufresne wanted to work on the display cabinets upstairs in the hall.
- Mr. Dufresne stated that B-G needs to look at the heating system.

14. **Correspondence: Comcast record of complaints.** This correspondence is on how many complaints they received to let us know that they have taken care of them.

15. **Correspondence: Peter Krawczuk** Tabled until February 15, 2024.

- **Comments and Concerns**

- Mr. Veliz stated that he had a complaint about losing sound during the broadcast on Facebook. Mr. Baker from WCAT stated that they are working with Comcast to improve the broadcast.
- Mr. Kondrat stated that the Senior Center is looking for a grant for a new heating system.
- **Next meeting** February 15, 2024, 3:00 PM, site visit; 6:00 PM regular meeting
- **Adjourn** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, adjourned 8:38PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Dusty, Administrative Assistant


Rich Eichacker, Vice-Chair



TOWN OF WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS

P O L I C E D E P A R T M E N T

1 MILTON O. FOUNTAIN WAY, P.O. BOX 606, WARREN, MASSACHUSETTS 01083
TELEPHONE: 413-436-9595 FAX: 413-436-7674

GERALD N. MILLETTE
CHIEF OF POLICE

Date: February 2, 2024
To: Ostaquio Rodrigues
From: Chief Gerald Millette
Re: Full Time appointment


Dear Ostaquio,

This letter confirms our offer for the open Full Time Police Officer position. According to the Union wage classification, your salary level offered is Step 2 \$27.81 going to \$28.37 on July 1st. Your appointment date in front of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for February 8th 2024 at 6:00pm. Your one-year probationary period will start at the time of your first shift.

New public employees must complete Ethics training within 30 days of beginning public service. This information will be provided to you and can be completed online.

If you should have any questions, please contact the Personnel Office at (413) 436-5701. Please sign below, acknowledging your acceptance of this position in accordance with the above.

Sincerely,


Chief Gerald N. Millette
Warren Police Department


Ostaquio Rodrigues



2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

More than 100 Chief Administrative Officers representing communities with populations of 12,000 or less from across the Commonwealth join with the Town of Warren to advocate for legislative priorities impacting resident lives. We call upon our legislative leaders to pass bills related to these priorities to properly equip small towns with the resources they need.

STAM members listed addressing crumbling Infrastructure as their top legislative priority

- Permanently change the **CHAPTER 90 FORMULA**, increasing total funding to more than \$330 million per year to help small towns improve roads, bridges and water systems
- Create and fund the **MUNICIPAL BUILDING ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY**

Regional school support and sustainable approaches to education remain a top priority

- Reform the **EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULAS** to provide more support for regional school districts in towns having to choose between schools and municipal services
- Create regional incentives for districts looking to create **SUSTAINABLE PATHWAYS** in the face of declining enrollment and increased costs for personnel and transportation

Members continually cite common-sense reductions in procurement burdens

- Increase state **PROCUREMENT THRESHOLDS** to reduce administrative and cost burdens on small towns with limited budgets and vendor choices
- **IMPROVE PREVAILING WAGE LAWS** by provide exemptions and rural factors that would allow small towns to complete necessary projects

Small towns consistently advocate for legislative changes with a big “small-town” impact

- Reform the state-owned land **PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT)** to create more equity for towns constrained by necessary land preservation
- Provide **STAFFING AND SUPPORT** for the Office of Rural Affairs
- Reduce **ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS** that prevent small towns from getting state grants



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

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen
CC: Democratic Town Committee Chairman
FR: Town Clerk, Laura J. Stockley
RE: 2024 Election Worker Appointments
DT: January 31, 2024

Please appoint the following Election Workers. Their terms expire on December 31, 2024 .

Election Officers – Polling Places A and /or B

Karen M. Wilk
Linda Cunningham
Kathleen Banas
Phyliss A. Dolina
Virginia Flemming
Karen Kelly-Garay
Barbara B. Larkin
Tracey S. Mazur
Agnes E. Sablack
James M. Stockley
Leona A. Wrobel
Drue King

Sylvia Cummings
Maryanne Potruzski
Heather Bridges
Cathy M. Duncan
Cheryl E. Gagnon
Kathy J. Kuprycz
Patricia Morrison
Donna L. Pina
Carol Sanders-Sausville
Gwen Szyszkiewicz
Linda L. Wrobel



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

DATE:

2/8/24

Attendee:

Joseph Kneeland Jr

Attendee:

Attendee:

Dan Thibodeau

Attendee:

Attendee:

Ray Kopachio

Attendee:

Attendee:

Dan Thibodeau

Attendee:

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