

**Selectmen Meeting**  
**January 25, 2024, 6:00 PM**

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

Call the meeting to order 6:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance:

1. **Discussion on the conditions of 3 homes in the Town brought to the Board from the Board of Health (Anticipated Vote).** David asked Mr. Thibodeau what he was bringing before the Selectmen. Mr. Thibodeau said that there are three properties:
  - 1) 200 O'Neil Street. This home is not occupied at this time. The Board of Health (BOH) condemned the property. The Select Board suggested that the BOH start levying fines until the owner gets the place fixed up. Fines should be retroactive back to when the BOH first notified him those repairs needed to be completed.
  - 2) 38 Elm Street. This home is being lived in by the owners. Mr. Thibodeau stated that the owner has had court orders to clean the pool or drain it and it is still full of water, which is black. The owners have also been ordered not to have any animals and there is a dog living there. They have not paid taxes since 2013. The Select Board said to proceed with tax title acquisition.
  - 3) 24 North Street. Mr. Thibodeau stated that this is the worst situation because they have senior citizens and children living in this place. Mr. Thibodeau proceeded to go through the pictures he had taken of the building. The BOH has tried to contact the owner, but no response. Chief Lavoie was able to get the owner on the phone. He stated that he thought the maintenance company that he had hired had corrected all findings. The Select Board decided that they would give him until February 8, 2024, to rectify all findings and pay back taxes. The owner agreed to this. Mr. Dufresne also let the owner know that if the BOH condemns the property that it is the owner's responsibility to put the families in a motel or find them a new place to live, plus he will be fined \$500.00 per unit per day until things are resolved. The owner stated that he understood.
2. **Discussion on Amendment of Manager for the St. Stanislaus Society of West Warren. (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to accept Todd A Baldwin as the manager of St. Stanislaus Society of West Warren, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
3. **Discussion on appointing Kathy Odiorne to the Warren Cultural Council (Anticipated Vote)** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to appoint Kathy Odiorne to the Warren Cultural Council for a Three (3) year term, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- **Superintendent Duff report on the Regional School District**
  - Budget meeting dates: Budget Subcommittee: 2/5/24; Full School Committee: 2/12/24 to present the budget.
  - The Quaboag Elementary School's roof will need to be replaced in 3-5 years. Planning for that, hopefully the school will receive grants to help pay for the new roof.
  - The lighting on the interior of the Regional Middle/High School is in process. Next will be the exterior lighting. All are being changed to LED.
  - Mr. Duff wanted to thank the Selectmen for paying for the repair of the generator.
  - Finished the Green Community Grant for the Heating system at Warren Elementary
  - Having a Dinner and show for seniors on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate training with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders.
4. **Discussion on Execution of engineering contract with Weston & Sampson for FY22/FY23 – Phase 2 School Street (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to sign the engineering contract with



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Weston & Sampson for FY22/FY23 – Phase 2 School Street Project, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion on execution of engineering contract with Weston & Sampson FY24 – One Stop/Rural Development fund for Otis Street improvement (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to sign the engineering contract with Weston & Sampson FY24 – One Stop/Rural Development Fund grant for Otis Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor passed unanimously.
6. **Discussion on appointing Jermei Olson, Rich Eichacker, Carol Sausville, Steve Cristol, James McKeon, James Ferrera as Ex-Officio, for a three-year term to the Community Development Advisory Committee (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Veliz made a motion to appoint Jeremy Olson, Rich Eichacker, Carol Sausville, Steve Cristol, James McKeon James Ferrera as Ex-Officio for a three (3) year term to the Community Development Advisory Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Dufresne, all if favor, passed unanimously with Mr. Eichacker abstaining.
7. **Discussion on a special Committee appointment for the Town Common design project: Jeremy Olson, Sue Ramsey Derrick Veliz, David Shepard, Sylvia Buck.(Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to appoint Jeremy Olson, Sue Ramsy, Derick Veliz, David Shepard, Sylvia Buck to the Town Common Design Project, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Dufresne, all in favor, passed unanimously with Mr. Veliz abstaining.
8. **Discussion on Contract Amendment #1 between the Town and Weston & Sampson Engineers (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to sign amendment #1 with Weston & Sampson Engineers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
9. **Discussion on Contract Amendment #2 between the Town and Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (Anticipated Vote)** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to sign amendment #2 with Central MA Regional Planning Commission, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
10. **Acknowledgement of the resignation of Police Officer Paul Soojian effective 1/28/2024.** The Board acknowledged the resignation.
11. **Possible vote to execute a contract between the Town and EJ Prescott Inc. for FY24 Materials for State Aid Road Construction and General Town Road Maintenance (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to sign the contract for EJ Prescott Inc. for FY 24 materials for State Aid Road Construction and general Town road maintenance, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
12. **Possible vote to execute a contract between the Town and Indus for FY24 Materials for State Aid Road Construction and General Town Road Maintenance (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to sign a contract with Indus for FY 24 materials for State Aid Road Construction and general Town road maintenance, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
13. **Possible vote to execute a contract between the Town and Palmer Paving Corporation for FY24 Materials for State Aid Road Construction and General Town Road Maintenance (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to sign a contract with Palmer Paving Corporation for FY 24 materials for State Aid Road Construction and general Town road maintenance, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.



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- 14. Possible vote to execute a contract between the Town and All States Construction, Inc. for FY24 Materials for State Aid Road Construction and General Town Road Maintenance (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to sign a contract with All States Construction, Inc. for FY 24 materials for State Aid Road Construction and General Town Road maintenance, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- 15. Discussion and possible vote to execute a contract between the Town and USI Consulting Group for fiscal year 24 and 25 actuarial valuation services (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to sign a contract with USI Consulting Group for fiscal year 24 and 25 actuarial valuation services, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- 16. Discussion and possible vote on a resolution to support Senate Bill S1319 and House Bill H2082, acts regarding municipal zoning powers related to solar projects (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion for a resolution to support Senate Bill S1319 and House Bill H2082, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- 17. Discussion and possible vote on a continued employment agreement between the Town and James J. Ferrera (Anticipated Vote).** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to approve new employment contract with James J. Ferrera, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- 18. Fire Department Monthly report.** Chief Lavoie went over his report and then reported that the water heater at Station A is leaking. It will cost \$4,000.00 to replace it. The Chief wanted to let the Selectmen know that he can take it out of his budget now but will need to do a transfer in May. Mr. Dufresne stated to get it fixed and figure out how to pay for it with Mr. Ferrera.
- 19. Emergency Management Monthly report.** Mr. McKeon went over his attached report. He then stated that they need more residents on the CERT. If you do not want to do traffic, there are other things that you can help with.
- 20. Warrants & Bills: Payroll and Vendor warrants (Anticipated Vote).**
- 1) Warrants Mr. Eichacker made a motion to pay the following warrants, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- |      |     |         |               |
|------|-----|---------|---------------|
| i.   | #37 | Vendor  | \$ 143,893.45 |
| ii.  | #38 | Payroll | \$ 55,903.79  |
| iii. | #39 | Vendor  | \$ 96,051.49  |
| iv.  | #40 | Payroll | \$ 55,495.32  |
| v.   | #41 | Vendor  | \$ 414,814.52 |
- 2) Bills Mr. Eichacker made a motion to pay the following bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- |       |                            |                         |             |
|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| i.    | WB Mason                   | $\$60.98+225.96+85.14=$ | \$ 372.08   |
| ii.   | Northeast IT               | $\$135.99+15.00=$       | \$ 150.99   |
| iii.  | KP Law                     | $\$2,947.07+418.00=$    | \$ 3,365.07 |
| iv.   | Encore Fire Protection     |                         | \$ 125.00   |
| v.    | National Grid              |                         | \$ 2,496.79 |
| vi.   | Verizon                    |                         | \$ 7.77     |
| vii.  | Warren Water District      |                         | \$ 188.21   |
| viii. | Stericycle                 |                         | \$ 123.54   |
| ix.   | American Tower             |                         | \$ 2,200.00 |
| x.    | SBA Structures, LLC        |                         | \$ 1,753.85 |
| xi.   | Hampden Communication Corp |                         | \$ 1,500.00 |

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|       |                                             |              |
|-------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| xii.  | Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School | \$ 6,692.00  |
| xiii. | Vanpool                                     | \$ 3,638.25  |
| xiv.  | AK Industrial Services LLC                  | \$ 29,165.00 |
| xv.   | Comcast                                     | \$ 20.30     |

- **Town Administrator Report:**

- The MMA and MIIA trade show was very worthwhile. It was well attended by many communities around Warren.
- Mr. Ferrera spoke with several companies that could manage IT for the Town. He is looking for more bids to compare to Northeast IT.
- At the end of the conference, MIIA, our insurance company informed everyone that their rates are going up anywhere from 2.2 -9.95%. We will be looking at ways to reduce the impact of the cost.
- The Sewer Department thought they had someone hired but he did not show up for his physical. They are now looking at other candidates.
- The Police Chief and I have interviews tomorrow and some next week for two new Police Officers.
- Mr. Ferrera is meeting with the department heads next week to go over their budgets.
- Having interviews for the Town Accountant position. Rich and Madeline will all be in the interviews.
- Master Plan kick off next Thursday at 6:00 pm

- **New Business: None**

- **Old Business: None**

**21. Correspondence:** Assessors letter of information see attached email

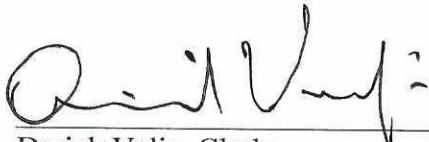
- **Comments and Concerns:**

- Mr. Eichacker stated that at the MA conference there was a vendor who uses AI to transcribe meetings.
- Mr. Kondrat stated the Community Hall in West Warren is up for sale.
- Mr. Kopako stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Ferrera and is pleased that he is staying on for another three years.
- Mr. Thibodeau said that something needs to be done with the railroad ties; the piles seem to be growing and they are leaching into the ground now. Mr. Dufresne asked Mr. Ferrera to reach out to CSX again.

- **Next Meeting:** February 1, 2024, 6:00 PM Master Plan kickoff

- **Adjourn** Mr. Eichacker made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Veliz, all in favor, passed unanimously. 9:09PM

Respectfully submitted by  
Karen Dusty, Administrative Assistant

  
Derick Veliz, Clerk

January 11, 2024

Chief Millette,

Please accept this letter as formal notification that I am resigning from my position as a patrolman with the Warren Police Department. My last day will be Sunday January 28, 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with the Warren Police Department over the last two and a half years. I have appreciated the opportunity to grow and develop as a police officer while serving the Town of Warren and its citizens.

As previously discussed, I will gladly assist the agency in ensuring that the annual CPR and first responder certifications are completed prior to my departure. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do during this transition.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Soojian', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Soojian



## **December 2023 Monthly Report for Emergency Management**

cert assisted with Warren's tree lighting held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> , we had two members assisted from Warren three members assisted from the West Brookfield emergency management and three members assisted from the Charlton cert

One team assisted with parking for the shuttle at the Shepard building  
one team, assisted crosswalk duty, downtown and detour assistance under the underpass and one member handed out safety information by our trailer.

December 3 test of the , emergency sirens activation normal

December 4 Repairs were made under the South Street bridge to waterline, water was turned off to the West Warren Village area from 8 am to 2 PM. Water was back on at 2 PM. Repairs were completed no issues reported.

December 6 Attend the state quarterly emergency management meeting in Agawam 9-11 am

December 6 Cert had their monthly meeting finished up the CPR training started going through other sections of CERT unit such as search and rescue and fire safety.

December 10 and 11th a rain and windstorm brought close to 3 inches of rain to the area lower Reed Street got flooded but traffic was still able to pass through Warning. Signs and cones were put up. No other issues townwide were reported.

December 17 another flooding rainstorm with more wind. This storm caused power issues Quaboag Street also the neighborhood roughly about 75 houses were without power for a few hours and also the Quaboag high school had to early release due to power issues.

roadways that were flooded Lower Reed , Sarty road at Townline Walkeen Koziol Rd, we had just under 3 inches of rain.

Also one report of basement flooding Richardson St. FD assisted with that.

Emergency Management provided 12 sand bag for flooding that was happening at back door of high school by the tick lobby entrance to the gym these, sand bags were left with the school so they can be put in place again if flood happens again.

December 21 one Cert member assist PD with the jingle fund pick up and back of the Shepard building.

We also used our light tower to light up the parking lot area.

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# SENATE . . . . . No. 1319

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By Mr. Oliveira, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1319) of Jacob R. Oliveira and Joanne M. Comerford for legislation relative to municipal zoning powers and the installation of solar energy systems. Municipalities and Regional Government.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act regarding municipal zoning powers.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Section 3 of Chapter 40A of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking the  
2 following language:

3           "No zoning ordinance or by-law shall prohibit or unreasonably regulate the installation of  
4 solar energy systems or the building of structures that facilitate the collection of solar energy,  
5 except where necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare."



**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2082**

By Representative McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2082) of Paul McMurtry relative to municipal zoning powers in relation to the installation of solar energy systems. Municipalities and Regional Government.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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\_\_\_\_\_

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## **FIRE CHIEF REPORT**

### **December 2023**

#### **FIRE CALLS:**

The Fire Department responded to 45 calls in December of 2023.

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Motor Vehicle Accident..... | 6  |
| Medical Assist.....         | 17 |
| Activated Alarms.....       | 3  |
| Carbon Monoxide.....        | 1  |
| Investigations.....         | 1  |
| Power Line Incident.....    | 2  |
| Illegal Burns.....          | 2  |
| Cancelled.....              | 6  |
| Service Call.....           | 3  |
| Mutual Aid.....             | 1  |
| Structure Fires.....        | 3  |

#### **AMBULANCE:**

Warren EMS responded to 59 calls in December of 2023, and 15 ALS intercepts were required.

#### **INSPECTIONS:**

The following inspections took place in December of 2023:

- 3 Smoke/CO Inspections
- 3 Oil Burner Inspections
- 2 Oil Tank Inspections
- 4 Liquid Propane Inspections

#### **ACTIVITIES/MEETINGS:**

In December, Warren EMS trained on respiratory emergencies and CPAP administration and protocols as well as check and inject medications. Warren Fire personnel continued mounting equipment on the new Engine #4 and continued driver training and familiarization on the new vehicle.

#### **BUDGET:**

I continue to watch the FY 24 budget closely for any issues that may arise.

Respectfully,  
Adam Lavoie  
Fire Chief

January 10, 2024

Town of Warren  
Board of Selectman  
Warren, MA. 01083

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to be considered to be a member of the Warren Cultural Council. I have been on that board before and enjoyed it very much, and would like to join again this year.

Sincerely,

  
Kathy Odiorne





# BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

CHARLES E. SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING

DATE: 1/25/24

Attendee: Adam Casare

Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee: Todd Baldwin

Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee: Tiffany Baldwin

Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee: Joseph Kerslake, Jr.

Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee: Dan Hubbard

Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee: Ray Kopach

Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee: Jim McKen

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