

APPROVED

**WARREN BOARD OF
SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 6, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Sackett called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Selectmen Present: Charles Sackett, Charles Chandler, and Daniel Clancey.

Staff/Officials Present: Office Administrator – Judith Tautenhan, Road Agent - Bobby Cass, Treasurer - Sheila Foote, Chief of Police - John Semertgakis, Manager Transfer Station and Buildings and Grounds, George Russell, Chair Warren School Board - Don Bagley, and Fire Chief - Art Heath.

Public Present: Victoria Saucier, Jay and Christine Johnson, Bryan and Suzanne Flagg, Donna Hopkins, Randy Witcher, Ronnie Witcher, Pat Wilson, John Peck, Kevin and Randi Bancroft, Larry and Laurie Bixby, Todd Bixby, Phil Belyea, Sharon Pushee, Dan Clark, Chris Witcher, Robert Giuda, Lesa Romano, Sean and Sandy Donahue, Davin Cass, Jody O'Callaghan, Marlene Wright and many others with an approximate total of forty-five plus attendees.

C. Sackett led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

SELECT BOARD MANIFEST:

C. Chandler moved for approval of the manifest as presented. D. Clancey seconded the motion. Vote: Chandler-yes, Sackett-yes, and Clancey-yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C. Chandler motioned approval of the 9-27-2017 minutes as amended. D. Clancey seconded the motion. Vote: Chandler-yes, Sackett-yes, and Clancey-yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

C. Chandler motioned to suspend the meeting to provide time to move the meeting to the school at 5:35 PM to accommodate the larger crowd. D. Clancey seconded the motion. Vote: Chandler-yes, Sackett-yes, and Clancey-yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

C. Chandler motioned to reopen the meeting at the school at 5:45 PM. D. Clancey second the motion. Vote: Chandler-yes, Sackett-yes, and Clancey-yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS REPORTS:

ROAD AGENT REPORT:

Road Agent Bobby Cass reported he had been doing post-storm damage control from the most recent storm. A lot of the repairs he had completed from the last storm were destroyed or damaged. He spent most of his time clearing roads of trees and debris to get them open to the public again. B. Cass said he put in fill and cold patched where he could.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Sheila Foote reported Checking Account balance is \$15,000.00 after tonight's approved manifest of \$142,408.78. The October reconciliation report was provided to the Select Board for their review. The Tax Collections Money Market Account \$107,627.29. The October reconciliation report was provided to the Select Board for their review.

The Town of Warren's Money Market Account balance is \$37,723.51. The October reconciliation report was provided to the Select Board for their review.

The Town of Warren's Passbook Savings Account balance is \$168,993.72.

On October 28th, the Town received the October Highway Block Grant distribution of \$9,993.01 and the SB367 payment of \$1,341.55.

The Grafton County Tax bill \$117,793.00 is due before December 18, 2017. This amount is \$2,400.00 more than last year.

There will be one more bill in the amount of \$106,236.00 to the school for this year.

C. Chandler moved to accept and approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by C. Sackett. Voting in favor of the motion were Clancey-yes, Sackett-yes, and Chandler-yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:

The Tax Collector provided receipts to the Board for review.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Fire Chief Heath reported there were multiple calls of trees down, swamped areas and a car in water, all of which were handled without incident. The Chief wanted the Town residents to know that although they had calls about lines down or lines in trees the Fire Department could not respond, because NHEC told them not to touch those lines. NHEC has an automated alert system that transmits signals to the company with the status of the lines, and can also send out test voltage to check the status of those lines. At any given time, they could still be live.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT: Chief John Semertgakis reported a 911 call on Eagles Nest, involving a harassment issue between neighbors. He responded to a possible theft/vandalism of Halloween decorations on Rt 25. The items missing were found 2 days later down the road. The Chief responded to a domestic disturbance on Lake Tarleton Road, still under investigation.

There was a 911 hang up call from ACHC that was caused by an issue to the system. He investigated an abandoned vehicle on Breezy Point Road. Charges have been filed through the National Forest Service. The Chief assisted the National Forest Service with an OHRV issue on Federal property. He made a DWI arrest on Beech Hill Road, when a vehicle had a collision with the Town grader.

The Chief made 25 motor vehicle stops in the past two weeks, resulting in 5 citations for various infractions. He also assisted with the Town's emergency operations, relating to storm issues, road hazards, road closures, etc.

TRANSFER STATION/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT:

George Russell reported that he went with Randy Witcher to check the Town Roads after the storm. He also assisted SMSWD in getting the generator back online. He was trained, along with the Road Agent, in how to manually start the pumps and fill the tanks. The cement pad at the Transfer Station should be poured this week.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- a. The Town Administrator stated the tax bills went out in a timely manner.
- b. The Town Administrator stated the assessor was here last week and the auditor will be at the Town Office next week on Monday.
- c. The Town Administrator informed the Board she has been working on the budget; getting ready for the budget meetings and Town Meeting.

No other departments were represented at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. 10/30/2017 Storm Damage Assessment and Board Action – On Friday, November 3, 2017 an emergency meeting was held to discuss what needed to be done about the damages that were created by the storm on

October 30, 2017 and the subsequent flooding of the Baker River in the Town of Warren. D. Clancey said he and some residents of Warren met with representatives of the NH Department of Environmental Services, Wetlands Bureau to determine what emergency actions/repairs could be accomplished now, considering the restrictions of State and/or Federal regulations, laws, codes, etc. The emergency conditions of one home being torn from its foundation and swept into and down the river to crash into a bridge and disintegrate was just the beginning. There are other homes nearing the same fate. In addition, the amount of debris ripped from the river banks and flowing from up river are creating a dangerous build up in the river, which aggravates the current and aftermath flooding issues. This is not to mention the problems from any catastrophic new storms. The representative from the Bureau of Wetlands agreed with our emergency situation and signed a permit of emergency authorization verification to dredge and fill approximately 2,500 feet of the Baker River to remove accumulated sediment and debris, and recreate the river channel. In addition, to remove woody debris upstream an additional 2,000 linear feet. Basically, the location is from Bixby Bridge upstream to the Town garage off Rt. 25. The permit expires December 4, 2017.

C. Sackett said we changed the date of the regular Selectmen's Board meeting to tonight to acquire input from the public and to expedite the emergency repairs and actions authorized in the permit and to address any necessary actions needed beyond December 4, 2017. C. Chandler stated there are two things that need to be done tonight. First is to define what needs to be done and second is to determine how it will be paid. The Selectmen need to declare to the appropriate authorities that the Town needs emergency protective measures and that public exigency exists in Warren. In that endeavor, C. Chandler said he has prepared a draft statement. Senator Robert Giuda said he had reviewed the draft and would recommend adding a phrase that the state has no relief funds, but expect FEMA to reimburse the Town for the \$150,000.00 repair work completed under the permit.

C. Chandler motioned for the Selectmen to approve and adopt the Declaration of Exigent Circumstances/Emergency for Warren, NH. D. Clancey seconded the motion. C. Sackett said before voting he wanted to provide the attendees the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. One resident said there are property owners who have lost 30' to 100' of land to the river. They are paying taxes on property they no longer have. C. Chandler said if you or others have lost land within 60 days, you should apply for a reduction in taxes as soon as the emergency has been declared by the Governor. C. Chandler asked Chris Whitcher if the estimate of \$150,000.00 cost of repair was initiated by him and was it enough to do the job? Chris Whitcher responded a third of the cost could be eliminated by taking out the debris in the river and selling it. Some residents are now having problems with exposed septic lines. No one had a specific answer, but contacting the property owner's home insurance company was mentioned as an option. There was some discussion on dredging the river and determining the location of the river center. Don Bagley Sr. called for a motion to sign the declaration and move on to the work. C. Chandler motioned for the Selectmen to approve and direct the work as described in the permit to proceed as a sole source contract with Chris Whitcher at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.00. D. Clancey seconded the motion. Vote: Chandler--yes, Clancey-yes, Sackett-yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

- b. 2017 Equalization Certificate
- c. Budget Review, Tax Collector – The Tax Collector reported level funding for her department, except for the approximate \$200 increase in fees for the tax collection software.
- d. Generator at Warren Village School – The water issue at WVS is a problem with the systems between the school and the Water District. The only person who can correct the problem is in St. Johnsbury. G. Russell recommended he meet with the other person to resolve any future problems.
- e. Building Notification – Map 232/037
- f. Veteran's Tax Credit – Map 240/087
- g. Intent to Cut -
17-465-11T; Owner, Brian Knapp; Logger, Kevin Knapp
- h. Health Officer Report – Non-Public Session

OLD BUSINESS:

Report of Cut - None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jeff Tenley and Allison Hook from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) attended the meeting to observe and to offer assistance where they could in reference to the storm and flood damage in Warren. Mr. Tenley said his agency and FEMA are both Federal agencies, but they have different missions and operations. He stated that NRCS is more concerned with the stabilization of rivers and their banks. Mr. Tenley mentioned he has more autonomy on project funding and has direct contact with his agency in Washington. He provided the Selectmen with brochures and contact information. He scheduled a meeting for the next day with a small group from the Town to survey some of the areas impacted by the storm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Pythian Sisters Penny Social, Saturday, November 11, 2017 at the Town Hall
Fitzsimmons Benefit Brunch, Sunday, November 12, 2017 at WVS
Warren Historical Society Dinner (5PM) & Movie (6PM), November 18, 2017, at WVS
Board of Selectmen Meeting, November 22, 2017, Town Offices at 5:00 PM

Motion by C. Chandler, seconded by D. Clancey to close the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:30 PM at the school and return to the Town Office. Vote: Chandler–yes, Clancey–yes, Sackett–yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion by C. Chandler, seconded by D. Clancey that the Board of Selectmen enter into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, for the purpose of discussing issues, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board. Vote: Chandler–yes, Clancey–yes, Sackett–yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

The Board entered into a non-public session at 7:35 PM.

CONCLUSION OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

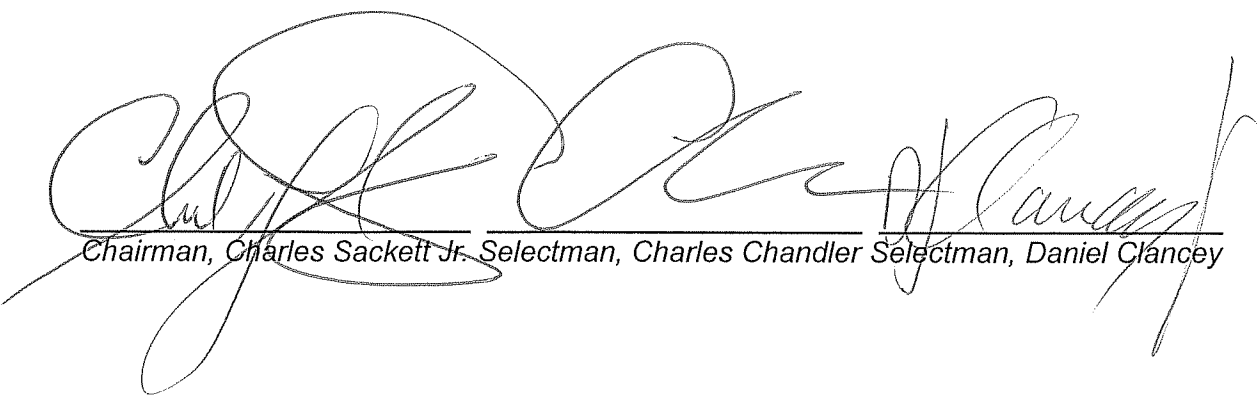
Motion by C. Chandler, seconded by C. Sackett that the Board of Selectmen exit non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3. Vote: Chandler–yes, Sackett–yes, Clancey–yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.
Motion by C. Chandler, seconded by D. Clancey that the Board of Selectmen seal the minutes of the non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 for forty years. Vote: Chandler–yes, Sackett - yes and Clancey–yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

The Board ended the non-public session at 7:42 PM.

ADJOURN:

C. Chandler moved that the Selectmen adjourn regular meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by C. Sackett. Voting in favor of the motion were Sackett–yes, Clancey–yes, and Chandler – yes. No one opposed. The motion passed 3-0-0.

The Board adjourned at 7:44 PM.



Chairman, Charles Sackett Jr. Selectman, Charles Chandler Selectman, Daniel Clancey