

**WARREN BOARD OF
SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

Selectman Chandler called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Select Board Members Present: Lesa Romano, Charles Chandler and Charles Sackett were present.

Staff/Officials Present: Town Administrator – Austin Albro, Chief of Police – John Semertgakis, Fire Chief – Art Heath, WVS School Board Chair – Donald Bagley

Public Present: Tom Babbit, Elizabeth Cornell, Bob Cass, Shirley McCartin, Merv Newton, Donna Hopkins

L. Romano led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

SELECT BOARD MANIFEST: C. Chandler *moved approval of the manifest.* C. Sackett *seconded the motion.* Vote: Sackett-yes, Chandler – yes, Romano – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: C. Chandler *moved to approve the 06-17-2020 minutes as presented.* C. Sackett *seconded the motion.* Vote: Sackett – yes, Chandler – yes. The motion passed 2-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

E. Cornell had questions for logging on land that is in Current Use. She was informed by the Board that the first step, as with any logging operation, is submitting an intent to cut to the Administration office.

T. Babbit of the Mt. Moosilauke ATV Club came to the meeting to share with the Board that grant funds had been awarded by the State and that the club will begin working on those projects in the weeks and months to come.

Senator Guida addressed the Board of Selectmen and fielded questions from the Board and residents alike. Senator Guida expressed concerns about the potential state budget shortfalls and noted that the Highway Block Grant and Meals and Room Tax monies provided to the Town will likely be significantly less than prior years. Selectmen Chandler asked whether the reconstruction of the Week's Crossing Dam would be impacted by the budget shortfalls and the Senator indicated that he did not think so but would get that information to the Board. The Senator briefed the Board on proposed legislation, HB 1111 which allows greater flexibility for municipal broadband expansion. S. McCartin expressed concerns about broadband expansion, particularly health concerns related to a 5G network.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer, Sheila Foote provided a report to the Board for review.

The Town of Warren Operating Account balance is \$563,774.70 after tonight's approved manifest total of \$125,110.70.

The Tax Collections Account balance is \$336,873.03.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:

The Tax Collector provided receipts to the Board for review.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief, Art Heath reported a structure fire on Durfee Road on 6/14. He also reported a camper fire at Moose Hillock Campground on 6/19. On 6/20 the Fire Department assisted in a search for a lost child. The child had ventured to the river and was found just minutes after the call was received. On 6/21 there was a motor vehicle accident.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief John Semertgakis reported that State Police had responded to a suicidal person on Batchelder Brook. Animal complaint on Studio Road, increased bear activity. VIN verification on Lund Lane, Boat VIN check. Missing juvenile on Batchelder Brook Road, child was located at the Baker River. Domestic disturbance on Beech Hill Road, State Police responded, no charges filed. Mutual Aid, paperwork service on Route 25 in Glenclyff from Canterbury PD. Motor Vehicle Complaint on Route 118; resident complained about people riding in the bed of pick up trucks, not located. Building Check on Route 25 in Glenclyff, report from a neighbor that the house had a garage door open and lights on. Chief cleared the home, no signs of criminal activity. Disabled Motor Vehicle on Route 118, came across a motorist on the top of 118 that was having exhaust issues. Intoxicated person, Lake Tarleton Road, report of an intoxicated person making a scene at the music festival, taken home by sober driver.

26 Motor Vehicle Stops, 3 Citations Issued

TRANSFER STATION/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT:

The Manager, George Russell was not present at the meeting, but provided the Select Board a written report.

Grounds: G. Russell reported that due to the heat, he has not been mowing as frequently. The grass was getting burned. He intends to resume mowing next week. The library parking lot is prepped for paving and it will be paved next Tuesday

Transfer Station: The Transfer Station will remain closed on Wednesdays until further notice. After a number of years at the Transfer Station, David Ball will be stepping away from working at the Transfer Station to pursue other interests and hobbies, but is still willing to help out with the bailing recyclables on occasion. Janine Maher, a resident of Warren, will begin working at the Transfer Station. If being closed on

Wednesday's creates a hardship for any residents, please contact the Town Administrator and alternative arrangements can be made.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

Austin Albro reported that has been working with Marie Spencer and the NH Public Investment Pool to continue the transition to new Trustee. Paul, our Auditor has submitted the 2019 audit for review. We have completed the quarterly reporting for ongoing FEMA mitigation projects, as well as completed the reporting for the July 1, 2017 storms. Dave Switaj, the Town's IT service has successfully replaced the assessing/grounds computer and will be returning next week to complete the administrator computer upgrade. The Administrator also reported that there are 3 applications set to go before the Planning Board over the next few meetings. C. Sackett reminded the Administrator that the minutes need to reflect the newly elected Trustees of the Trust Fund in order to grant them signing authority. For the record, the Trustees are Heather Sackett, Marlene Wright, and Donna Bagley. C. Chandler moved acknowledgement of the Trustees of the Trust Funds. C. Sackett seconded the motion. *Vote: Sackett-yes, Chandler – yes, Romano – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.* Additionally, C. Sackett moved to allow Chief Semertgakis to enter into the OHRV Fish & Game grant agreement with the State of New Hampshire and named the Chief as the designated signing authority for the Fish & Game grant. C. Chandler seconded the motion. *Vote: Sackett-yes, Chandler – yes, Romano – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Discussion regarding Highway Equipment:
 - i. The Road Agent was not present at the meeting, however the Board of Selectmen discussed the current condition of the grader and unanimously agreed that it needs to be repaired.
- b) Report of Cut:
 - i. The Board reviewed and signed the Tax Collector's Warrant for the Report of Cut 19-465-20T, submitted by J. Newton.
- c) The Board reviewed the Assessor's recommendation for a Veteran's Credit Application: 175 Red Oak Hill Road. The Administrator informed the Board that this application was denied at the previous meeting due to the Assessor's recommendation but should have been approved as the Town has adopted the All Veterans Credit provision of the RSA at the 2017 Town Meeting. C. Chandler *moved to approve the abatement application for 175 Red Oak Hill. C. Sackett seconded the motion. Vote: Sackett-yes, Chandler – yes, Romano – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) COVID-19 Discussion: The Town Administrator reminded the Board that at the last meeting on June 17, the discussion regarding use of the KP Hall and

Basketball Court was tabled for continuation on July 1. The Board continued their discussion and ultimately decided to forego reopening of the KP Hall and uncovering of the basketball hoops until a later date. The members of the Board cited a number of concerns about gatherings and a general lack of adherence to social distancing recommendations from the general public. It was decided that these items will continue to be a part of the Select Board meetings for the foreseeable future.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) The Administrator shared a letter from John Newton and email correspondence with Chief Chris Gamache of the NH Trails Bureau relating to the snowmobile crossing at the intersection of Gould Hill, Pine Hill, and Swain Hill. Selectmen Chandler indicated that he has visited the site and sees no problem with the trail as it sits. Furthermore, Mr. Newton speculates that the Town is not covered under the State's landowner liability insurance policy, which was confirmed to be inaccurate, according to Chief Gamache who indicates the Town of Warren has been covered for a number of years.
- b) The Town received notice that the application for the Week's Crossing Dam reconstruction was received by the State and that construction should begin in the fall or Spring of 2021.
- c) The Administrator also shared a letter with the Selectmen from Scenic View Campground who has concerns over an abutting property owner excessively shooting guns, sometimes for 4 or 6 hours at a time. The Board reviewed the letter and acknowledged that Warren has no noise ordinance. Police Chief John Semertgakis reported that he has met with the private property owners on more than one occasion and found that their guns were being discharged in a safe and appropriate manner. Chief Semertgakis indicated that he has communicated with the owners of Scenic View Campground and encouraged them to pursue a resolution to the problem by filing a civil injunction against the property owner discharging firearms.

ADJOURN:

C. Sackett moved the adjournment of the regular meeting of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by C. Chandler. Voting in favor of the motion were Chandler-yes, Romano – yes, and Sackett-yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

The Board adjourned at 6:40.


Chairwoman, Lesa Romano


Selectman, Charles Chandler


Selectman, Charles Sackett, Jr.