

**WARREN BOARD OF
SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

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

Staff/Officials Present: Town Administrator – Austin Albro, Police Chief – John Semertgakis, Fire Chief – Art Heath, Treasurer – Sheila Foote

Public Present: Shirlie McCartin, Bryan Flagg, Scotty Brown.

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

SELECT BOARD MANIFEST: C. Chandler *moved approval of the manifest.* L. Romano *seconded the motion.* *Vote: Chandler – yes, Romano – yes, and the motion passed 2-0-0.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: C. Chandler *moved approval of the November 18, 2020 meeting minutes.* L. Romano *seconded the motion.* *Vote: Chandler – yes, Romano – yes, and the motion passed 2-0-0.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bryan Flagg addressed his concerns about the current condition of the town roads and expressed an understanding about equipment problems throughout the year. Mr. Flagg addressed specific concerns about brush on the roadsides and road conditions of Beech Hill and Mountain Meadow Road. Chairman Romano stated that she would follow up with the Road Agent about Mr. Flagg's concerns.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer, Sheila Foote was present at the meeting and provided a report to the Board for review. S. Foote thanked the taxpayers of Warren for their payments despite the COVID-19 pandemic. S. Foote acknowledged that unlike many other NH towns, the rate of return for 2020 taxes in Warren was on track with previous years. The Treasurer reiterated her appreciation of the residents and property owners of Warren.

The Town of Warren Operating Account balance is \$257,778.86 after tonight's approved manifest total of \$278,954.00.

The Tax Collections Account balance is \$227,955.54.

C. Chandler moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report. L. Romano seconded the motion. Vote: Chandler – yes and Romano – yes.

ROAD AGENT REPORT:

The Road Agent was not present at the meeting but met with the Town Administrator earlier in the week to discuss recent highway department activity. The backhoe had bad solenoid on the transmission and is now repaired. The rental backhoe was returned early and a new invoice with a credit is being mailed to the Town. The Grader is back and ready to roll. Ossipee Mountain Electronics is coming at the end of December to set up the new truck. The Town's sand and salt supply is in good shape. There was a rain and windstorm on November 30. There was no significant damage but many downed limbs and a small fire on Mountain Meadow Road.

The Town Administrator informed the Board that an extension is being requested for the Breezy Point and Batchelder Brook FEMA mitigation projects. The Town will apply for an extension through 2021.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:

The Tax Collector provided receipts to the Board for review.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief, Art Heath stated that the Fire Department responded to a CO2 activation on Route 118. This was a woodstove venting issue. Chief Heath encouraged all residents to reach out to call if an alarm is going off.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief John Semertgakis reported recent activity to the Board of Selectmen. Welfare Check, Bixby Lane; wellness check on resident, contact made. 9-1-1 hang up call, Route 25; elderly residents having electrical issues, non-emergency. DCYF mutual aid; report from DCYF concerning a family, working on getting services needed.

27 Motor Vehicle Stops, 4 Citations

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 he had received and was trained on using the hydrostatic fogger. The new fan and motor for the library exhaust fan is in and the next step is contacting with the electrician to install a separate light from the fan. G. Russell reported that he also received pricing on repairing the Town Hall deck.

Transfer Station: G. Russell reported that the freon has been removed from all refrigerators and air conditioners and is still working on shipping out plastic bales. The waste oil area is cleaned up and the containers were emptied and put in a drum.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The Town Administrator reported that he had completed the insurance claim and PRIMEX has sent the check for the replacement of the flashing radar sign. The Administrator is attending a workshop on the Community Facilities Grant Program on December 10, 2020. There are a few administrative abatements to be processed, but the Administrator indicated that he needs to meet with the assessor to discuss the properties in question. The Administrator shared he is working on the FEMA extension request for the mitigation projects and reporting on the completed projects.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. The Town Administrator presented an administrative abatement for Map 225, Lot 008, property owned by Lloyd and Laurie Bixby. The owners filed a timely application for Current Use; however, the Assessor was unable to make the changes prior to the Tax Collector issuing the July 2020 tax bill. *Chandler moved to approve the administrative abatement as presented. L. Romano seconded the motion. Vote: Chandler – yes, and Romano – yes. The motion passed 2-0.*
- b. The Selectmen reviewed and signed an Intent to Cut for Map 250, Lot 027; logger/owner: Brian Knapp.
- c. The Board of Selectmen reviewed the first draft of the 2021 Budget. Both Selectman Chandler and Selectman Romano expressed that it would be in the best interest of the community to begin a thorough review of the budget at the next meeting, so that Selectman Sackett could participate. The Town Administrator offered a brief overview of significant increases which included \$21,000 to complete the cyclical revaluation in 2021. There was brief discussion regarding other aspects of the budget, but as discussed, the Board decided to continue the discussion about the 2021 budget at the next meeting

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. COVID-19 Discussion:

The Administrator stated that he is working on increasing the quality of the remote access to Select Board meetings by phone.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was a brief overview of the recent correspondence which included the title for the 'big truck' which was paid off earlier in the year. There was a notice from the auditor that the Mercier Group will be merging with ALTA CPA Group.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion by C. Chandler, seconded by L. Romano that the Board of Selectmen enter 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, and Romano – yes.

The Board entered a non-public session at 5:52 PM.

CONCLUSION NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion by C. Chandler, seconded by L. Romano that the Board of Selectmen exit non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3. Vote: Chandler – yes, and Romano – yes. The motion passed 2-0-0. Motion by C. Chandler, seconded by L. Romano 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, and Romano – yes.

The Board exited non-public session at 5:58 PM.

ADJOURN:

C. Chandler moved the adjournment of the regular meeting of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by L. Romano. Voting in favor of the motion were Chandler-yes and Romano – yes. The motion passed 2-0-0.

The Board adjourned at 5:59 PM.



Chairwoman, Lesa Romano Selectman, Charles Chandler Selectman, Charles Sackett, Jr.