

**WARREN BOARD OF
SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

C. Sackett called the meeting to order at 5:00 and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Select Board Members Present: Chuck Sackett, Todd Bixby, and Shirley McCartin

Staff/Officials Present: Fire Chief – Art Heath, Town Administrator – Austin Albro, Treasurer – Sheila Foote, Tax Collector – Maria Sanders, Police Chief – John Semertgakis, Road Agent – John Corso

Public Present: Jeremy Hair, Peter Boncet

SELECT BOARD MANIFEST: *T. Bixby moved approval of the manifest, as presented. S. McCartin seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes, Sackett – yes, Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *S. McCartin moved approval of the April 5 minutes, as written. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes, Sackett – yes, Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0. A draft of the April 19 minutes is available at the Town Office.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: Peter Boncet inquired about the status of the website remodel project. The Town Administrator indicated that he anticipated the Board of Selectmen would review two or three proposals in June and make a selection at that time. There was discussion about the Town's fiscal year which runs January to December.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer, Sheila Foote was present at the meeting and provided a report to the Board for review.

The Town of Warren Operating Account has a balance of \$97,046.74 after tonight's approved manifest of \$136,855.43. The April reconciliation report is provided for your review.

The Tax Collections Account balance is \$200,577.85. The April reconciliation report is provided for your review.

The Town Clerk Collections Account balance is \$6,000. The April reconciliation report is provided for your review.

The Town has received the FY23 Quarter 4 Highway Block Grant.

C. Sackett moved to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's report. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes, Sackett – yes, Bixby – yes and the motion passed 3-0-0.

FIRE CHIEF:

Chief Heath reported that the most recent activity was an alarm activation at Glencliff Home. He reported that according to the State, he clarified that the Fire Forest Wardens were appointed for the Town for the year and no action was needed by the Board at this time. He reported that he did not have a timeline for the pump repair.

CHIEF OF POLICE:

Police Chief John Semertgakis was present at the meeting and provided a written report of his recent activity to the Board of Selectmen. Motor Vehicle Complaint, Gould Hill Road; complaint about local vehicle, addressed with driver. Family Dispute, Route 25, working with a local resident about ownership of firearms involving out of state family member. Animal Complaint, Route 25; report of small dog in the area of AppleKnocker's, did not locate. Neighbor Dispute, Route 118; worked with neighboring residents on a complaint.

Additional Notes: 32 Stops, 3 Citations

TAX COLLECTOR: Tax Collector Maria Sanders shared that the letters for delinquent payment plan arrangements was sent last week and an updated report provided for review. Additionally, a report of monthly and yearly activity to date was provided. The Board expressed their appreciation for the detailed report and progress.

ROAD AGENT:

Road Agent John Corso reported his recent activity was limited due to weather but the roads were swept and the shop was clean. He indicated he has some spring maintenance to do on the equipment and wanted to grade the roads as soon as the weather allows.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS AND TRANSFER STATION:

George Russell was not present at the meeting but submitted a written report. G. Russell reported the brush hog has arrived and that the town mower has been serviced. He would like to start mowing as soon as Thursday or Friday. He would like to look into installing a camera on the Town Hall to face the Common after multiple reports of vandalism throughout recent years. The Board agreed to allow George to gather information for consideration. The Freon is scheduled to be removed from the refrigerators and AC units on May 4. The light iron will be shipped out next week. A bale of cardboard is being produced.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The Town Administrator reported that the ARPA reporting was completed and he was still gathering information for the hazard mitigation and 2017 HSEM reimbursement requests. He shared that he was going to be riding along with the Assessor on Friday to get better understanding of the pickup process and how property changes are tracked during over time. The Administrator shared that he reached out to D.E.S. to inquire about the possibility of a waiver for annual landfill monitoring. The Town will have to conduct monitoring in accordance with State law until 2036. He acknowledged that he was still managing ongoing resident concerns and grant reporting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) The Board of Selectmen discussed the lighting on the Warren Rocket after receiving a written complaint from a concerned resident expressing concerns about daily illumination while acknowledging that the lights were nice during Town events and holidays. There was general discussion about the pros and cons of regularly illuminating the Warren Rocket. Chairman Sackett asked if any members of the public present would like to share their opinion. A few residents expressed their sentiment toward the lighting project, which was mixed but mostly favorable. The Administrator indicated this was a trial period and the Historical Society had given the okay to plug in the lights. The Board of Selectmen asked the Town Administrator to gather additional information about the planned duration of the trial period and proposed next steps, noting that no action would be taken at this time and the discussion would continue at a subsequent Board meeting.
- b) The Board acknowledged that there would a Public Hearing on May 31 to discuss the Glenciff Water Project, CDBG Application at 5:00 at the Town Hall.
- c) *C. Sackett moved to authorize the withdrawal of 3,595.22 from the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes, Sackett – yes, Bixby – yes and the motion passed 3-0-0.*
- d) The Administrator relayed a message from Don Bagley asking whether they could begin setting up for clothing event on Monday, May 14 acknowledging that the Board meets on May 17. The initial request was for May 18 and the Board agreed to stick with that start date to allow for other community uses and the Board meeting that week. There was discussion about the use of the Town Hall stage for storage of clothing and Taekwondo equipment year-round. It was previously discussed that ahead of the floor refinishing work that everything was to be removed from the Town Hall. The Town Administrator indicated that there was recent discussion with the Bagley's who host the free clothing drive twice per year and that they would be satisfied if able to store the clothing in the basement and racks on the stage behind the backdrop. It was discussed that the backdrop and cabinet were being removed for the until a plan for replacement was created. C. Sackett expressed that he would like the Town's storage areas cleaned out as well referencing the cabinet with the electrical outlets and Wi-Fi router. Jeremy Hair asked if Taekwondo became a paying member, if storage of their mats and equipment could be allowed. The Board

expressed hesitancy to allow any group or organization to use the building for year-round storage expressing conflicts when it is used for weddings, concerts, and other Town activities. They further offered to allow Taekwondo to park a trailer behind the Town Hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) The Board of Selectmen signed a letter responding to Mr. Monninger's concerns about town clock funding which encouraged him to utilize the petition warrant article packet to bring his concerns before the legislative body next Town Meeting. The letter stated that "The town's decision to fund the clock's maintenance is primarily based on the clock's historical and cultural value, rather than any religious affiliation. We believe that the funding serves a secular purpose and does not promote any specific religion. We also believe that the financial support provided is minimal and does not result in ongoing interactions or negotiations with the church because there is a clear and transparent process for determining and allocating funds. Town Meeting is a symbol of local democracy and self-governance. By accepting the gift of the clock in 1939 and deciding to pay for its maintenance and upkeep since 1975, the legislative body of the town expressed the collective will of the community, which should be respected and honored."
- b) The Board of Selectmen signed a letter relaying the State's explanation of the cyclical revaluation process and assurance that Warren was not the only community experiencing increased property values and real estate market conditions to a resident who has expressed concerns about the Town's assessing practices.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen reviewed recent correspondence.

- a) There was brief discussion about the email from a resident to Executive Councilor Warmington which expressed concerns about the OHRV use on the property across from Pine Hill Cemetery. The Board indicated that the last correspondence with the Trails Bureau indicated this was permissible. The Administrator relayed his understanding that the ATV club was looking for alternative trail placement to alleviate the resident's concerns. The Board agreed that no action was a necessary at this time.
- b) The Town Administrator shared that on May 31, representatives from the Twin State Clean Energy Link project would be at the meeting to present their project and is scheduled to take approximately 30 minutes.

NON-PUBLIC(I):

S. McCartin moved to enter into nonpublic session, in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (e). The motion was seconded by T. Bixby. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes, Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0. The Board entered into nonpublic session at 5:45 P.M.

C. Sackett moved to leave nonpublic session and return to public session at 6:05 P.M.

T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes, Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.

C. Sackett moved to seal the minutes for 40 years because it was determined that divulgence of this information would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the Board. S. McCartin seconded the motion. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes, Bixby – yes and the motion passed 3-0-0.

NON-PUBLIC(II):

S. McCartin moved to enter into nonpublic session, in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (e). The motion was seconded by T. Bixby. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes, Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0. The Board entered into nonpublic session at 6:08 P.M.

T. Bixby moved to leave nonpublic session and return to public session at 6:33 P.M. McCartin seconded the motion. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes, Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.


C. Sackett moved to seal the minutes for 40 years because it was determined that divulgence of this information would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the Board. S. McCartin seconded the motion. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes, Bixby – yes and the motion passed 3-0-0.

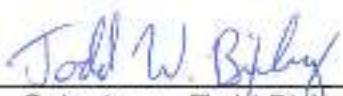
S. McCartin inquired about a situation where a bear had dragged trash across the street onto somebody else's property. C. Sackett indicated this would be a good opportunity to engage Health Officer, Mike Clark. The Town Administrator stated he would follow up.

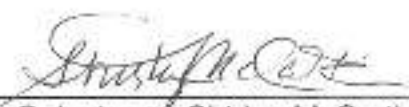
The Board discussed a resident's report of work occurring near the Baker River. The resident was provided the resources to inquire with D.E.S. The Board asked the Town Administrator to also relay the concerns and photos to D.E.S. in order to determine whether a permit is necessary and why the Town did not receive notice of permit application or approval, if so.

ADJOURN:

C. Sackett moved the adjournment of the regular meeting of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by S. McCartin. Vote: McCartin – yes, Sackett – yes, Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0. The Board adjourned at 6:37 PM.


Chairman, Chuck Sackett Jr


Selectman, Todd Bixby


Selectman, Shirley McCartin