

**WARREN BOARD OF
SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 6, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Select Board Members Present: Todd Bixby and Shirley McCartin

Staff/Officials Present: Town Administrator – Austin Albro, Police Chief – John Semertgakis, Treasurer – Sheila Foote, Deputy Tax Collector – Marlene Wright, Fire Chief – Arthur Heath

Public Present: Jeremy Hair, Donna Hopkins, Tom Babbit, Ashley Clark, Patrick and Creston Asselin, Renee Spencer

SELECT BOARD MANIFEST: S. McCartin *moved approval of the manifest, as presented. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 2-0-0.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: S. McCartin *moved approval of the August 23, 2023 meeting minutes, as presented. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 2-0-0.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Shirley McCartin thanked Tom Babbit and acknowledged the OHRV club for their work on the trail system noting she explored to the top of the power lines and was impressed.

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 \$330,902.44 after tonight's approved manifest of \$173,321.25. The August reconciliation report was provided for review.

The Tax Collections Account balance is \$324,965.06.

The Town Clerk Collections Account balance is \$6,257.40. The August reconciliation report was provided for review.

S. Foote noted that she was out of the office from September 11th through September 20th and Deputy Treasurer, Heather Warner will cover.

TAX COLLECTOR: Maria Sanders was present at the meeting and provided the following information for the Board of Selectmen. M. Sanders also informed the Board she attended the annual meeting for Grafton County Property Tax Collectors on Wednesday August 30 and information about the NH Homeowner's Assistance Fund, administered by NH Housing, was discussed and she will be mailing information to all residents with liens.

A. Lien Agreement Payment Report for August 2023

B. Collections Summary for the month of August 2023 (printed 8/31/2023)

- \$22,077.39 has been collected in Gross Receipts thus far for the month of August. (\$17,915.75 in principal and \$1,911.48 in interest/penalties; and \$2,250.16 in credits to be applied to 2023 P02 bill.)

C. Lien Redemption Report for the month of August 2023.

- 6 Liens Redeemed in August 2023.
- As of August 31", 32 Liens have been redeemed this year (1/1/2023 - 8/31/2023)

D. Year to date collections summary (1/1/2023 - 8/31/2023)

- \$1,879,657.76 has been collected in Gross Receipts from 1/1/2023 - 8/23/2023. (\$1,858,997.62 in principal and \$14,187.20 in interest/penalties and \$6,472.94 paid to date in credits to be applied to 2023 P02 bill.)

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: George Russell was not present at the meeting but provided a written report for the Board's review. G. Russell reported that he is still mowing as needed. He reported that he started installing the flag pole at the library but had to order a new top to hold the solar light on. G. Russell noted that he was waiting for a quote for the water well project and a quote for rocket lighting project at the historical society. In regards to the Transfer Station, G. Russell reported that the new motor for the compactor had arrived. 1 bale of aluminum cans was produced, as well as, one bale of plastic. G. Russell noted they will be trucking in the cans soon.

FIRE CHIEF: Chief Heath was happy to report that Fire Department member, Mike Norkelun donated a thermal imaging camera. Chief Heath reported a gas spill at AppleKnocker's which was described as minimal. Chief Heath asked if the Administrator could inquire about the removal of utility lines to the Town owned property described as the old Holden Store. The Chief announced the Fire Department have t-shirts for sale. Finally, the Chief noted there was private fireworks display in Warren on September 15th & 16th.

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. The Chief of Police shared for public awareness that there is a new form of meth (not currently known to be in New Hampshire) that comes in the form of vape pens.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The Town Administrator offered a brief report to the Board. He again noted that the website project was underway and would be ready by Christmas. The Administrator stated that the UNH project pitch went well and the Town would know by the end of the week if a group of students was interested in working with us on preliminary design of a new highway garage at the Transfer Station facility. The Administrator explained that the Department of Revenue was in the office to discuss best practices for managing the Town's religious, charitable, and education exemptions.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) The Administrator noted that the date for delivery of the Boston Post Cane is to be determined.

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES: None

Prior to adjourning, Patrick Asselin inquired about the Town's involvement in the Resilient American Communities program, citing concerns with the groups partnerships in other communities throughout the country particular those related to police and housing policies. The Town Administrator explained that the Town was not directly involved in the project and that it was a grant funded initiative through Ammonoosuc Community Health Services. He clarified that project is locally led and that the goals of the project will be created by our residents. He continued that the overall goal of the project was to building resilience and the community's ability to respond to emergencies such as natural disasters and adverse situations, such as food insecurity. The Administrator provided an example of a potential initiative which is to find funding and programming for our food pantry to deliver more specific food and healthier food our diabetic residents. He noted that the project was also occurring in Whitefield and played a crucial part in their recent State of New Hampshire grant award of \$400,000 to improve their library. The Administrator did acknowledge that he was a part-time employee of ACHS working on the resiliency project.

ADJOURN:

T. Bixby moved the adjournment of the regular meeting of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by S. McCartin. Vote: McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes and the motion passed 2-0-0. The Board adjourned at 5:29 PM.

Chairman, Chuck Sackett Jr.


Selectman, Todd Bixby


Selectman, Shirley McCartin