

**WARREN BOARD OF
SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, November 29, 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: Town Administrator – Austin Albro, Police Chief – John Semertgakis, Fire Chief – Arthur Heath, Planning Board Chairman – Jay Johnson, Road Agent – John Corso

Public Present: Jeremy Hair, Tom Babbit

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *T. Bixby moved approval of the November 15, 2023 meeting minutes, as presented. S. McCartin seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Babbitt informed the Board that the trail system was closed and that club completed nearly \$72,000 worth of projects this season. He expressed an openness to feedback and project suggestions.

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 \$15,000 after tonight's approved manifest of \$185,821.42.

The Tax Collections Account balance is \$144,457.20.

The Town Clerk Collections Account balance is \$3,000.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: George Russell was not present at the meeting but provided a written report for the Board's review. G. Russell reported he has been plowing and sanding as needed. He is moving items into storage. Finally, G. Russell reported that the emergency generator had its annual service. In regards to the Transfer Station, G. Russell reported that the compactor was full after 2 weeks and 2 hours. We stored the weekend trash on trailers and in the Quonset hut. We purchased

a counter to be used by the attendant to keep a more accurate tally. Approximate patrons on November 18 & 19: 175; Approximate patrons on November 25: 70. The attendant was unable to keep count on Sunday, November 26 due to the overflow issues.

FIRE CHIEF:

Chief Heath reported two false alarms at the Glencliff Home. He reported a motor vehicle collision on Route 118. Chief Heath expressed concerns with his recent trust fund withdrawal request was taking a significant portion of time to be processed. The Administrator responded that the request was in process.

ROAD AGENT:

J. Corso was present at the meeting and provided a brief report of recent activity to the Board of Selectmen. He reported that the guard rails on Clifford Brook and Breezy Point. There was discussion about the lighting at the highway garage.

CHIEF OF POLICE:

Police Chief John Semertgakis was present at the meeting and provided a brief report of his recent activity to the Board of Selectmen. He reported that he was down to one DCYF case and offered an update on the lost dog who was most recently seen between Warren and Glencliff along Route 25.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The Town Administrator offered a brief report to the Board. He noted that the assessor was in next week and would be reviewing the most recent religious exemption correspondence. He reported that he has a meeting next week with NH D.E.S. regarding the Jameson Store, potential Brownsfield project. He reported that the tax rate would be set following tonight's meeting. He reminded the Board and audience of the public hearings set for December 13.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) The Board reviewed the preliminary tax rate set by DRA. The preliminary tax rate was \$23.91. The Administrator explained that while general operating costs have stayed relatively level, a number of factors caused an increase to the tax rate. The overall value of the Town decreased approximately \$2,000,000 which was mostly commercial utility value. The Administrator also noted in 2022 the Town received unanticipated revenue from Federal and State governments totaling over \$100,000 and also held a town-owned property auction which resulted in an additional \$130,000 in 2022 revenue. *After discussion, C. Sackett moved to utilize fund balance to reduce the final tax rate for 2023 to \$22.75, retaining approximately 12.5% of general operating expenditures in fund balance. S. McCartin seconded the motion. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

OLD BUSINESS:

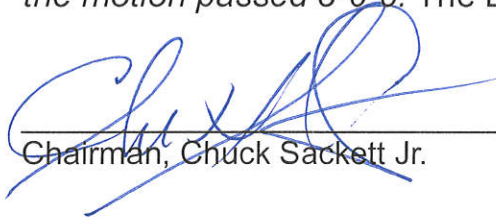
- a) The Administrator reported that he was still working with the department heads to draft the budget and that he would try to have the entirety of the budget prepared for review, as soon as, our next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES:

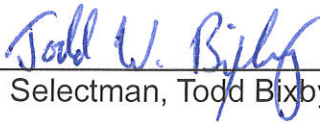
- a) The Administrator shared a notice from the Secretary of State relative to the Primary which is scheduled to be held on January 23, 2024.

ADJOURN:

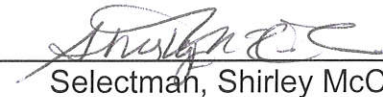
C. Sackett moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by S. McCartin. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes and the motion passed 3-0-0. The Board adjourned at 5:45 PM.



Chairman, Chuck Sackett Jr.



Selectman, Todd Bixby



Selectman, Shirley McCartin