

**WARREN BOARD OF  
SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, December 13, 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, Buildings and Grounds Manager – George Russell, Tax Collector – Maria Sanders, Warren Village School Board Chairman – Donald Bagley, Treasurer – Sheila Foote

**Public Present:** Jeremy Hair, Tom Babbit, Kathleen Benassi, Peter Boncet, Donna Hopkins, Bruce Pollock, Jon Mackey, Walt Paskavitch, Cheryl Paskavitch, Dottie Gove, Huey Weatherbee, Jeff Pfiefer

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

a) C. Sackett moved to enter a public hearing to discuss the acceptance of \$40,000 in accordance with RSA 31:95-b from the County of Grafton, New Hampshire. T. Bixby seconded the motion and the public hearing was open at 5:01 P.M. The Administrator summarized the receipt of anticipated revenue explaining that the County had federal ARPA dollars available for municipalities. There was no discussion at this time. The Board agreed to leave the Grafton County ARPA Funds public hearing open to allow for additional comment. S. McCartin moved to exit public hearing at 5:35. The motion was seconded by C. Sackett. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.

a. C. Sackett moved to accept the funds from Grafton County. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.

b) C. Sackett moved to enter a public hearing to discuss the acceptance of \$44,142.85 in accordance with RSA 31:95-b from the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant Program administered by F.E.M.A. S. McCartin seconded the motion and the public hearing was open at 5:02 P.M. The Administrator and Fire Chief summarized the receipt of anticipated grant revenue explaining that the Town had won a highly competitive grant process for the replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus. There was no discussion at this time. The Board agreed to leave the FEMA AFG public hearing open to allow for additional comment. S. McCartin moved to exit the public hearing at 5:35. The motion was seconded by C. Sackett. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes,

*and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

*a. C. Sackett moved to accept the funds from FEMA. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

*c) C. Sackett moved to enter a public hearing to discuss the use of OHRVs on Stimson Road. T. Bixby seconded the motion and the public hearing was open at 5:02 P.M. Chairman Sackett explained that the purpose of the hearing was to gather input relative to the use of OHRVs on Stimson Road. Peter Boncet apologized for his rhetoric at the last meeting this topic was discussed. Bruce Pollock expressed concerns about the road width and one lane bridge. Walt Paskavitch stated that he had asked a previous Board of Selectmen to for use of the bridge for his snowmobile but was told no. Walt Paskavitch shared a handout with the Board and members of the audience that proposed a trail on private property adjacent to Stimson Road. Kathy Benassi of 21 Stimson Road expressed that she would like to have the road open to OHRVs. Bruce Pollock expressed that there is only one family that wants to utilize the road. There was discussion about whether the discussion was to open the road for general use or to open the road to provide residents access to the trails. The Board unanimously agreed that their intent was to open the road to provide residents along Stimson Road easier access to the trails. Walt Paskavitch expressed concerns about enforcement. Cheryl Paskavitch asked how many OHRVS would be using the road and explained that she did not have concerns with the OHRV traffic in previous years but has concerns for future use of the road. C. Sackett clarified that the original request was to provide trail access for residents along the road to get to and from the trail system with more ease. There was no additional discussion at this time. S. McCartin moved to exit public hearing at 5:49. The motion was seconded by C. Sackett. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

*a. C. Sackett moved to open Stimson Road to provide trail access exclusively for residents and property owners along Stimson Road. S. McCartin seconded the motion. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

**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:** *S. McCartin moved approval of the November 29, 2023 meeting minutes, as presented. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Warren Village School Board Chairman Donald Bagley stated that the school's budget is up \$368,533. Mr. Bagley also shared a statistical update for Warren Village School academic performance with the Board and audience. Dottie

Gove asked the Board whether there had been discussion about hosting Town Meeting on Saturday. There was discussion about the last time the Town held a Saturday Town Meeting, citing even lower attendance numbers. Chairman Sackett stated that more residents are likely to take a day off from work to attend Town Meeting than they are to take a day off from a day off. There was discussion about the budget hearing dates. The Administrator confirmed with the Board that the intention was to do it within the same time frame as last year, in conjunction with the School's February Board meeting, to accommodate SAU staff. Huey Weatherbee, requested permission for the snowmobile club to utilize a portion of the Open-Air Market to increase rider safety. The Board unanimously agreed. Hue mentioned that an additional landowner permission slip would be provided to the Town for their signature.

#### **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 \$93,857.82 after tonight's approved manifest of \$222,388.16.

The Tax Collections Account balance is \$59,141.

The Town Clerk Collections Account balance is \$2,801.80.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** George Russell was 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 reported that the furnace at the KP Hall is scheduled for repair on December 19<sup>th</sup>. G. Russell requested that the Board encumber \$2,500, approved by 2023 warrant article number 15, for contracted services with Week's Electric. *C. Sackett moved to encumber \$2,500 for the irrigation project. S. McCartin seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

In regards to the Transfer Station, G. Russell reported that 1 bale of plastic was produced and 1 bale of cardboard is in production. G. Russell described efforts to increase revenue at the Transfer Station. G. Russell discussed the opportunity to use ARPA funds to purchase a reconditioned compactor to deter an over flow and maximize the amount of waste being shipped out. *After discussion, C. Sackett moved approval of the refurbished compactor purchase using ARPA funds. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0.*

#### **FIRE CHIEF:**

Chief Heath reported a building fire on Mountain Meadow Road, stating it was a total loss. The Chief also reported a propane leak and EMS assist at the Glencliff Home

**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 a landlord tenant issue on Studio Road. Paperwork Service, Route 25; paperwork service on a resident for Haverhill Police Department. Finally, the Chief offered a brief report of the recent Mountain Meadow structure fire.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:**

The Town Administrator offered a brief report to the Board, noting that he was working on the budget, the website, and completing other end of the year tasks.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) The Board reviewed and signed a cemetery deed.
- b) The Board reviewed and signed an Intent to Cut for Map 228, Lot 022; owned by Sheryl Campbell, logged by Mike Clark.
- c) The Board reviewed and approved a Veteran's Credit Application for Map 206, Lot 015. the preliminary tax rate set by DRA. The preliminary tax rate was \$23.91.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

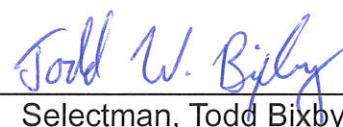

- a) The Administrator reported budget discussions would begin on December 27, 2023.

**CORRESPONDENCE & NOTICES:**

- a) The Administrator noted that the Board had received \$21,790.92 from the State of New Hampshire in Bridge Aid.

**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 5:59 PM.*

  
Chairman, Chuck Sackett Jr.  
Selectman, Todd Bixby  
Selectman, Shirley McCartin