

**WARREN BOARD OF
SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

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, Treasurer – Sheila Foote, Fire Chief – Arthur Heath, Road Agent – John Corso, Buildings and Grounds Manager – George Russell

Public Present: Jeremy Hair, Tom Babbit, Dottie Gove, Donna Hopkins, Daniel Arber

SELECT BOARD MANIFEST: *T. Bixby moved approval of the manifest, as presented. S. McCartin 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 December 27, 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:

Arthur Heath expressed concerns about the big pine tree on the Pine Hill Cemetery property, suggesting that it should be removed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer, Sheila Foote was present at the meeting and provided a report to the Board for review. There was discussion about the most efficient way to manage the funds in the Town's statement savings accounts.

The Town of Warren Operating Account has a balance of \$738,665.19 after tonight's approved manifest of \$28,229.81. The December reconciliation report was provided for review.

The Tax Collections Account balance is \$174,707.41. The December reconciliation report was provided for review.

The Town Clerk Collections Account balance is \$3,500.00.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: George Russell was present at the meeting and provided a report for the Board's review. G. Russell reported that the KP Hall furnace needs a new oil pump and is soon to be serviced. He reported repairing one of the

tables in the Town Hall and finally, G. Russell reported he was helping J. Corso plow and sand, as needed.

In regards to the Transfer Station, 1 bale of plastic and 1 bale of cardboard was produced.

ROAD AGENT:

Road Agent John Corso was present at the meeting and provided a brief report of his recent activity to the Board of Selectmen. He explained that the big truck was currently broken and he was working with Kevin Knapp to diagnose the problem. J. Corso explained that the orange truck was also experiencing issues, explaining that the truck has expressed these symptoms twice in the past and was quickly fixed, under warranty. The truck would be brought to Littleton for service as soon as the weather would cooperate, explaining that the truck was currently the only option for snow plowing and sanding. There was also a brief discussion about the Building and Grounds truck, which will hopefully be repaired soon, after a number of delays. The Road Agent expressed some concerns about his 2024 budget, particularly in light of recent repair bills and unanticipated gravel expense.

FIRE CHIEF:

Chief Heath reported recent activity for the Board's review including a fire on Union Road and an EMS assist.

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 offered an update on a potential arson case, indicating that the person of interest was interviewed and the dog is currently at the humane society. Chief Semertgakis provided an update on a case with the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services. Animal Complaint, Lund Lane/Lake Tarleton; 2 reports of a loose husky, have pictures and will issue a fine accordingly. The Chief provided an update on Kelso, a missing dog, still regularly seen near Route 25 between Warren and Glencliff.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:

The Town Administrator offered a brief report to the Board, reiterating that he was working on year-end tasks, preparing the budget, and finishing the website project. The Administrator noted additional, recent correspondence relative to a religious exemption application filed earlier in the year. The Administrator noted that the students from Warren Village School have volunteered to distribute Town Reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) *The Board read and adopted a resolution adopting the most recent FEMA Flood Insurance Study and Associated Rate Maps. S. McCartin moved to adopt the resolution. T. Bixby seconded the motion. Vote: McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes, Sackett – yes, and the motion passed 3-0-0*

- b) *The Board reviewed and signed an intent to cut for Map 213, Lot 058, owned by Michael Jones, Et. Al.; logged by Hooper Hill Forestry.*
- c) *The Board reviewed and signed an intent to cut for Map 251, Lot 003 and 004, owned by Leikauskas; logged by Hooper Hill Forestry.*

OLD BUSINESS:

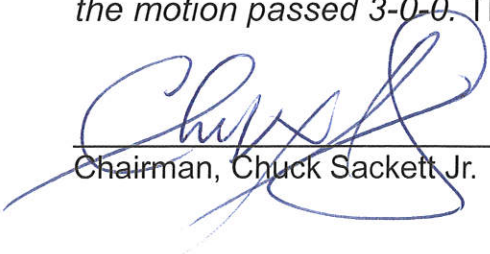
- a) The Board reviewed the budgets for Sanitation and Buildings and Grounds. G. Russell was present at the meeting to answer any questions. There was discussion about the sanitation worker wages, compactor management, and disposal fees. The Board agreed to move forward with the budgets, as presented. The Administrator noted that the remainder of the budget, including Warrant Articles, Non-Profit Contributions, and Trust Fund contributions would be discussed at the next meeting.

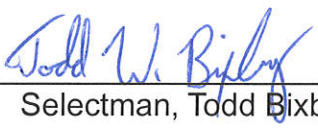
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

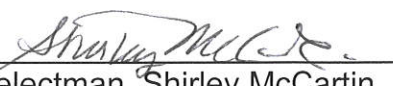
- a) Dottie Gove presented a petitioned warrant article for the Board's awareness. The article read "To see if the town will vote to authorize a commission to study the efficacy of combining programs and services, up to and including a merger, of Warren and Wentworth schools. The commission would consist of 3 individuals from Warren. 1 appointment would be chosen by the selectboard, 1 appointment by the school board, and 1 appointment by the faculty/staff of Warren Village School. A matching warrant is being proposed to the voters in Wentworth for consideration at the Wentworth town meeting on 3-16-24. This article was submitted by petition."
- b) Daniel Arber was present to discuss recent correspondence relative to the religious exemption application filed in 2023. The Board explained that based on the recommendations by both the Town's contracted assessor, as well as, the Town's municipal counsel, the religious exemption could not be granted, in accordance with the State law. The Board encouraged Mr. Arber to pursue the B.T.L.A. appeal process so that a determination could be made by the court. There was general discussion about the roles and interactions between state and local government.

ADJOURN:

S. McCartin moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Select Board. The motion was seconded by T. Bixby. Vote: Sackett – yes, McCartin – yes and Bixby – yes and the motion passed 3-0-0. The Board adjourned at 6:03 PM.


Chairman, Chuck Sackett Jr.


Selectman, Todd Bixby


Selectman, Shirley McCartin