

TOWN OF WARREN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/ASSESSORS

December 13, 2023

6:15 PM Regular Meeting

Selectmen Present: John Crabtree Chairman, Roger Peabody Vice-Chair, Jan Macdonald, Brent Pratt, and Wayne Luce.

Absent: None

Staff present: Town Manager Sherry Howard, CEO Melody Sainio and Board Secretary Sara K. Davis

Call to order at 6:15 p.m. by Vice-Chair Peabody

Item 1

Moment of Silence/ Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2

Public Participation

None

Item 3

Vote to Approve Selectmen's Meeting minutes November 29, 2023

ACTION:

Motion by Crabtree; second by Pratt to approve Selectmen's Meeting minutes November 29, 2023

Vote: 5-0

Item 4

Vote to Approve Warrant # 11A, 12, MV #9

ACTION:

Motion by Macdonald; second by Luce to approve Warrant #11A, 12, MV #9,

Vote: 5-0

Item 5

Vote to Approve Trust Fund Warrant # 11

ACTION:

Motion by Pratt; second by Luce to approve Trust Fund Warrant # 11

Vote: 5-0

Item 6

Selectmen to meet with Town Clerk Corinne Michaud

Corinne was presented with a clock plaque for earning second place with the Town Report.

Item 7

Presentation to Eagle Scouts: •Josiah Hays •Drew Swindler

Drew and Josiah were presented with Certificates from the Board on their accomplishment of reaching Eagle Scout status. Crabtree, knows how long it takes to get to where they are and congratulates them.

Item 8

Mining Committee to recommend Mining Moratorium extension

Jason Tuorila, Mining Committee is making really good progress with a full committee. He thanks the Board for letting the Committee meet with the Attorney's. The Committee would like to see all sides and would like to bring in mining experts. There will be costs associated with this and they are asking for the Board to designate funds to bring in the experts. They would also like to have a workshop with the Board to go over what information they have gathered so far.

Pratt is unsure what the funds are for. The lawyer they brought in to hear represented CARMA, they should not also be representing the Town, also that the Committee is only requesting information from anti-mining.

Tuorila, the Attorney is not representing the Town, only as a consultant as a Land Use Attorney. He just stated that they want to bring in Mining experts, so they can have a view from all sides.

ACTION:

Motion by Luce; second by Macdonald to allow up to \$5,000. From the Selectman Contingency Fund for the Mining Committee to use at their discretion.

Vote: 2-3 Pratt, Luce

Item 9

Discuss options for Mining Moratorium PUBLIC HEARING (expires Feb. 5, 2024, need 15 days prior for proper notice)

Board will hold the Public Hearing at 6:15p.m. before the January 10, 2024 meeting

Item 10

Update from the Town Forest Committee

The Forest Committee provided reports from all three Town Forests.

Doug Pope, these reports were made possible by the Grant that was written and awarded. There is ATV traffic on the Meadow Mountain that they are unable to post/patrol. Public Works filled in a well. They hope to make a loop walking trail on the Middle Road property. Pleasant Mountain they cannot access the property to harvest. Crabtree, they asked the abutter years ago for access, may want to ask again. The property behind the Cemetery on Patterson Mill Road is wet and immature at this time. Would like to remove the no trespassing sign at the Middle Road property, to be replaced with a Town Forest sign and whom it was donated by. The log will also need to be moved to allow parking. They have a quote for blazing the trees on the property line. Board would like Manager to reach out to get additional estimates.

Item 11

Resident to request overnight parking on Municipal owned property

This will be on the next agenda. Board would like it to be at the discretion of the Town Manager. Manager requests a list of guidelines from the Board.

Item 12

Update on parking enforcement from Code Enforcement Officer Melody Sainio

Letters were sent to those in front of buildings and in the Woolen Mill lot November 15th. November 22nd 2nd letter was sent out that the cars would

be towed on the 27th. Arthur Rose was parking his uninsured, but registered vehicle in the lot. He was told by his father William Rose that he had obtained permission to park there as he moved to FL and could no longer store the vehicle. At this time the vehicle does not have insurance, and the owner only holds a permit. He doesn't have enough to get it on the road or to pay the fines from the Town. Resident stated that he did not receive the letters until after his vehicle was towed, by that time it had been in the lot for three days. CEO recommends reducing or waving the fee given that the letter was not given to him. Fine total amount it \$375.

ACTION:

Motion by Crabtree; second by Macdonald to wave fine, due to resident not receiving the notice until after the fact.

Vote: 5-0

Item 13

Discussion on accepting Post Cemetery as a Town Cemetery

Last spring the previous owner of the Post Cemetery wanted the Town to take over maintaining. It has since been sold to the Ahlholm's. They would now like the Town to take over the Cemetery. All these years it has been mowed by the Companies that Town hires to mow. There is not an association or perpetual care fund. The Town owns Blake cemetery next too it. The Board would like it surveyed by the owner prior to discussion to take over the cemetery.

ACTION:

Motion by Crabtree; second by Luce to have Town Manager notify Ahlholm's that a survey of the property would need to be provided to the Board to consider having the Town take over.

Vote: 5-0

Item 14

Update on cemeteries from Sexton Amanda Shelmerdine

Cemetery Sexton gave the Board a detailed list of all completed/ ongoing and future needs of all the Cemeteries. Highlighting the new monument and dedication of the Peterborough Cemetery. The Pleasantville sign had additional bullet holes in it from this year. Damage to the Cemeteries is an ongoing issue. Stumps need to be grinded. Survey in the Cushing cemetery shows that the Town owns more than they thought. There is a spring in the

middle of Riverview Cemetery they hope to fix. She was given a tour of the Prison cemetery; the Town will be providing flags and markers to Veterans there. The metal detector has been very helpful for her to be able to find markers and lots.

Board agrees that the Cemeteries are beautiful and that she is doing a great job.

She is still looking to do the chainsaw safety course the one that was available to her, she was unable to attend.

Item 15

Manager's Report

Jason Tuorila there is an agenda item for the Planning Board tomorrow night, Warren Meadows is requesting a break in the building permit fee for the solar project they are planning. He is unsure why they are coming before the Planning Board when it is a fee set by the Board of Selectman. Luce, they knew the fee when they applied to build in Warren. Macdonald, if it's a financial question it goes before the Board of Selectman. Board agrees it's inappropriate for the project to be addressing the Planning Board and not the Board of Selectman.

Manager, there will be a meet and greet with the new owners of PERC tomorrow from 9-1.

They have hired a new Public Works employee. He worked at the Transfer Station so Manager did not think it was necessary for him to come meet the Board.

Max from MCOG is holding a TIF meeting at the Town Office next Wednesday at 6:00p.m.

Board was given a copy of the Knox County Budget.

Beacon Environmental will be starting clean up at the Rifle range property start date of January 7th. The award amount for that was \$274,830.

If funds are all gone to pay DEP will that come out of the Grant money the Town is hoping to be awarded, no he would be paid by DEP.

Item 16

Other Business with Leave of the Board

Pratt, asked if signs were put up in the Woolen Mill parking lot, yes. He does not think permission should be given to vehicles that sit and are not being driven.

Crabtree, asked about the Covid money. That was approved to be used for the Beechwood Street Culvert at Peabody stream. Haylee Ward are discussing two different options for that project.

Macdonald, Board needs to set a date for the Town Managers evaluation and to meet with the Assessor.

Item 17

Executive session: •M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(F) Review Conceal Weapons

ACTION:

Motion by Crabtree; second by Macdonald to go into Executive session:
•M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(F) Review Conceal Weapons at 8:04p.m.

Vote: 5-0

Leave Executive Session

ACTION:

Motion by Pratt; second by Luce to approve Conceal Weapons and have Chairman sign.

Vote: 5-0

Item 18

Adjourn

ACTION:

Motion by Crabtree; second by Macdonald to adjourn the meeting at 8:10p.m.

Vote: 5-0

John Crabtree

John Crabtree, Chairman

Roger Peabody, Vice-Chair

Jan Macdonald

Jan Macdonald

Wayne Luce

Wayne Luce

Brent Pratt

Respectfully submitted by Board Secretary: Sara K. Davis

Attest: This is a true copy of the Warren Board of Selectmen's minutes, as certified to me by the municipal officers of the Town of Warren, Maine, and adopted by the Board of Selectmen on the 27th day of December, 2023.

Date: Dec. 28, 2023

Signature: Christine El Michal

Town Clerk

