

TOWN OF WARREN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/ASSESSORS

August 23, 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

Call to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chairman Crabtree.

Item 1

Moment of Silence/ Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2

Public Participation

Joe, Dogs are wreaking havoc on our recreation areas and parks. It's not healthy, people need to clean up after their pets.

Item 3

Vote to Approve Selectmen's Meeting minutes August 9, 2023

ACTION:

Motion by Pratt; second by Macdonald to Approve Selectmen's Meeting minutes August 9, 2023

Vote: 5-0

Item 4

Vote to Approve Warrant # 4

ACTION:

Motion by Pratt; second by Luce to Approve Warrant # 4 & Trust Fund Warrant #3

Vote: 5-0

Item 5

Vote to Approve Trust Fund Warrant # 3

Item 6

RSU 40 to give a presentation regarding future Bond

They reached out today and wanted to reschedule until September 6th Meeting.

Item 7

Review/Approve Public Works Truck Bid

Joe, by the time we got the truck in and all equipment on, it won't be ready until next summer. He likes O'Connor's bid Western Star. Getting all the same vehicles would be helpful to get the same parts.

ACTION:

Motion by Luce; second by Peabody to purchase Western Star from O'Connor's for \$117,012

Vote: 5-0

Item 8

Bring back to the table for discussion: Vote to accept propane tank quote for new generator

ACTION:

Motion by Peabody; second by Luce to take off the table

Vote: 5-0

Maritime, \$8311.94

Colby & Gale \$9,405.21

Butler Maxcy & Heath tank only \$5333.

Durkee & Son's \$9,000.

After purchased can use any company to fill.

ACTION:

Motion by Pratt; second by Macdonald to approve Durkee & Son's bid in the amount of \$9,000.

Vote: 5-0

Item 9

Jason Tuorila to give update on the Mining Ordinance Advisory Committee
Tuorila, The Board plans on having several consultant meetings including Georges River Land Trust to discuss watershed area. A mine waste cultural disasters consultant. A hydrologist. Mining opinion safety. Dr. Mast, Colorado natural continuance. Dave Chamber 45 years of mineral exploration. There will probably be a fee for some of these consultants. Asked if Union would be willing to split cost of consultants.

Mining Ordinance Committee has had very good attendance but Jody has not attended one meeting, Tuorila has reached out several different ways, he responded that he would be at meeting and he did not attend. The Board is looking to replace him on the committee.

Harkins is stepping down as his job will be taking him out of the area for the next year.

Tuorila is willing to be on the committee, he has been overseeing the meetings.

Macdonald, asked if consultants are all against mining. No Dave has been in the mining industry for 45 years.

We are looking to protect our biggest resource the water. Georges River will provide information on how best to protect the water shed.

ACTION:

Motion by Macdonald; second by Peabody to remove/replace Jody Saroka from Mining Ordinance Committee

Vote: 5-0

ACTION:

Motion by Pratt; second by Macdonald to accept Captain James Harkins resignation from the Mining Ordinance Committee.

Vote: 5-0

ACTION:

Motion by Pratt; second by Luce to go into executive Session at the end of meeting to review applications for Mining Ordinance Committee.

Vote: 5-0

Item 10

Planning Board Chair Jason Tuorila to present Cable Ordinance

Planning Board wrote a Cable Ordinance using the sample from MMA. It was sent to Town Attorney; it came back with a couple edits. This copy has been approved from Town Attorney, and Planning Board.

The Town needs to have this approved before Cable service can be accepted. This needs to be in place by State Statute rules. Spectrum was grandfathered in because it was before this was required by the State.

This will require a Public Hearing and a Town Meeting to vote.

ACTION:

Motion by Luce; second by Peabody to accept proposed Cable Ordinance as written.

Vote: 3-2

Item 11

Approve and Sign abatement for William Bird per Assessor

ACTION:

Motion by Luce; second by Peabody to accept abatement for William Bird.

Vote: 5-0

Item 12

Discuss setting mil rate

Assessor Jim Murphy is recommending a mil rate of 13.90 using the approved fund balance this is the lowest whole number that can be used. This is the lowest mathematical number to be able to cover all costs.

Education being lower could lower this number.

Last year the mil rate was 20.0

We are not collecting more money, just constitutionally fair after everyone being newly assessed.

Assessor recommends reevaluations be done every three years so it's not such a drastic jump in bills for residents.

ACTION:

Motion by Luce; second by Peabody to accept the assessor's recommendation of 13.90 mil rate.

Vote: 5-0

Item 13

Discuss TDS Franchise Fees

Crabtree, premature to discuss.

Need ordinance in place first.

Item 14

Review Cannabis Fees

This came up when discussing the tiers. Wanted to bring before the Board to be voted on. The committee recommended the fees. However the Board sets the fees.

ACTION:

Motion by Peabody; second by Pratt to table to reach out to surrounding Towns to find out their fees.

Vote: 5-0

Justin Humes, won't be able to attend at the next meeting he will be out of state. RUS 40 School Bond is outrageous and doesn't make sense. 81 million dollar "Bond" Loan. Increase \$400 per \$100,000 of valuation in 1,200. increase. Astro turf and lighting. 100,000 for refurbish trail. 15-year-old boiler, the school doesn't put money aside to replace ahead of time. The First attempt voted down by the School Board, they decided to let the voters decide. This is not the will of the majority of the Board. Board of Selectman will not vote on; it will go before the voters. Per student 44,628. Per student increase. Not as much going to Warren School, as the Waldoboro schools.

Ed LaFlamme, they just keep approving money for the school. How much interest going to be coming from this.

Board would like the numbers for what they are proposing ahead of time to review.

Joe would like to see a full page add in the paper from all the towns about this with the figures.

Ed, what is the roll of the Chair of the Planning Board and why was he not put on the Board. He was overseeing the meeting. Ed, if not a member of the committee, he can not make a motion or vote.

Item 15

Manager's Report

A lot of talk about Knox County communications. They have no staff to take 911 calls, anyone who calls it goes to Waldo County, they dispatch. Knox County will handle. They are looking for staff but there is a 6-8-week training for new employees.

Letter from Sanitary district, they are working on man hole covers.

Mark Richardson repaired the picnic tables at Payson Park. Kudos to Mark!

Joe has been in touch with Sanitary district, most of Union Street is now done.

Board was given a copy of Personnel Policy to review.

Class Sept 14th would like Staff to attend a Tactical training in Bangor. Manager attended last year and it was great. Would need to close Town office.

ACTION:

Motion by Peabody; second by Luce to close Town Office September 14th so Staff can attend training.

Vote: 5-0

Joe and Public Works working diligently hopefully first of September start for paving. Paving company wants to do 235 at the same time.

Glenvale wanted to come and talk to the Board. They want to talk about a TIF and credit enhancement. Board wants Assessor at meeting.

Item 16

Other Business with Leave of the Board

If Waldo County can double the load of Knox County calls, what were they doing last month.

Pratt, would like to send a letter thanking Mark Richardson.

Striping of the road, are there others that are going to be done? Those are the only ones they do. It cost \$12,000. For the ones that were done.

Spoke to the Fire Chief. Would be nice to meet with the Fire Department to know who they are. First Thursdays of the month they hold meetings.

Reminder John and the Warren little league before the meeting.

Item 17

MRSA 1 § 405 (6) (F) Trust Fund Application

ACTION:

Motion by Macdonald; second by Peabody to go into Executive session

•MRSA 1 § 405 (6) (F) Trust Fund Application at 7:49p.m.

Vote: 5-0

Leave Executive Session

ACTION:

Motion by Luce; second by Pratt to appropriate Applicant #1 for \$5,000 from appropriate trust fund.

Vote: 5-0

ACTION:

Motion by Pratt; second by Luce to appropriate Applicant #2 for \$2,500 from appropriate trust fund.

Vote: 5-0

Item 18

Adjourn

ACTION:

Motion by Peabody; second by Macdonald to adjourn the meeting at 8:30p.m.

Vote: 5-0

John Crabtree
John Crabtree, Chairman

Roger Peabody
Roger Peabody, Vice-Chair

Jan Macdonald
Jan Macdonald

Wayne Luce
Wayne Luce

Brent Pratt
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 10th day of September, 2023.

Date: September 1, 2023

Signature: [Signature]
Town Clerk

