

Town of Waltham  
2053 Maple Street  
Waltham, VT 05491

Selectboard Minutes 2-6-2023

Members Present: Don Ross Chair, Andrew Martin, Brent Newton

Others: Cookie Steponaitis, Chris LaPete, Linda Devino, Julia Cox, Mimi Clark, Mike Elmore, Robert Wesley, Jay Stetzel and Jeff Glassberg

Don Ross called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

Mike Elmore introduced himself as the new Addison County Sheriff. He asked the board if they had any questions. There was discussion about speeding on Maple and Green Streets. Talk of overweight trucks/tractors and the hours and cost of future patrols in Waltham. The Selectboard thanked Officer Elmore and Officer Wesley for attending the meeting and that they looked forward to working with them.

Chris reported to the board that he has repaired the damaged culvert on Maple Street. The discussion then turned to the need for a culvert/curb cut policy. It was decided to hold a special Selectboard meeting February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm. He reported he is in the process of preparing weight limit signs for spring posting of the roads. There was discussion of Waltham applying for a paving grant through the State. This will be looked into.

Mimi Clark reported on Addison Northwest School District progress. She noted that most all students are back to in person learning post pandemic. She was pleased to report Vergennes Elementary Physical Ed teacher, Robyn Newton received Vermont's Teacher of the year. She discussed the district budget and how much and why it is going up. She explained the way the district is working to save money also. The Selectboard thanked her for this information.

Jeff Glassberg spoke for the auditors in reference to the FY22 audit. He said it was a bit challenging with the new software but he felt once they got a better understanding of it that it went well. He noted that the Highway department was rather overspent for the year. He suggested a better/more clear financial report to the Selectboard monthly may help with that and that perhaps the auditors should do quarterly check ins as well. Julia Cox wondered if there should be a KEY in the town report to help the residents better understand the financial data due to the new format.

Andrew moved to approve the January minutes. Don second and the minutes were approved as written. Brent was not at the January meeting but liked the minutes.

Financials were discussed. There was again discussion on simplifying the account list in the NEMRC system for ease of understanding and custom reports through the system for reporting purposes. Andrew moved to open a separate bank account for our ARPA funds. Brent 2<sup>nd</sup> and the agreement was unanimous. Cookie spoke in reference to our CLA and the need for a reappraisal. She was advised that we should get letters of interest out to local appraisers as soon as possible and that we should receive the formal letter from the State requiring the appraisal in July.

January pay orders were reviewed. Andrew moved to approved the amount of \$24,233.01 Brent second and the amount was unanimously approved.

Correspondence was reviewed. Per request from the State, the board nominated Geoffrey Nelson for another 3 year term as Waltham's Health officer. The board reviewed a letter from the Vergennes American Legion in which they are requesting donations specifically to fund the Fourth (3<sup>rd</sup>) of July Fireworks display. Andrew made a motion to donate \$250.00. Brent second and the amount was unanimously approved.

Town meeting will be held in person on March 6, 2023 at 6:00pm. Waltham will return to a floor vote that evening for the Articles. The warning has been posted on our website, our board in front of Town Hall and at Vergennes Post Office. Voting on the school budgets will be on March 7, 2023 from 10am -7pm. Because of Town Meeting, the next regular Selectboard meeting will be held Tuesday March 7, 2023 at 7pm.

Cookie gave the Board members a draft copy of the Town Report for review and/or editing. Linda noted that the report has to be published by February 25, 2023. The board will review the report and get back to us as soon as possible.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Devino

Clerk / Treasurer