

Town of Waltham  
2053 Maple Street  
Waltham, VT 05491

Selectboard Minutes 10-2-2023

Members Present: Andrew Martin, Brent Newton-Chair and Rhonda Williams

Others Present: Chris LaPete, Linda Devino and Cookie Steponaitis. Also; Margo & Michael Grace, Jim Gish & Katherine Otto, Wesley Miedema, Chris Von Trapp, Jeff Glassberg, Amanda Bodell and Susan Bordon.

Brent Newton called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Chris LaPete told the board of his progress on Route 66. The two culverts previously discussed have been replaced and he will pave over them this week. He commented that a number of heavy trucks have been crossing over Route 66 and wondered if we should put up “no thru trucks” signs. Brent suggested Chris call the company and tell them to stop. There was discussion of the upcoming walk over Route 66 for Wednesday. Andrew asked Chris to bring his plow truck to help demonstrate the need for clearing trees on the road.

September minutes were reviewed. Andrew moved to accept them as written. Rhonda 2<sup>nd</sup> and they were unanimously approved.

Katharine Otto of VTrans introduced herself and Jim Gish. Discussion of the PEL Study and the new Green Line (by-pass routing thru Waltham) began. She explained where VTrans is in the process, how long it will take and noted that all surrounding towns are being listened to and their land use will be considered. She also stated that the PEL Study will not be completed for a number of years and it in itself will not choose the route.

The Cemetery Committee spoke with the board about work needing to be done at Sunset View. They inquired about money available for these upcoming projects. Wyatt has agreed to do one project for approximately \$1,500. Andrew suggested they go ahead and get that project done and then submit estimates for the other work for budgeting purposes.

Andrew shared an accounting of the ongoing repairs to Town Hall and Waltham’s use of ARPA monies. He explained his estimate of what will be needed to complete the project and discussed use of Waltham’s reserve funds for the project. He is optimistic that we will also receive a grant through Municipal Energy Resilience Program. He noted Multy Builders will be here in two weeks to continue the project.

The replacement of the culvert on So Middlebrook road is an ongoing funding issue. We are short \$250,000 and with the recent flooding any additional state resources are not available.

Financials were discussed. Linda noted that tax money is coming in quite nicely. We will need to move some money from reserve funds into the general checking account. Both to cover digitization of land records and Town Hall renovations.

Pay orders for September were reviewed. After a little discussion Rhonda moved to approve \$41,222.74. Andrew 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Correspondence was reviewed. The fact that we will now have to pay unemployment tax beginning in July 2024. Linda will check with Anthony on the best way to do that. Cookie showed the board a volunteer waiver from another town. It was agreed Waltham should have one. Linda told the board that Community Bank would like us to cancel the debit card in Lucille's name. Brent moved to replace it with a town Credit Card with a limit of \$500. Andrew 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was unanimous in favor.

With there being no other business to discuss, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Devino

Clerk / Treasurer