Warwick Community Newsletter

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

All articles, ads and correspondence may be emailed to warwicknewsletter01378@gmail.com (or call Beth Gilgun at 544-3464) or dropped off in the black box in front of Town Hall by the 20th of the month before the article will run. Please note that we are no longer accepting FULL PAGE inserts at all for commercial ads, and are asking every organization in Town to keep their event flyers to 1/2 page or less. If a full page event flyer is desired, the organization may print the flyer themselves for insertion (call Beth for the number of copies required) if the information cannot be fit to 1/2 page and a waiver is desired. Business card size ads are $7/month or $70/year. All material may be edited for length, ink intensiveness, or content and may not be anonymous. Some logs and minutes provided may only be available on the Warwick Website at www.warwickma.org due to space limitations. ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIBERS WILL GET FULL SELECTBOARD MINUTES. ANOTHER REASON TO SUBSCRIBE ELECTRONICALLY AND HELP US SAVE MONEY!!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS AND ADVERTISERS!

$508

Thank You!

Please consider donating to the Newsletter. It is an outreach from the Trinitarian Congregational Church serving the greater community.

SEND THIS FORM TO: Subscription Mailed To:
Warwick Community Newsletter ________________________________
c/o Beth Gilgun ____________________________________________
29 Athol Road ______________________________________________
Warwick, MA 01378 __________________________________________

____ I prefer to save paper and postage by having an E-subscription
**Warwick Council on Aging**

The Tuesday exercise class at the Warwick Town Hall will begin at 9:45 AM. It will be followed by a Chair Yoga/Tai Chi class at 11:00 A.M. This program will continue throughout the winter and spring months. Chair yoga/Tai Chi will be offered by certified instructor Marcia Gobeil. One will get all the benefits of yoga without getting on the floor. All poses and exercises will be done while sitting. The second half of the class will be tai chi warm-up and poses. One can attend the 1st or 2nd half of the class or both sessions. The class is funded by Life Path at no cost to those attending, however a donation can is available and donations are gratefully accepted.

Council on Aging Lunches are held Tuesdays at Noon in the Dining Room at the Warwick Town Hall. Suggested voluntary donation for Elders, (age 60 and over) is $3.00; for non-elders, (Under age 60) is $8.00. The following menus are now available.

- **05 March:** Navy Bean Soup, Pork & Pepper Pasta, Wheat Bread and Applesauce.
- **12 March:** Gypsy Soup, Chicken Marsala, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Wheat Bread and Peaches.
- **19 March:** Swedish Meatballs, Parsleyed Noodles, Spinach, Pumpernickel Bread and Chocolate Pudding.
- **26 March:** Chicken Brunswick Stew, Brussel Sprouts, Biscuit and Pears.

**First Friday Gathering** will be held in the Town Hall, Friday, March 1. Stop by. I will be serving soup, sandwiches, salad and quiche. Look forward to seeing some new faces in the New Year along with old friends. Watch the Warwick L and the Facebook page for the menu the Wednesday February 27. Coffee at 10:00 AM, Lunch from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Desserts available anytime.

Tracy Gaudet, Outreach Coordinator for Orange COA and Shine Counselor, (Serving Health Insurance Needs for Everyone) will be at Town Hall Tuesdays, March 12 and 26, from 10:00 AM until Noon. Stop by if you need help with health insurance or to talk about available programs. Contact her, 978- 544-3481 or @townoforange.org, she will be bringing application forms.

**The COA Foot Clinic Dates For 2019**

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**www.warwickma.org** is the Town’s website. Along with things like Permit Applications, Police Logs, Meeting Agendas, Town Hall Office Hours, you can find this newsletter and lots of other very useful information! If you would like post something to the webpage, contact Ed Lemon, Webmaster at elemon@tiac.net.
A time to look back at Warwick’s schools

Back in 1739 only six homes were finished in Gardner’s Canada (what Warwick was called before it was incorporated). Population began to increase with the first birth in town, Lydia Rice, born to Absalon and Elizabeth Rice in 1740.

The town of Warwick was incorporated in 1763, after two French and Indian wars. By 1765 the population of Warwick had reached 191 and schools were necessary. Four school districts were established by 1768, each with a School Master for December, January and February (when more boys were in school), and a School Mistress during the summer. With transportation more difficult in those days, it was necessary have school locations that could be reached by horse or on foot. By 1771, several Rectors taught advanced classes, probably in the evenings; the students were likely growing up!

By 1785 the number of school districts had increased to nine. With Warwick’s peak population at 1,256 in 1820 (current population is about 780), a tenth school district was formed in 1830. Each school was ungraded, and taught “reading, riting and ‘rithmatic.” Each district was managed separately and was responsible for providing living quarters for the teacher, a school building and wood for the stove for heat. The ten districts (shown on maps of Warwick dated 1856 and 1871) were spread throughout the town:

#1 – just south of the old fire station
#2 – on the west side of the Richmond Road well north of Richard’s Reservoir
#3 – Brush Valley School on Route 78 on the west side, north of Hockanum Road
#4 – Chestnut Hill Road at Wilson Road on Arthur Shepardson property
#5 – Gale Road just south of Beech Hill Road
#6 – Wendell Road opposite H. Grout site ( currently Ralph Hill house)
#7 – Flower Hill School on Northfield road south of Bass (White) Road
#8 – Winchester Road (Route 78) just north of Robbins Road
#9 – Royalston Road just southwest of the first Tully Brook crossing
#10 – northwest of town at east end of the road to Atwood Cemetery

Although schools 11 and 12 were formed around 1850, by 1880 Warwick was back to having only ten districts. No locations were found for these two schools.

The state Board of Education, formed in 1837, asked the town to take control of the ten districts; they did not concur. However, in 1895, a school union (#22) was formed between Warwick, Northfield, Leyden and Gill to manage education through eighth grade; a superintendent of schools oversaw union #22 with the ten districts still operational.

The town started a select school (High School?) in 1813, which was held for several years. In 1883 the town voted $100 to support an eight-week evening school for students over 12 years of age. Its teachers had some college education; this system continued until 1897.

By 1897, the state provided tuition at Advanced Schools (that is, high school level education) if the parents provided transportation or board. By 1898 there is a record of two students enrolled in Orange High School; others may have gone to academies at Deerfield and New Salem ( paid for by parents).

By 1901, Warwick had closed the ten district schools and moved all students to Warwick Center School. Music and drawing were added to the curriculum, and the school was now graded. All teachers were graduates of Normal Schools (teacher’s colleges). With further enrollment, Brush Valley School reopened and operated from
In the winter of 1929, Center School burned to the ground. While the building was unusable, classrooms were set up in the Town Hall and Brush Valley. A new Center School of two rooms was dedicated by the fall of 1930. The Center School became overcrowded when Brush Valley closed in 1931. Expansion to three or four rooms was investigated between 1941 and 1944, but it did not occur due to discussions about regionalization. In 1944 grades 6, 7 and 8 were moved to the Town Hall.

After an original vote was not passed (1950) for a regional high school, it was approved in a second vote in 1954. Pioneer Valley Regional School opened in 1957 for grades 7 through 12. Use of the Town Hall for school ceased at that time as a third room was added to the Center School in 1956.

In 1999 the new Warwick Community School opened. The Center School was demolished and the site used for the police department and the new fire station.

Women’s Guild

The Women’s Guild will meet at 1 PM on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at the Town Hall.
Be ready for some fun and games!

Restaurant Review

Judie’s
51 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002-1702
(413) 253-3491

HOURS:
Sunday – Thursday 11:30am – 8:30 pm
Friday & Saturday 11:30 am – 9:30 pm

Amherst has so many restaurants but I almost always pick Judie’s when I am in the area. Mainly for their Popovers! They are huge and so good served with apple butter. And if the meal I select does not contain a popover, I make sure to order one separately for $4.95.

My most recent trip, I selected a special lunch item, which I didn’t care for too much. It was medallions of chicken with broccoli and mushrooms in a toasted almond sauce. The chicken and vegetables were very good but I wasn’t in love with the sauce so I selected each piece carefully and shook the sauce off. With that I ordered my popover and I was happy.

If you like lobster bisque, I suggest you get some at Judie’s. It is one of the best around. And their salads are excellent. Their prices are very reasonable. For instance, my lunch special was $9.95 and a good serving for lunch. Sandwiches and salads run between $9 to $16 depending on toppings. And dinner items are in the $20’s.

I am usually too full after my main course and popover to get dessert, but they look delicious. Some day I plan to get a side salad, a popover, and save room for dessert!

In the area of Amherst? Look for Judie’s right on the main drag. There is a parking lot behind them and they have a handicap access from the parking lot. Bon Appetite.
The Warwick Historical Society will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 20 in the basement of the Town Hall. There will be a short presentation preceding our regular quarterly business meeting, as described below:

**ENLARGING YOUR WORLD:**

**Growing Cross-Generational Interest in Your Society**

From the newspaper to the World Wide Web, learn what options you have at your fingertips to help attract new volunteers and dedicated audiences to your local Historical Society and Museum.

We will share examples of what has worked in Shelburne to reinvigorate local interest as well as an online following.

*As presented by:*

Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette
Shelburne Historical Society Museum & Archives

All members of the community are most cordially invited!

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**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**MEDITATION**  Monday 6:30-7:30 with Tracey at Metcalf Chapel $10

**ZUMBA**  Thursday 6 pm with Susan at Warwick Town Hall $5

**YOGA**  Saturday 9:15 am with Kalliope at Warwick Town Hall $5-10

**ZUMBA**  Sunday 8 am with Christine at Tully Mill Pond Restaurant $5

Tracey Dawn Alden - Energy Therapist, will again be offering a therapeutic meditation class Monday evenings January 7th thru March 25th from 6:30 -7:30 at the Metcalf Chapel

This 12 week class will be guided using Reiki and Solfeggio Sound Therapies in a group setting. We will also explore other healing and meditation modalities throughout the winter months. Including but not limited to aromatherapy, chanting, crystals, plants, journeying, partners and more.

This is a great way to contribute to your individual health goals as well as gathering within the community to create universal peace and well being.

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**Drop-in Knitting/Crocheting**

**Thursdays, 6:30 - 8 at the library**

Do you like to knit or crochet but need a project? Make a hat for Warm the Children or a scarf for Operation Gratitude. These projects are basic knit or crochet and help others. Bring some yarn (not too bulky!) and knitting needles or a crochet hook and Julie H. or Julie S. will get you started. Already have a project? Join us to chat and hear Ivan's "Word of the Week"!
DOG LICENSES

Your 2018 Warwick Dog Licenses will expire on March 31, 2019.
Open license period is April 1 - June 30, 2019 (as of July 1st there will be a $10 late fee per license!)

License Fees: Intact Male or Female $10; Spayed/Neutered $5
Kennel License Fees: Up to 4 Dogs $20; 4-10 Dogs $35; 10+ dogs $60.

Also, please remember to sign and date your street list (census) forms before returning them to me. Thank you!

** Rosa **
Greetings - **What happens when 10 small towns read the same book at the same time?** That's the name of an exciting new regional library collaboration this spring that Warwick Library is participating in with neighboring and nearby towns. The book is *The Stranger In the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit*, by Michael Finkel, and the answer is—a lot! Copies will be available for borrowing in mid-March. The book will be the selection for the monthly Reading Club (2nd Wednesdays) that meets April 10th at 10 am—anyone can participate in the discussion. The 10 libraries are also sponsoring dozens of events, indoors and out, related to the book's theme. Warwick's contribution will be a hike to the Indian Caves scheduled for Saturday, April 20th at 1:30 pm—all welcome! The Library has flyers listing all the events.

The Warwick Library will also participate in the statewide **Summer Reading Program**: this year's theme is Space Exploration and JFK! Look for suggested reading material for all ages as we get closer; and we'll have some really cool posters to give away.

**Astronomers needed**: On a related note, the Library has a fine telescope available for use—if you know someone who could help lead a night time star-gazing program this Summer (or anytime), please have them contact the library.

**Newly added to the Collection**: (recent releases in bold)


**CDs**: *Bowie: Glastonbury 2000, Springsteen on Broadway*.

**Books**:


**Adult Fiction**: Faceoff (thriller anthology), ed. by David Baldacci; *The Coincidence Makers*, by Yoav Blum; *The New Iberia Blues*, by James Lee Burke; *Past Tense*, by Lee Child; *Washington Black*, by Esi Edugyan; *The Reckoning*, by John Grisham; *The Colors of All the Cattle* (#1 Ladies Detective Agency series), by Alexander McCall Smith; *The Quiet Side of Passion* (Isabel Dahousse series), by Alexander McCall Smith; *Her One Mistake*, by Heidi Parks; *Spark of Light*, by Judy Picoult; *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead.

**Adult Non-Fiction**: *The Best Cook in the World*, by Rick Bragg; *Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women*, by Geraldine Brooks; *Dylan on Dylan*, ed. by Jeff Burger; *Becoming*, by Michelle Obama; *Help Me!*, by Marianne Power; *Pagans & Christians in the City: Culture Wars from the Tiber to the Potomac*, by Steven D. Smith; *The Trojan War: A New History*, by Barry Strauss; *Traveling While Married*, by Mary-Lou Weisman.

**Special recommendation**: *Falling off a Cliff*, by Eileen Dover.

Cheers - Ivan
Dear Friends,

I am continually amazed and heartened by the generosity of people in this community. Time after time, the church has identified a specific need and people have responded with overwhelming generosity. Most recently, we took up a collection for “Souper Bowl” Sunday, to support the critical work of both the Western Mass Food Bank and the Orange Food Pantry. In spite of poor advertising (my fault), we raised over $1,000, so we were able to send more than $500 to each organization.

In the course of putting together the reports of the various church committees for the Annual Meeting in January, I was reminded of so many other examples of this community’s active concern and care for the well-being of others, near and far. Money was donated and sent to Haiti in support of a Girl Scout Troop that was planting trees on the rugged hillsides, stripped by hurricane winds and now pose a great danger of erosion and flooding. Money donated through the annual CROP Walk and money and items collected for health kits and school kits were sent to Church World Service to distribute throughout the US and the world to people living in poverty or struck by natural disasters. Clothing, personal care and household items were collected for Syrian refugees displaced by war. Cold weather clothing, tents and blankets have been collected and sent to the Water Keepers at Standing Rock and to local shelters out of concern for the health of the environment and the health and well-being of people marginalized or ignored by the wealthiest society in history.

In addition to such monetary and material largess, community members selflessly contribute time and energy to help others. I have personally received help with gathering, processing and storing firewood. I have also been able to join in helping others in the same way. Ramps have been built, roofs repaired, outbuildings built and homes and community buildings made safer, more comfortable and more energy efficient through volunteer efforts.

According to recent surveys and polls, New England is supposedly the “least religious” area of the country. This may be true in the sense that fewer people, especially young people, join religious organizations or regularly participate in weekly religious worship but, Jesus never said, “worship me”. He often said, “follow me”, and then he went about the area healing people broken in body and spirit. He taught his disciples to build communities of compassion where the “least of these” were cared for. And he modeled a connection with Spirit through an intimate connection with the land he walked. After being baptized, he went “immediately into the wilderness”. When he was stressed or overwhelmed, he would go off by himself to a quiet, natural space where he could commune with God. Others, before and after Jesus’ time, would (commemorate, enshrine, mark) encounters with Spirit in nature by building stone cairns or other markers. In our small area, there are medicine wheels, labyrinths and other markers of Sacred Space. The church has a space set aside, on the front lawn, where people can commemorate a special time, place or event with a stone that holds some significance. Or, they can rearrange the stones that are there, as a meditative prayer offering.

In our area, there are “circles of compassion”, prayer groups and other loosely organized or spontaneous care groups that come together to address local or universal concerns. Their actions range from silent meditation to active feeding, driving, tending and visiting; connecting spirit to the heart and then translating that spirit connection into embodied action. A group of local knitters keeps the Chapel supplied with shawls, into which we pour our love and prayers during Sunday worship, and then present to those in physical, emotional and spiritual distress. If you know someone who would be open to such a gesture, let us know. Jesus never required an act of “conversion” and neither do we.

While I wish more would feel drawn to join us on Sundays or be part of a discussion group to expand and enrich our awareness, I believe the “Spirit” is alive and active in this place and time. Whether they recognize it or not, there are a lot of people in this community who follow the path of justice and compassion Jesus walked. It may just be that “religion” is in transition.

In hopeful faith, Dan
UP COMING EVENTS

A LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP was going to meet on Wednesday evenings to view and discuss a lecture series, but it feels as though an intellectual examination of theology is not what this community needs right now. Instead, we will gather and read together from the Book of Psalms. The Psalms are a collection of poems of the struggle to know and understand a deity that at times feels infuriatingly aloof, at times intimately caring, at times judgmental and vindictive and at times compassionate and restorative. The human emotions expressed in the Psalms range from deep sorrow and anger to ecstatic joy and gratitude. Each participant will be encouraged to pick out a Psalm to read (or to be read) that closely expresses their current state of emotional/spiritual being. After everyone’s Psalm has been read, we will spend time in silent meditation, then engage in discussion of what we experienced in each reading.

7 PM WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 13 – APRIL 17 @Metcalf Chapel

ST PATRICK’S DAY SUPPER SATURDAY MARCH 16 6 PM
Come enjoy a traditional supper of corned beef & cabbage, carrots, potatoes and bread/rolls, dessert & beverage, $12 for adults $6 for children 12 & under, Free for kids 3 & under
Followed at 7 PM by music that will drive away any of those remaining winter blahs.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES AT THE METCALF CHAPEL

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS
Nonperishable food, personal hygiene items and household cleaning supplies are collected in the front hall of the Chapel. The personal & household cleaning items are especially needed as they cannot be purchased with “food stamps”.

BLANKETS/SHEETS/PILLOW CASES/ ETC
SINGLE &TWIN SIZE sheets (the shelters only have twin beds and mattresses) blankets and pillowcases, towels and washcloths are collected and taken to the area shelters. Bring clean and useful items to the Chapel and we will get them to the shelters. PLEASE, NO MORE CLOTHING ITEMS. The shelter no longer accepts them and I end up taking them to “Hazel’s Closet” in Orange or Salvation Army

MEDICAL SUPPLY LIBRARY We have crutches, wheelchairs, walkers and many other medical supplies for free loan at the Chapel. Check us out before buying new.
Wooden Fender Concert Series

We hope you were among the lucky hordes that squeezed into a crowded Town Hall on February 16th for hot homemade pizza fresh out of the oven, a crisp colorful garden salad, and an array of delicious desserts, all provided by the Mission Committee of our very own Trinitarian Congregational Church of Warwick. The long dining hall tables were packed with happy satisfied diners who clearly knew that a lot of good planning, hard work, and heart went into the making of dozens of pizzas with a long list of delectable toppings. A well-fed crowd then headed on upstairs to celebrate Blues Night with the band **Spacebar**, who entertained with a deep and wide list of danceable tunes that kept the dance floor hoppin’ until well after 10:00 pm. Wooden Fender’s own Michael Humphries joined the band for several tunes on his wailin’ harp, proving once again that he’s not just another pretty face. We send a big Warwick thank you to this talented group of musicians who never fail to please!

Don’t miss the next Dinner and Concert
Saturday, March 16th, Warwick Town Hall

This year, the Trinitarian Congregational Church’s St. Patrick's Day feast will be followed by **Josh LeVangie and The Pistoleros**. If you grew up listening to the country and western music of Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and Waylon Jennings, you know "Outlaw Country" and you know how true blue that great music is. Josh LeVangie knows it, too, and has gathered a fine band of musicians that include Josh on vocals and guitar, Jim Henry on lead guitar, Clark Sylvester on drums, Mike Duffey on pedal steel, and Smilinsteve on bass guitar. These Franklin County outlaws play stomping good country music in LeVangie’s highly enjoyable style and they’re coming to our Town Hall! So, dust off your Stetson, clip on your spurs, and giddy up to Warwick Town Hall on the 16th. Don’t make us send out the posse!

Check out The Pistoleros at: [http://www.pistoleros.band/](http://www.pistoleros.band/)

Mark your calendars:

March 16: **Josh LeVangie & The Pistoleros**, Trinitarian Congregational Church St. Patrick’s Day Dinner

At 6:00 PM the Trinitarian Congregational Church will be serving their famous St. Patrick’s Day Dinner of corned beef and all the fixings.

At 7:00 PM the concert starts in the main hall. Donations are gratefully accepted at the door to help pay the band and support Wooden Fender's ongoing endeavor - in memory of Jeff Wallace - to keep live music happening in Warwick. Wooden Fender is a project of the Warwick Arts Council.

April: **To be announced**, Moore's Pond Beach Committee Lasagna Dinner
St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
Saturday, March 16, 2018 at 6:00
Warwick Town Hall
Menu: Corned Beef and Cabbage, Carrots, Potatoes, Bread/Rolls, Dessert and Beverage
Adult $12.00 Children 12 and Under $6.00--Under 3, Free
Proceeds Benefit Trinitarian Church of Warwick

Josh LeVangie & The Pistoleros
7:00 pm Saturday March 16th 2019 at the Warwick Town Hall
If you grew up listening to the country and western music of Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard and Waylon Jennings, you know "Outlaw Country" and you know how true blue that great music is. Josh LeVangie knows it, too, and has gathered a band of talented musicians that include Josh on vocals and guitar, Jim Henry on lead guitar, Clark Sylvester on drums, Mike Duffey on pedal steel, and Smilinsteve on bass guitar. These Franklin County outlaws play stomping good country music in LeVangie’s highly enjoyable style, and they’re coming to Town Hall!
Dust off your Stetson, clip on your spurs, and giddy up to Warwick on the 16th!
PIANO
4 yrs old and up, play jazz, classical, pop
Here in Warwick!
Call Cheri @ 978.544.3101

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Don’t Miss these March events

GUILD MEETING—March 5
FOOT CLINIC—March 8
ST. PATRICK’S DAY SUPPER AND CONCERT—March 16
HISTORICAL SOCIETY—March 20
Selectboard Minutes January 22, 2019

Members present: Lawrence Pruyne, James Erviti, Todd Dexter (arrived at 6:07 p.m.)

Others present: Town Coordinator David Young, Town Clerk and Town Secretary Rosa Fratangelo, BMAG Accountant Justin Cole, Treasurer Beth Gilgun, Moderator David Koester, Police Chief David Shoemaker, Fire Chief Ron Gates, Finance Committee members Clyde Perkins, Sr., Diana Noble, Olivier Flagollet, Laurette Crane, Highway Advisory Committee member Kevin Alden, HEART Committee member Tom Wyatt, Recreation Committee member Leanne Limoges, Cemetery Commissioner Jim Toth, School Committee members Sue O’Reilly McRae and Jessica Marshall, Constable George Day, Council on Aging members Betsy Lochhead and Carol Foote, Tax Collector Jessica Foote, Susan Wright, Clare Green, Anita Alden, Nathan Swartz, Adam Holloway

I. Call to Order

Chair Pruyne called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Town Hall.

II. Minutes

Erviti MOVED to accept the minutes of January 7, 2019 as printed. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

III. Presentations and Discussions

1. Ethics Exemption (MGL 268:20D)—Young explained that three of the newly appointed Finance Committee members need ethics exemptions because they also have other positions in

   Erviti MOVED to grant an MGL Chapter 268 Section 20D Ethics Exemption to Gregory Brodski so he may serve on the Finance Committee and the Conservation Commission; Laurette Crane so she may serve on the Finance Committee and the Cultural Council; Clyde Perkins, Sr. so he may serve on the Finance Committee and the Council on Aging. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 2-0-0.

2. BMAG Accounting Update—Justin Cole of BMAG spoke about his firm’s work as the Town’s Accountant. He started off by stating that the FY 18 closing of the books will be fully submitted to the DOR by February 1st. Cole noted that he will have to double check with the Treasurer to confirm a few transactions that may not have been entered correctly on the accounting end. He said that he hoped to get the FY 18 full and complete financials to our auditors by mid-February, once the State approves the balance sheet and Schedule A. Cole said that he would also provide this information to the Town. He explained that sometimes a change in the accountant will draw extra scrutiny from the DOR, but he expected about a two-week turn-around from the State once all paperwork and documentation has been submitted. Cole said that by the end of February he will release funds statements and reports to the departments with account numbers and balances. He said in future he plans to do this on a quarterly basis, along with a management summary. Dexter requested a monthly consolidated report of management summaries; Cole said that can be sent out a week after the month ends. Erviti inquired about WBS funds, which had been Funds 30 and 67 but much of 30 is for the Highway. Cole explained that now Fund 30 has to do with Chapter 90 for the Highway, and now the WBS capital account in Fund 31.

   Young asked about billing; Cole explained that there are ebbs and flows to the work, but as BMAG contracted for a certain amount of money, the contracted amount will not be exceeded. Erviti said that no one other than Cole has come to Warwick from BMAG and he wanted on-site visits on a more regular basis. Cole said that he interacts mostly with the Treasurer and Tax Collector and noted that he could alternate morning and afternoon hours to provide availability for most people. He said he would work with Young to determine the most convenient schedule with the best split of time.
Cole pointed out that the firm is available by telephone 40 hours per week (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday). Young said that he wanted that made known to all department heads. Cole wanted to make sure that all departments put the correct account number on the revenue paperwork turned into the Treasurer as this will streamline the posting of revenue. Clyde Perkins, Sr. said that he has had trouble obtaining information on how to submit bills and turn over revenue. Young explained both the revenue turnover and bill submission processes. Cole said that he will send the revenue account numbers so all departments will have the correct numbers. He said that he will also include a contact sheet for the firm, so people know whom to get a hold of if they have questions.

George Day asked about closing accounts; Cole stated that accounts are not closed without the express confirmation from the Town that the account can be closed.

3. Treasurer—Treasurer Beth Gilgun explained that we have spent over $500,000.00 on Chapter 90 roadwork and need to borrow short-term (6 months) at 2.65% interest. She said that the loan would run from January 28, 2019 to July 26, 2019. This needed to be done in anticipation of property tax revenues and Chapter 90 reimbursement from the State coming in before the note is due.

Erviti MOVED to sign the short-term borrowing papers. Dexter SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

Dexter MOVED to sign the Chapter 90 reimbursement documents for Mass DOT. Erviti SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

4. Warwick Police Department Report —Police Chief David Shoemaker said that there were almost twice as many motor vehicle accidents in 2018 compared to 2017: 27 in 2018; 15 or 16 in 2017. He said that cell phones and the comfort and quietness of modern cars may contribute to the driver being less connected to the road, which can contribute to accidents. The Chief noted that service calls went up by about 33% in 2018. He pointed out that the cruisers are getting older and require more repairs and service.

The Chief also spoke about the School Resource Officer (SRO) situation and how it may have a significant impact on the Police Department budget going forward. He explained that currently half the cost of an SRO is paid by Northfield and the other half by the District. Chief Shoemaker said that the position is a half-time position for a Northfield police officer without much presence at the elementary schools. He said that up for discussion now are the salary, job qualifications, MOU, and funding. The Chief noted that all four member towns’ police departments may be asked to equally fund the position, and he wants to sit down with the Finance Committee to discuss the potential increase to the PD budget. He stated that he sees the SRO as a huge asset and that he is a proponent of having this position filled. Young said that the School Committee sub committee would bring a recommendation to the full School Committee once details were worked out.

5. Finance Committee Update—Laurette Crane and Olivier Flagollet were sworn in by the Town Clerk. The Finance Committee’s first meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 24th at 7 p.m. Tom Wyatt reminded everyone about the joint meeting of Selectboard and Finance Committees of the four PVRSD towns on Monday, January 28th at 6:30 p.m.

6. Discussion of Projects and Goals of Departments, Boards and Commissions—Erviti asked if anyone had any specific goals or projects that they wished to make public at this time. Young said that WBS has will finish building broadband in the next year and is presently about 60-70% of the way there. Erviti said that there are currently 210 active subscribers. Jim Toth said that the Cemetery Commission needs to clearly define cemetery boundaries. He also wants to get the finances and the records in better shape. Highway Advisory Committee member Kevin Alden said that Northfield Road will be finished and that they will be applying for a grant for work on Wendell Road, as well as grants for other projects. Open Space Committee member Clare Green said that our Open Space plan has expired and needs to be reviewed and updated with assistance
from FRCOG. She said that a town survey will be done and once the plan is updated we will be eligible for grants.

7. Highway Department Personnel Policy—Erviti said that he was not yet prepared to proceed with this discussion. Dexter said that this was a topic of discussion at the last Highway Advisory Committee meeting. He said Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney now has a current copy of the Town’s Personnel Policy and pointed out that the supervisor of any department has to approve vacation time, so Delaney has to pre-approve vacation for his crew. Dexter said there was still more discussion to be had. He said that with regards to the cap on comp. time the maximum is 60 hours earned time and more must be gone over with Delaney and his crew. Erviti suggested written documentation that the personnel policy has been received and understood. Dexter noted that this is all based on Town policy, and that there has been no vote by the Highway Advisory Committee or Selectboard yet to change anything. He said that the committee will discuss this and make sure that Delaney fully understands every aspect of the policy.

8. HEART Committee Update—Wyatt said there were four issues on the revised District agreement, one of which is the definition of capital costs. He said that beginning in FY 2021 buildings, structures and structural systems exceeding $10,000.00 assessed to the Town that owns the building. Wyatt said with respect to capital costs for an elementary school in a town without one, that town is not responsible for the costs. Wyatt said that compensation for a town losing its elementary school would be up to $15,000.00 per year for three years to maintain the school until it is repurposed; after three years the District is no longer responsible for any costs. Erviti said that the “up to” must be well defined. Young said that there should be no “up to”, just define the specific length of time. Pruyne said that all reasonable costs should be borne by the District as the District agreement is written to apply for the next twenty to thirty years. Erviti reiterated that terms need to be much better defined that it is now, as it lacks crucial specificity such as an amount for year one.

Jessica Foote asked the Board members if WCS were to close, what the expectations are from this Board. Dexter said that the District estimated a $214,000 savings to close, but we have not come up with a definitive use for the building. Foote asked what the Board as a whole hoped to receive from the District; there was a consensus of the Board that they have nothing collectively decided at this time. When Foote asked what our town needs, Diana Noble said the Finance Committee could discuss the matter at their meeting later this week. She mentioned one year’s worth of insurance until the decision is made on how to repurpose the school. Noble suggested making whatever the Town is willing to do to keep WCS open far more attractive than what we would get if the school were to be closed. Erviti said that we have to come up with a number for the intangibles and to quantify the value the school has to our community that is way above and beyond the actual appraised value. Nathan Swartz suggested pursuing grants for education so that we may be able to support WCS ourselves. Dexter proposed exploring making WCS a charter school or a private school. Perkins said that it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that the District wants to close WCS. Sue O’Reilly McRae disagreed with this statement and noted that is also not a foregone conclusion with her a School Committee member. Noble said that she is concerned that this will become an “us against them” adversarial process. It was agreed that transportation and health insurance are the biggest costs to be looked at. Wyatt said that Gill/Montague has a definite interest in exploring everything from shared services to becoming a 6-town District. A planning committee to pursue eventual consolidation would consist of three people from each of the PVRSD towns, plus Gill and Montague, with one of those three being a School Committee member. Wyatt said that it could be about a two-year time frame if they really push it. Green asked if Mahar was a possibility; Pruyne said that by the end of March Mahar should complete the revision of its District agreement. Wyatt said that the Gill/Montague projected deficit was $700,000.00 which is less than PVRSD’s. Wyatt noted that in future District agreement revisions will be conducted every five years to avoid such long lapses as the one now being faced.
9. Discussion of Possible School Closures, District Finances, Building Lease and Related Topics—Young said that in 2011 the legal advice was even though the lease was not signed we would continue to abide by its terms. The old lease for the old building was signed by then Selectmen Dick Whiting, Paul Hadsel, Jr. and Larry Carey and was valid from 1991 to 2011. However, no new lease was signed when the WCS moved to the new building. Young said that in the 11 years he has worked here no Board has signed the lease, but the terms have been faithfully upheld, and the relationship continues on the expired lease. O’Reilly McRae said that no one has found a signed lease for Warwick or Leyden, but the legally required 180-day provision for notice under the lease was sent in order to cover all legal bases so the process would not be held up alter on should a signed lease be found. This notice states that the District will not lease the building as of September 1, 2019. Young said that the Finance Committee can look at costs to close the school and to apply it to keep it open, using real and believable numbers. Dexter read aloud the letter from the Board to DESE Commissioner Riley about potential WCS closure. Erviti wanted the language refined before it is sent.

10. Discussion to Consider Establishing an Account Earmarked for Supporting WCS—Clare Green proposed the creation of a donation account for WCS so that people who wish to make contributions to bring more funds to the School. She said that she believes that there is a larger community that would want to support our situation. Green pointed out that establishing such an account would send a strong message that we believe in the importance of our school and its value to the Town. When she asked for ideas about what to call the donation account, Laurie Crane suggested “SOS – Save Our School”.

Erviti said that he thought it appropriate to inform the public just where the money would go if WCS closes. Young suggested that a non-profit entity rather than the Town take and manage the donations. Tom Wyatt suggested Metcalf Chapel or the Arts Council. Pruyne will speak with Town Counsel for legal direction. Erviti said that there would have to be an MOU with a non-profit that specifies who handles the funds and how the money can be spent. Young mentioned the Foundation for Academic Excellence as a possibility.

11. Franklin County Emergency Communication System—There will be a county-wide meeting at Greenfield Community College on Thursday, January 31st at 7 p.m. entitled Options for the Future. Erviti, who will attend this meeting, explained that the options are sticking with the current County system of Shelburne Control, or going with the State for Dispatch. Erviti noted that both our Police and Fire Chiefs will also attend the meeting, and he will report back to the Selectboard with information from this meeting.

12. Selectboard Reports—Pruyne said that he attended a meeting at Mahar that included a discussion of Mahar’s new District agreement, which should be completed by this March. He said that that district is welcoming to the idea of Warwick joining their District and that we would not have any buy-in fee were we to join. Pruynes said that it would make some sense for us to pursue this option further. Young said that we would have to be sure not to buy into the District’s retirement history and start only once we have actually become a part of the District. There was a consensus of the Board to further investigate this possibility.

13. Coordinator Report—Young had nothing to add to his written report.

14. New and Other Business Unanticipated at Time of Meeting Posting — None.

15. Public Comment—None.

Adjournment

Erviti MOVED to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Draft Minutes of January 7, 2019  *Town Coordinator Report dated January 17, 2019  *Town of Warwick Personnel Policies  *Letter from Warwick Treasurer Beth Gilgun to PVRSD Director of Finance Tanya Gaylord dated January 16, 2019 RE: Calculation of Warwick’s liabilities as member town  *Email from David Young to Lawrence Pruyne dated January 16, 2019 RE: January 22 opportunity for boards to meet with new accountant and meet together
Selectboard Minutes February 4, 2019

Members present: Lawrence Pruyne, James Erviti, Todd Dexter

Others present: Town Coordinator David Young, Town Secretary Rosa Fratangelo, HEART Committee member Tom Wyatt, Finance Committee members Diana Noble and Laurette Crane, Adam Holloway, Max Marcus (Greenfield Recorder)

I. Call to Order

Chair Pruyne called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in the Town Hall right after the adjournment of the Joint Selectboard/Broadband Committee Meeting.

II. Minutes

Erviti MOVED to accept the minutes of January 22, 2019 as printed. Dexter SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

III. Presentations and Discussions

1. Highway Department—Dexter gave an update on the Highway Advisory Committee (HAC). He said that due to the lack of a quorum, the committee had not met since the last Selectboard meeting but will meet on Wednesday, February 6th. He said that comp. time is still an issue and said that Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney told the committee that he did not have a copy of the current Personnel Policy and was functioning off of a previous policy. Dexter said that he has since E-mailed Delaney a copy of the Personnel Policy and that now Delaney is operating under the current Town policy. Dexter noted that comp. time must be used within one year. Erviti pointed out that Delaney was at the Selectboard meetings when personnel policy revisions were discussed; Young concurred. Dexter said that HAC was developing a form to document that a person has received a copy of the Town’s Personnel Policy and understands it. He said once the form is finalized, he will bring it to the Selectboard. Evrivi said that a broad policy needs to be made that goes beyond just the Highway Department. Evrivi said that Highway crew member Brian Hubbard claimed to be unaware of two personal days allowed to him last year and that he wants them re-instated. Young noted that Hubbard was also present for personnel policy discussions regarding vacation time, and said that because Hubbard is a good employee, he recommended giving him the two days.

2. Review of Selectboard Letter to DESE Commissioner Jeff Riley—Erviti referred to the paragraph that begins with “For example, the District recently advertised” and characterized the argument set forth in that paragraph as pointless. He explained that it is always the case when there is a high cost per student in a District with low population and that cannot be compared to a higher population district. Erviti recommended eliminating the comparison and simply stating we have a low student population and the cost per student is very high. Adam Holloway said that DESE is already aware of this, and that what DESE wants is to hear how things can be fixed. He said don’t just complain but come up with fixes and solutions and advised to think about short-term and long-term goals.
Dexter said that he thought the Green Communities Grant be mentioned as a source of funds for the District, PVRS, Northfield and Warwick. He said that should WCS close the grant could be in jeopardy. Dexter pointed out that the energy cost savings and the grant funding of the work to make those savings possible reduces some expenses for the District. He also said that closing WCS would save the District about $214,000.00 but then it could be losing $250,000.00 grant and subsequent energy savings for the three schools. Young explained that Warwick’s money from the grant goes to PVRS and WCS while Northfield’s share goes to Northfield. He said that his understanding is that if WCS closes the PVRS Green Communities Grant funds are gone and the District would have to cover the costs of the necessary upgrades. Young also mentioned the net meter credits and the 20-year contract we have for 25% discount on electricity which includes the WCS building. Crane stressed that we emphasize asking for more time, and since the deficit is less than first thought, we should not be rushed. Noble said that budget cuts need to be made even if it will be painful District-wide. Young cautioned that a level service budget does not mean level funded. Noble said that the Finance Committee has met twice and drafted a memo on recommendations regarding possible closure of WCS as the first step in negotiations. She said that the Green Communities grant limits the ways in which the WCS building can be used. Noble stated that the District should pay maintenance and operating costs and the annual estimated total per year comes to $66,000.00. Erviti said that something needs to be included about the intangible costs associated with the loss of our school to make everyone aware that the cost of operations is far from the only cost to our Town.

Dexter said that he spoke with Representative Susannah Whipps, and that she and Representative Paul Mark, who represents Northfield, Bernardston and Leyden, will sit with the DESE Commissioner to discuss our concerns. He said that they are looking for letters to present to the Commissioner and to act on our behalf in asking for time to research the matter further and request that the Commissioner not exercise his power to close WCS right away. Dexter said that the letters, including the one from the Selectboard, will go to Boston on February 8th. Young said that we need more time, and that all the School Committee can agree on so far is not to cut anything. He said the school closures are at best a band-aid.

Tom Wyatt pointed out that the Town has spent more than $1,000,000.00 on the school which puts into perspective how heavily we have invested in our school. Erviti said that we must amplify just how good WCS is, especially in comparison to other PVRSD schools. Dexter said the letter from Jennifer Core Flagollet highlights that WCS is a Level One school with a newer and energy efficient building. Holloway said it should be noted that parents from Orange care enough about the quality of their children’s education to school choice them to Warwick and not merely bus them in but actually bring them to school every day. Young said that people from out of town choosing to provide transportation shows how much they value the education provided by WCS. Crane said that from a business perspective it makes no sense to close one of the best assets just to cut some costs. She also said that it seems Bernardston and Northfield are ready to support school closures. Holloway pointed out that our geography and topography are different and to put kindergartners on a long bus to Northfield is a bad idea. He said that smaller schools work better in our region and the bussing issue is just one reason for that. Noble said that the community changes when students are educated farther away from home, as they make friends and more of their life transitions further away as a result. Crane asked if anyone had considered taking this to a Federal level by writing to Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Young brought up the possibility of Warwick becoming a private school. Dexter stressed again that we need to get DESE to allow us the time to explore and investigate our various options and to make those options clear to DESE.

Pruyne said he will build more emphasis into the letter regarding what was discussed. Pruyne said that we received formal notification from the District announcing their intent to cancel our WCS lease effective September 1, 2019. He said that per Town Counsel, even though the lease has expired, it is still
in effect. Young said that the basis for this is precedent, and that our behaving as though it is still in effect since 2011 solidifies the precedent.

3. Update on January 28, 2019 Joint Selectboard/Finance Committee Meeting of PVRSD Towns — Wyatt asked about the Gill/Montague Planning Committee and what Warwick’s position was on participating on the six-town committee. Young suggested publicizing this on the “L” and in the newsletter to find people interested in being on the committee. Wyatt reminded everyone that one of the three members must be a School Committee member.

Erviti MOVED that Warwick agree to be a part of the Regional School District Planning Committee and seek three members from Warwick. Dexter SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

Pruyne said that in negotiations we need to suggest what will be acceptable to us. Erviti said that he felt the District Agreement was being written by those whose only interest is for the District and not its member towns. Young said that the School Committee is all about the District and only the District, and that the HEART Committee serves as a bridge between the District and its member towns. Erviti said that if the town is to pay an increased assessment, there must be *quid pro quo* where the District must also give and put forth a reduction in expenses as an example. Noble said that the PVRSD Finance Director is very precise and that corners of the budget are being chipped away while they look at many different ways to save money.

4. Discussion of School Closures, District Finances, Building Lease and Related Topics — Young said that over the past ten years all certified free cash, which averages $100,000.00 per year, has been used to reduce the tax levy. He said that this year we could vote to appropriate a portion of free cash to cover our share of another payment by member towns for the PVRSD school lunch debt. Young explained that this would be supplemental appropriation separate from our minimum contribution and assessment. Young noted that he was concerned the School Committee could squander the money on something else as there is no willingness to cut anything.

5. Execute Amendment 1 to the MBI Last Mile Grant Agreement — Young explained that this was a one-year extension to the existing contract with no additional cost to the Town. He said it was more time and not more money.

Erviti MOVED to authorize the Chair to sign Amendment 1 of the MBI Last Mile Agreement. Dexter SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0

6. Report on Franklin County Emergency Communication System: Options for the Future — Erviti said that he was not able to attend the meeting and noted that Police Chief Shoemaker and Fire Chief were also unable to be there. He said that Chief Gates was going to obtain the information from that meeting. Erviti pointed out that the meeting was informational, and nothing was actually decided.

7. Selectboard Reports — There were no reports given this meeting.

8. Coordinator Report — Young did not have a written report. He noted he will have hip replacement surgery on February 8th and expects to have a very limited work schedule for a while.

9. New and Other Business Unanticipated at Time of Meeting Posting — Holloway asked that the Selectboard please request that PVRSD Superintendent Scagel present what he will propose to DESE at a School Committee meeting. Wyatt said that there are meetings on February 12 and 14. Dexter said that he thought Holloway’s idea was good, and that the towns should be made aware of what Scagel will say to DESE on February 20th.

Dexter MOVED to send a letter to PVRSD Superintendent Jon Scagel requesting the disclosure of his intentions for what he will propose at the February 20, 2019 DESE meeting. Erviti SECONDED.
Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

10. Public Comment—None.

Adjournment

Erviti MOVED to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Dexter SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

Documents consulted at this meeting:
* Draft Minutes of January 22, 2019 Selectboard meeting
* Memo to Warwick Selectboard from Warwick Finance Committee dated February 4, 2019 RE: Compensation Recommendation regarding possible closure of WCS
* Draft letter to DESE Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley from Warwick Selectboard
* Letter to Warwick Selectboard from Sue O’Reilly-McRae dated January 28, 2019 RE: discontinuance of WCS lease by PVRSD
* Amendment 1 to the Last Mile Broadband Grant Agreement between Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and Town of Warwick
* PVRSD Tentative Agreement dated January 18, 2019
* PVRSD Gill/Montague Regionalization Study dated January 28, 2019