

Town of Warwick
Selectboard
November 26, 2018
Minutes

Members present: Lawrence Pruyne, Todd Dexter, James Erviti

Others present: Town Coordinator David Young, Town Clerk and Town Secretary Rosa Fratangelo, Treasurer Beth Gilgun, Buildings and Energy Committee Chair Janice Kurkoski, PVRSD School Committee and HEART Committee member Sue O'Reilly McRae, Erik Ross, Jon Calcari

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 November 13, 2018 as printed. Dexter SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

III. Presentations and Discussions

1. Selectboard Reorganization —This is usually done every time someone is elected or re-elected to the Selectboard. There was a consensus of the Board to keep things as they are, but where Todd Dexter is a newly elected member of the Board, an actual vote was the best course of action.

Erviti MOVED Lawrence Pruyne remain Chair, James Erviti remain Vice Chair and Todd Dexter be Clerk of the Selectboard. Pruyne SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

2. Signing of Green Communities Annual Report—Janice Kurkoski said that at the Buildings and Energy Committee meeting last week some narrative was added to the annual report. She explained the mandatory content for the annual report, which must be submitted electronically on or before December 3rd. Kurkoski said that the baseline year is 2013 because that is the year we became a Green Community, but they have been keeping track since 2007 and in that timespan our energy usage in municipal buildings has dropped about 50%. She noted that we can do better at WCS, and that the competitive grant will improve the numbers at WCS, Northfield elementary school and PVRSD. Prior to submission of the annual report, the first page must be signed by the

Selectboard Chair.

Dexter asked questions about heating in Town Hall and wanted to know if the systems currently in place are working suitably as designed and are sustainable. Young recommended not getting rid of the old furnace just to make more room in the basement. Dexter inquired about the focus on fuel usage in Town vehicles. Kurkoski explained that for the Highway Department fuel usage is often tied to storm events, and that was not within the purview of the Buildings and Energy Committee but rather that of Highway Superintendent Larry Delaney. She pointed out that until we reach 20% reduction in overall energy usage, we are eligible to apply for more grants.

Erviti MOVED to authorize Lawrence Pruyne as Chair to sign the Green Communities Annual Report. Dexter SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

3. Tax Classification Hearing—Pruyne called the tax classification hearing to order at its legally posted time of 6:30 p.m. Treasurer Beth Gilgun explained that the State requires there be a tax classification hearing before the tax rate is set for each fiscal year. She said that Warwick has only residential and agricultural properties, and that historically we have one classification which results in a single tax rate. Gilgun said the tax rate is \$21.24, which is lower than FY 18. No one had any comments on the tax rate.

Dexter MOVED to have a single tax rate for the Town of Warwick for FY 2019. Erviti SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

Pruyne closed the hearing at 6:34 p.m.

4. Update on Accounting—Young said that there was nothing to report, and that he hoped to have something to report at the next meeting.

5. Commercial Grow—Erik Ross of Hastings Heights Road said that he wants to get out of retail and the daily commute to Cambridge and is looking to make his land an income producing property. He said that he is in the very early stages of the process and has conducted a large amount of research. Ross said that it would be a family run business with no external changes made to the property. He said that the garage would be remodeled on the inside to convert the space to an indoor marijuana grow. Ross explained that there are strict requirements to be met, including an alarm system, security, a stock room, washing area and bathroom. He characterized this as a tier one micro business, and a grow-only facility that would not involve sales in town. Ross said that he must have a host/user agreement and hold an announced community outreach meeting with specific posting and hosting rules.

Ross reiterated that everything is still very preliminary at this point and that he wanted to come before the Board to answer any questions and find out how best to proceed. He noted that he wants to use community-based contractors and pointed out that all persons entering the restricted area will first have to undergo a thorough background check. Ross said that he wanted to consult

with Police Chief Shoemaker and have him do a site visit and get his input.

The subject of questions from the Board included power, HVAC, refrigeration, and plumbing. Dexter commented that the Cannabis Commission rules will dictate how the Town fits into the process. Young noted that at some point there needs to be a letter of non-opposition from the Town. He also said that Town Counsel should be consulted before such a letter is issued. Dexter said that he wanted to hear more about Ross's business plan and have more information on the logistics and legal aspects. Erviti also said that he wanted to see an actual business plan. There was a consensus of the Board to have Ross do more research and follow-up with respect to the issues raised and then contact Pruyne to be put on a future agenda for an update and further discussion.

6. Reminder of December 5 Forum PVRS, HEART Committee, Towns at 6:30 p.m.—The meeting will take place in the PVRS cafeteria. Young said that this is a very important meeting. Sue O'Reilly McRae said that the HEART Committee was looking for feedback from Selectboards before their next meeting in January. The Board members first addressed issues with Option 1 for the process to close a school. Erviti said that specific definitions were needed for the terms "extraordinary circumstances" and "feasibility study". He stated that the complete fiscal analysis must be done independently of the School Committee. Erviti said that a review of population trends would likely not prove helpful, and he wanted it specified in what ways the process for closing a school would include the Selectboard.

Pruyne said that a hearing should be held in the town directly impacted by a proposed school closing. Dexter asked in what way do they determine cost savings and the impact on the regional budget and the individual assessments to member towns. He also inquired what the exact meaning was of "educational organizational scheme" O'Reilly McRae said it refers to class size and how to restructure classes. It was suggested that clearer, plainer language be used. Young suggested replacing "complete fiscal analysis" with "comprehensive independent fiscal modeling". The Board wanted clarification on what the process would be and how the Selectboard would be involved when its Town's school is potentially being considered for closure. O'Reilly McRae said that there was nothing in the agreement about this and that our newest School Committee member Jessica Marshall brought it up by asking what the role of the Selectboard should be.

Pruyne noted that closure is defined as no longer assigning District students to a particular school. If no students are assigned, then the school is essentially closed. He wanted to know if a school is closed in a community and the students are forced to be bussed to another town, how will the Town get compensated for the loss of services and the reduction in real estate values. Pruyne wanted to know if there would be a reduction in that town's assessment. He wanted something in writing regarding consideration of the additional financial burden for a town whose school is closed. Dexter said that there needs to be clarity of how this is to be handled.

Turning to Option 2, Erviti said that the *ad hoc* School Closing Advisory Committee is useless and it either needs to be made more binding or gotten rid of. Dexter said that there should be

language that the School Committee take a vote on whether or not to act on the ad hoc committee recommendations. O'Reilly McRae said that the reality is the HEART Committee works solely in an advisory capacity and makes recommendations while the School Committee makes the decisions. She said that the objectionable language expresses a reality, and that the member towns appointed people to do the work that the School Committee did not do. Erviti said that there must be a more binding process, and that the percentage of School Committee vote to accept or reject recommendations. There was a consensus of the Board that language include School Committee vote on recommendations.

Pruyne want to further clarify the School Committee vote to close a school has representatives from at least three member towns voting for closure. O'Reilly McRae said that representation of all towns is assured. She said that she will type up what she has heard from the Board and send it to the Board members to verify before passing it along to the Consultant. O'Reilly McRae said that the December 5th meeting will be run by a facilitator.

7. Review of Personnel Policy on Personal Day Call-in and Possible Revisions—Erviti said that he needed a copy of the personnel policy handy. Young suggested putting this item on the next agenda. Dexter asked about the Highway's policy on salt usage. Young said that on Sunday the 25th he received four calls very early in the morning about icy roads. Dexter said that there needs to be a written policy, and that the Highway Advisory Committee needs to know what the Selectboard has done. Dexter then said that he had to abstain from any further discussion as he is also a member of the Highway Advisory Committee. Erviti said that the Highway crew is to use only salt on paved roads unless there are extraordinary circumstances. Young said that Larry Delaney should keep a simple journal reflecting the day time, conditions and what was done, so that everything is documented. He noted that the Board of Health sent letters to those with affected wells and only one party has had their well tested and as a result drilled a new well. Erviti said that data is needed to back up any anecdotal evidence. He said that the Highway workers are to reduce the amount of salt being used to the lowest amount to be effective for the conditions. He stressed that a mix of sand and salt was not to be used, as treated salt is more effective as a form of pre-treatment and it works at lower temperatures. Young pointed out that by not mixing salt and sand there was a reduction in the use of both salt and sand last winter.

8. Discussion and Scheduling of a Meeting of Board and Commission Heads—Pruyne said that he wants to hold this meeting sometime after the first of the year. Dexter suggested scheduling this meeting in January on a non-Selectboard meeting Monday at 6 p.m.

9. Selectboard Reports— None this meeting.

10. Coordinator Report—Young said that the District wanted us to spend \$7,000.00 for repairs to the WCS generator. He expressed concern over the District's willingness to have us spend such a large sum of money for a tune-up and attention to the starter. Young said that Steve Kurkoski and Roland Weld are looking at the generator.

11. New and Other Business Unanticipated at Time of Meeting Posting—Dexter said that he had approached Patty Lazok about serving on the Finance Committee. He said she expressed some interest and asked for a job description, so he Emailed her our Local Government Handbook. Dexter said that we need to rebuild the Finance Committee to make sure they will be heard, and their work respected and recognized for what they are worth. There was a shared hope among the Board members that some of the past Fin. Comm. Members may come back if new people also come on board and become an active force.

Young said that for the FY 20 Annual Town Meeting he will change the spreadsheet so that voters can see what was expended as well as appropriated and what is requested. He said that he will consult with Moderator David Koester, who is the appointing authority for the Finance Committee.

12. Public Comment—Dexter asked Young to please put something out on the Warwick-L to explain and update Broadband subscribers what is being done to correct the issues with WBS.

Adjournment

Erviti MOVED to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Dexter SECONDED. Motion CARRIED 3-0-0.

Documents consulted at this meeting:

*Draft Minutes of November 13, 2018

*Town Coordinator Report dated November 21, 2018

*Green Community Annual Report for Warwick

* Powers Guaranteed Generators proposal to repair WCS generator dated November 19, 2018

*MA Rural Plan Focus Areas dated November 14, 2018 from Linda Dunleavy

*Proposed changes to PVRSD Agreement Section IV Location and Lease of the Member Town Schools Option 1 (after 10/17/18 HEART Discussion

* Proposed changes to PVRSD Agreement Section IV Location and Lease of the Member Town Schools Option 2 (based on feedback from Warwick Selectboard)