

TOWN OF ACTON SELECT BOARD MEETING
January 17, 2024
6:00pm

MINUTES

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Winchell, Jr. called the meeting to order.

2. WARRANTS/BILLS

Signed.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Walsh made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Norwood. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Tabled

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR WEEKLY UPDATE

The foreclosure process has started for 2021 tax liens. There are 14 properties with 2021 outstanding taxes: of which, 10 are year-round residents. 30-day notices went out today, January 17.

The Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 5. The State is doing a semi-open Primary, which means if you are un-enrolled (not registered as a Democrat or Republican) you can walk up and declare one of the two parties, vote that day, and you do not need to enroll in a party. If you are enrolled in a party and you wish to change parties to take effect for the March Primary, you have until Friday, February 16, to make those changes. Notices have been posted. Norwood questioned Green Independent: Roux advised that is still a party in Maine. If you are Green Independent, you would not need to come to the March 5 Primary.

The speed trailer has been fixed. The Bluetooth was able to be connected and once pulled out of the snow, Deputy Sanborn will be able to test and put the speed trailer back to use. Norwood questioned the issue: Roux advised the tech repaired something on the motherboard, but additional discussion did not occur regarding the repair.

The Social Services request for funds deadline was this past Friday. All requests have been received and will be scanned and sent to the Warrant and Finance Committee for review, as well as copies for the Board.

6. DEPARTMENT HEAD / COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATES

Will Langley, Road Commissioner:

With the three storms back to back last week, the snow with rain, two pieces of road (shoulders) washed out. The Sam Page Road culvert got plugged and was cleaned up. County Road and Milton Mills Road had wash out that was cleaned up.

Winchell, Jr. advised of a meeting with a resident on Langley Shores regarding enlarging the culvert on the road. The resident would like to set up a meeting with Langley and Winchell, Jr., to further discuss what the town can do.

7. LIAISON UPDATES

McGurty: Municipal Management / Warrant & Finance, APAT, Cemetery

n/a

Walsh: Fire Department, Transfer Station, Lincoln School

Two applications were received for the open fire position: interviews should occur next week.

The pump truck is back in operation at the Fire Station.

We are pending budget information for the Lincoln School, from the Historical Society.

Norwood: School Department, Conservation / Forest, Mary Grant

The School Committee met last week with participation from the Warrant and Finance Committee Liaison.

Conservation and Forest Committee minutes were reviewed, and the next meeting has been scheduled for February 13.

The next Mary Grant Committee meeting will be this coming Saturday. Roux indicated there have been emails received from residents expressing interest in joining the Mary Grant Committee: those emails have been forwarded to Daniel to follow up.

Winchell: Roads & Road Committee, Recreation Committee

n/a

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Transfer Station Budget Information

Roux advised that last week, there was a discussion about account changes. The town hired Mark Roy with the full intention of using the Mark Roy budgeting system to get through this current budget process: he consolidated accounts as he saw fit for the town, and all the new, combined, accounts were provided to department heads for the budget process. Now that Mark Roy is no longer going to be working with the town, the Board needs to decide on which direction the town is going to work with regarding the accounts to complete the current budget process – either the Mark Roy “combined” accounts or the old TRIO “original” accounts. As of July 1, 2023, the town inputted the budget as passed by the voters as individual lines. Mark Roy combined up to ten lines into the “hauling” line. To complete the current budget season, the town will continue to use the original TRIO accounts. This means that the department budgets are going to be transferred back to the TRIO accounts. The bottom line will not change.

Per last weeks discussion, there were questions about what was included in the Mark Roy hauling account for the Transfer Station. Hauling included the compactor, Pine Tree Waste, equipment repair, hauling, demo hauling, universal waste hauling, Punsky’s, metal, paper, glass, shingles, etc. Updated sheets with the original TRIO accounts will be provided to the department heads once this is resolved. There were also questions

regarding account 42-7680: after looking into this line item, this was found to be the special article, Article 29, from last year's Town Meeting: voters approved \$10,000 for the two containers for the Transfer Station. This will be a \$0 budget line as the town has spent that money already on the two containers.

Roux apologized for the back and forth regarding the budgets and announced after the last budget presentations are complete, new budget sheets will be provided, based on the TRIO accounts.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Presentations

- Recreation

Roux advised she spoke with Sam Singleton, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Anne, a new member of the Recreation Committee, agreed to come to present the budget. The Rec Director did not use Mark Roy or TRIO accounts for the budget proposal: Roux provided the 2023 budget proposal to compare to the 2024 proposed budget proposal.

Anne reviewed the budget changes.

Norwood addressed questions regarding the budget: Is the Rec Director keeping track of how long items are lasting (i.e. length of use of soccer nets)? Anne indicated some nets are the incorrect size and need to be remedied. Norwood also asked questions about tournaments and new programs that have not been brought to the Select Board. Roux advised Anne that the Rec Director was asked to focus on the current sports and not add new sports. Winchell, Jr. was present at the budget prep meeting with the Warrant & Finance Liaison and asked that non-essential items be put aside on a wish-list, and that we look at outsourcing sports to other areas such as Sanford on an as needed basis (i.e. Babe Ruth Baseball and Swimming).

Leslie Berlan, Warrant and Finance Committee

Berlan advised per the meeting with Denekamp and the Rec Committee, the proposal was not updated as requested and wish list items. Roux advised that it may have been updated prior to being provided to Warrant and Finance. Berlan confirmed that wish list items were requested to be removed. Under Concession, there is an amount for the "Start Up" cost but not for expected revenue. Berlan also questioned if anyone is certified in SafeServe.

- Zoning Articles

Jason Sevigny, CEO, on behalf of the Planning Board Chair.

Sevigny addressed changes to Zoning Ordinance Articles. Winchell, Jr. questioned the use of "Resource Protection Districts." Winchell, Jr. continued indicated that Acton has Resource Protection Districts all over the town. Sevigny understands and indicates that this was verbiage provided by the Planning Board. Roux questioned how this was going to be enforced as no consequences are provided in the ordinance. Sevigny advised that the situation would need to be remedied and fines would be involved. Walsh questioned if the state law was like this. Sevigny advised there is no state law, but simply guidance on how to proceed.

Winchell, Jr. advised it is difficult to vote for zoning that cant be enforced.

Charlie Hydek, Warrant and Finance Committee

With regards to enforceability, there should be text identifying this as a nuisance. Also, added text, “no person shall bury, or permit burial of any animal, etc.”

Dennis Long, addressed the wording “any animal” and indicated that this doesn’t seem to be feasible to enforce.

B. Milton Mills School Traffic

Norwood advised that there has been discussion regarding after school pick up where traffic is backed up in both directions. Some School Board members are looking at solutions to make this safer. Should conversations be addressed to the DOT directly or should the School Board ask the Town to start discussions with the state. What is the best way to proceed to try to address safety concerns. Winchell, Jr. suggested the school develop a subcommittee to complete some research and hold discussions on options for the school: also suggesting reaching out to the Scarborough DOT office to discuss concerns.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

n/a

Norwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Walsh. All in favor. Motion carried.

11. PENDING

- A. Sealed Bid – Old Fire Station Items
- B. Mooring Ordinance
- C. Old Fire Station RFP - 01/24/2024
- D. Meeting Hall / Kitchen Upgrade

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Website

13. MEMBERS PRESENT: David Winchell, Jr., Ed Walsh, Daniel Norwood, Jennifer Roux

14. ATTENDANCE: Will Langley, Leslie Berlan, Jason Sevigny, Anne (last name), Charlie Hydek, Dennis Long