

Select Board Minutes

Date: March 26, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Next Meeting: April 9, 2024

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Minutes: March 12th minutest were approved

Present: Dina Walker, Richard Doughty, Lisa Miller, Dan Demers, Dirk Walker, Rick & Sharon Davol, Keith Cochran, Stanley Wilcox, Becky Vining, Steve & Carol Conant, Lise Bofinger, David Conant, Debbie Smith, David Rackliffe

AGENDA ITEMS:

Department Heads:

Public Works:

Damage to the Byron Road, Temple Road, West Brook Road and Center Hill Road has been estimated at \$400,000. Dan Demers, Road Commissioner is work with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) in how to repair the roads and the cost associated. The West Brook could be up to a year before it is completely repaired.

The repair will be refund through FEMA, however in the meantime it has to be paid through the Town. Municipal Finance of these projects will be coming out of surplus.

Weld Recreation: N/A

Fire Department: Solar Eclipse

Corey Hutchinson, Fire Chief said that some of the Fire Department members have attended several meetings with Amanda Simoneau and Sara Bickford from the Franklin County Emergency Management Association and their primary concerns are safety. Their biggest concerns are people climbing areas that still have ice and snow and using inaccessible roads. Corey would like to see the number 6 road in Weld barricaded so traffic will not be on that road and become stuck.

Dan Demers, Road Commissioner said that he could block the road with a large rock for 1 lane traffic, however that would only keep the honest out.

Corey said that he would go all the way down to the brook trail and let them know that the trails are in bad shape. There is a Kisok at the beginning of the Brook Trail and they can put up a notice of the condition of the Brook Trail. Corey would also post a notice on the website. Damage to roads, snowmobile trails etc. and not intentionally doing wrong but lack of common sense. Those not familiar with this area don't realize that going on a frozen road in the morning that when they come back out it will be mud.

Lt. David Rackliffe said that on the Franklin County Sheriffs Department perspective the Town would be better to block the road off at the pavement. If people have to walk an additional 2 miles they may not go up on Tumbledown. David said that the County is expecting an additional 50,000 to 60,000 people to come into this area. There are not places to stay in Rangely, Stratton or Eustis.

The Wardens Service will be meeting with Corey tomorrow to talk about safety as well.

The Byron Road will be closed at the beginning of the road with baracades.

Old Business:

Update on Office Lighting Project – The materials have been ordered and they will start soon.

Update on Town Hall Floor Project - It has been delayed until April 19th

Update on Kennedy Bridge Project- Calderwood Engineering has been authorized to send out the bid package for the Kennedy Bridge on the Temple Road and time line to submit bids is 30 days. The plan now is that there will be a walking bridge with parking on each side of the bridge. Rental of a temporary bridge would need to be approved by the Town at a Town Meeting.

Update on Maine Dept of Labor Safety Compliance Inspections - Follow up with the DOL and most of them are corrected. The weight limit on the ceiling over the restroom for storage may be a serious one and come with a \$1,000 fine. If that is the case we can file an appeal within 15 days.

Update on Draft Personnel Policy to resume review and approval process at next SB Meeting -

MOTION TO RESOLVE: Selectboard to sign and approve Posting of Town of Weld Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance as adopted by Town Meeting dated March 9, 2024.

Although Town Meeting directed the SB to make modification to the current Weld Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance, so it would comply with the most current one approved by the State of Maine legislation our legal council advised us that it could not be done. The Town needs to adopt the Ordinance as it now stands so that it can go into effect and when there is a Special Town Meeting the changes can be made and adopted. The SB signed the Weld Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance as voted on at Town Meeting and Carol Cochran, Town Clerk will post it on the website.

Richard Doughty, SB Chair moved to sign the Weld Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance as adopted at Town Meeting and make the amendments proposed by the Town Attorney dated February 22, 2024 for proposal of adoption by Town Legislature at a Special Town Meeting. Lisa Miller, SB member 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously.

MOTION TO RESOLVE: Lisa Miller, SB member moved to sign and approve Posting of the Ordinance Establishing a Moratorium on Solar Farms and Large Commercial Structures. Dina Walker, SB member 2nd and it passed unanimously.

New Business:

Dec 2023 Storm Damage Repair Plan- Richard thanked Dan for the time that he put into the plan and work that he has done above and beyond his job.

Compile list of candidates for Solar Farm- Large Commercial Ordinance Committee, discuss schedule.

Richard Doughty, suggested that the SB put together a committee so they have info from others in addition to the Select Board.

Suggested Committee:

Secretary of Planning Board - Carol Conant

Mike Stephson – CEO

Dina Walker – Drafting the Ordinance

Laurie Pratt

Lisa Miller

Richard Doughty

The Planning Board, members of the Committee, and Select Board will be holding a public comment form.

There will be a draft sent out to the suggested committee and a date will be set and those on the Committee will be notified of the date.

A draft will be the first step and Richard Doughy indicated that they were starting from scratch.

The Committee has 6 months to work on this and Dina Walker will send out an email notifying those members of the date and a draft.

Update and discussion of Facilities Agreement

Dina Walker SB Member, said that the Facilities Agreement should be amend it so that there is no fee for birthday parties.

Richard Doughty SB Chair, said that he saw no need to change the facilities agreement. The SB can waive the fee if needed and that anyone holding a memorial service for a long-time resident would be one of those times that the fee be waived. If someone wants to hold a function in the Town Hall there is a fee associated with it.

Dina is suggesting that anyone who is a resident of Weld would be able use the Town Hall Fee, however they would need to have the Insurance which is cost \$100.

At this time there are not changes to the Facilities Agreement.

Dina Walker will come up with a draft to the Facilities Agreement.

MOTION TO ACCEPT - Richard Doughty, SB Chair, moved to accept donations through Weld Rec since January 2024 to date in the amount of \$2,414. Lisa Walker, SB member 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Lisa Miller Moved to adjourned, Dina 2nd the motion and it was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol J. Cochran, Town Clerk