

Minutes of December 22, 2020

Warren Selectboard

6:00 PM

Via Zoom

Members Present: Andrew Cunningham, Chair, Bob Ackland, Vice Chair, Luke Youmell & Randy Graves.

Members Absent: Camilla Behn.

Others Present: Jeff Campbell, Ruth Robbins, Dayna Lisaius, Hadley Laskowski (VR), Tony (TV 44/45), Andrew Bombard & Cindi Jones.

6:00 PM – Public Comment – None.

6:05 PM – Covid Update – Jeff Campbell –

Covid Report –

Total Cases: 6,608

Total probable Cases: 160

Currently Hospitalized: 36 with 9 in the ICU

Positive Active Cases in Washington County in the last 7 days: 61

Total Cases in Washington County since the beginning: 853

Deaths: 112 with 12 in the last 7 days.

Total People Tested: 255,097. Total Tests: 629,217

Tested in the last 7 days: 35,085.

Numbers of concern: Nationwide has 18,000,000. 4.5 million just in the month of December.

NY has 857,000 cases an increase of 73,000.

MA has 327,000 cases an increase of 33,000.

NH has 37,380 cases an increase of 5,600.

ME has 19,700 case an increase of 3,050.

Regional Case Growth 4.39% decrease in the new confirmed cases.

Governors Updates – None.

Relief Package: \$900 billion relief package will extend the \$300 weekly unemployment benefits for 10 weeks. Most Vermonters will get \$600 if they make less than \$75,000 a year and help for K-12 Schools.

Testing:

Testing remains a high priority. The State continues its on-demand testing with 15-17 sites a day throughout the state. There will be no testing sites open December 24, 25, and 31. Regular schedule will resume January 2nd. Weekend testing at Waitsfield Telecom should resume after the new year.

Testing continues to be offered almost daily in Barre, Northfield, Waterbury and Middlebury.

Vaccination Planning:

The vaccine shipments received by Vermont are limited, but arrive every week. The State hopes its weekly allotment will increase in January. The first Covid vaccines have been administered in Vermont, as part of phase 1a. The vaccines have been delivered to every hospital. Phase 1a includes front-line healthcare workers, such as EMS providers.

Hospitals receive the vaccines for this group, and make arrangements with their staff and nearby healthcare workers including home health aides and EMS providers. As vaccine administration continues into later phases, the eligible populations will expand. The details are still being worked out, but road crews and other essential municipal works will likely fall into phase 2, depending on their job responsibilities and their Covid risk. We will get out more information as soon as it is available. Those who choose to get vaccinated will receive their first shot and then a second 21 days later. The Department of Health is developing a vaccine resource page with specific vaccine information as its released.

Update on outbreaks and clusters:

There are currently 42 Total Active outbreaks, 57 have been resolved. There are currently 452 case among residents in Congregate Care & Living and 238 cases among the facility staff.

Cases: Current cases counts in the area as of 12/16/2020

Warren 12, Waitsfield 15, Moretown less than 5, Fayston less than 5 and Waterbury 56.

COOP Planning Update:

No update at this time.

Lastly, Mr. Campbell commented that on behalf of the Warren Fire Department, they would like to thank the VT Food Bank for there generous donation of 25 turkeys with the fixings to the Warren Fire Department. The department managed to pay them all forward with nearly half going to families in need at the Warren School and the balance being distributed to seniors and others in need throughout Warren.

6:50 PM – Highway Budget – Bob Ackland & Andrew Bombard - Changes in the highway budget were as follows: A reduction of \$10,000 in gravel, a 1.5 K reduction in Rental of excavator based on changes in the Capital Plan for lease/purchase and a \$1.5 K increase in signs and posts to cover needs as inventory is low. It is recommended to purchase the 550 truck as per the schedule in 2021 and it is recommended to purchase a Cat excavator with a lease to purchase, paying the lease fee in 2021 and closing out the lease in 2022. The John Deere backhoe would see much less usage and would extend the life for 5-7 years. Mr. Ackland commented that in the Capital Plan paying the lease fee of \$30,000 up front in 2021 and then paying the \$161,500.00 balance in 2022 would be less of an impact on the Town Voters for the year 2021. The German Flats Road would be budgeted for doing culverts and drainage and let settle for a year prior to paving per the Pike salesperson making a better paving surface. GSI will come back in 2021 and do a warranty repair on one of the slides on the Access Road. Pike will meet with the Road Foreman in January to look at all the paved roads and establish a schedule and cost of paving in the future. No paving will be done in 2021 pushing the scheduled roads out for another year. Mr. Bombard will research more on the lease/purchase of excavators, looking at each manufacturers warranty and confer with Mr. Ackland on what would be the best option.

6:45 PM – Planning Commission Budget – Ms. Robbins- presented her both budgets for the DRB and Planning Commission. She commented that she has reduced her budget from previous year. She commented that she has two excellent people doing the Planning Assistant job. One is doing minutes for the DRB and PC doing an excellent job and one that has been an asset to cleaning, organizing and maintain the Zoning files to proficiency.

The Planning Commission has been working hard and diligently on the Land Use Development Regulations to get them completed. As per last meeting there is bog down with the Conservation Commission, the Consultant and the State on what maps should be considered to make the land use regulations enforceable regarding conservation issues. The Planning Commission have spent a lot of time on this and there is still some confusion on what the Conservation Commission looking for? It was recommended that a meeting with the Consultant, the State and the representative of the Conservation Commission to iron out what should be use, which maps are better and come to a compromise. It would require more money separate from the Planning Grant to accomplish this. The Selectboard agreed that the extra money for this important issue can come out of the Town Planning & Capital Account. Mr. Graves commented that the Planning Commission has been very carefully in using the terms "Shall and Will" directing the Consultant to what the Planning Commission Wants. Ms. Robbins will forward the completed working draft of the Land Use Development Regulations for the Selectboard to review and ask questions as it is a very long document, more organized, more efficient easier to read, than the current Regulations that will take some time to read and digest.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the Planning Commission was looking at the new Marijuana laws which are retail sales currently. Mr. Ackland commented that growing, distribution, and processing was not part of law but it is a question to be asked and considered. Ms. Robbins was not sure on if it would be treated differently or be under agriculture which the state needs to define it more between agriculture and commercialization. The State needs to distinguish or classify if in fact that is marijuana agriculture. Mr. Graves commented that the Planning Commission has not looked at this in the rewrite. This a valid question concerning the re-write and the future. Mr. Ackland commented that all the Towns would have to opt into retail sales on Marijuana that would be an article on the warnings. (Bob was this to happen this year as an article) The board had no further questions regarding the budget.

7:30 PM- Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2020 – Motion by Mr. Youmell to approve the Minutes of December 15, 2020, second by Mr. Graves. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

7:31 PM – Approval of Accounts Payable Warrants – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants as presented for \$12,247.10, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

7:32 PM – Approval of Payroll Warrants – Motion by Mr. Ackland to approve the Payroll Warrants as presented for \$16,257.72, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

7:35 PM – Motion by Mr. Cunningham to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel inviting Ms. Lisaius and Ms. Jones, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

7:59 PM – Motion by Mr. Ackland to come out of executive session, second by Mr. Youmell. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

Other Business:

8:00 PM – Schedule a BCA meeting to abate the Town of Warren taxes on the Pope Property acquired by the Town through tax sale prior to the December 29, 2020 Selectboard meeting.

Next Selectboard meeting dates: December 29, 2020 and January 12, 2021.

8:01 PM – Motion by Mr. Ackland to move \$239,200.00 from the general highway budget paving account to the Capital Paving Account, second by Mr. Graves. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

8:05 PM - Motion by Mr. Ackland to adjourn, second by Mr. Graves. All in Favor: VOTE: 4-0.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Cindi Jones, Warren Town Administrator

The Warren Selectboard

Andrew Cunningham, Chair

Bob Ackland, Vice Chair

Luke Youmell

Randy Graves

Camilla Behn

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