

Minutes of February 5, 2025 Meeting

Warren Select Board

6:30 PM

Members Present: Camilla Behn, Andrew Cunningham, Vice Chair; Devin Klein Corrigan; Kalee Whitehouse; Luke Youmell, Chair

Staff Present: Rebecca Campbell, Town Administrator

Others Present: David C, Mary Gow, Peter Hayes, Jim Sanford, Jessica Washington, Jim Crafts, Josie Klein

Public Comment

Nobody requested time to provide comments.

Agenda Changes

No changes were made to the agenda.

Town Garage Discussion

Mr. Cunningham explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Town Garage project, including consideration of input provided at the recent public presentation about the plans. Goals for this discussion included providing input for the steering committee, compiling questions for the consultants, and proposing ways in which costs can be cut.

Ms. Whitehouse had looked into what is required to proceed with holding a bond vote for the Garage, and reported that the first step is to connect with bond counsel, after which an application may be submitted. She explained that an interest rate will not be determined until the money is received, but that an estimate is provided earlier, and she was able to provide some general financial information regarding the impacts of taking on a \$12M bond. One recommendation she received was to investigate strategies for splitting the costs, such as using an energy loan to change some of the financing and break up the total. There is also grant potential for the salt shed, although it was acknowledged that that status of current and upcoming Federal grants programs is uncertain at this point.

Some of the equipment specified in the proposed plan was reviewed, with agreement that items such as the kitchen equipment can be altered to serve the same purpose at a lower cost, and it being noted that there are several redundancies and inclusion of a large amount of contingency funds in the proposal. A list of potential savings which had been provided by WLA was reviewed. The potential to consider the rehabilitation of the current garage site as a separate project was commented upon favorably.

The logistics and timing of a bond vote were discussed, with it being agreed that holding an informational meeting at Town Meeting and subsequently planning for a bond vote is the best approach.

After several of those present voiced concerns regarding the traffic impacts at the Vaughn Brown/Route 100 and Main Street/Route 100 intersections, Board members provided some explanations of the need for VTrans involvement in any changes to speed limits or intersection configurations. They also explained that the new location will provide for less of an impact at the Main Street intersection, as there will no longer be delivery trucks visiting the current garage location and the sight lines for Town trucks exiting Vaughn Brown Road are better than those at Main Street.

There was also some discussion of the efforts over several years to locate a property at which to site the garage, and it was explained that no other parcel had been available for sale that fit the Town's needs for this purpose.

Board members delineated tasks to be taken on by individuals as further work on cost reduction, planning for a bond vote, and other aspects of the project unfold.

It was agreed to pursue the option presented as 'B' in the plans, with the road generally following the current access road's route.

In response to comments provided by Ms. Washington, regarding ways to get a better understanding of 'big picture' ideas for Warren's future, Mr. Sanford indicated that the list of topics created during last spring's town charette will be posted to the Planning Commission's section of the Town website.

Administrative Items

MOTION: *A motion to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2025 passed with Mr. Youmell abstaining.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$81,561.97 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$14,496.52 passed unanimously.*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Chamberlin

The Warren Selectboard

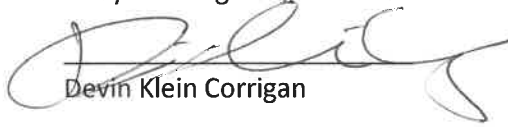
Luke Youmell, Chair



Camilla Behn


Kalee Whitehouse

Andy Cunningham, Vice Chair


Devin Klein Corrigan