

Minutes of February 10, 2026 Meeting
Warren Select Board
-draft-

Members Present: Camilla Behn, Devin Klein Corrigan, Joel Taplin, Kalee Whitehouse

Staff Present: Jeff Campbell, Fire Chief; Rebecca Campbell, Town Administrator

Others Present: Patti Begin, Kevin Begin, Perry Bigelow, Jim Crafts, Andy Cunningham, Tim Holter, Grace Holter, Josie Klein, Charlie Kahle, Ben Olds, Quayl Rewinski, Alice Rodgers, Stacey Weston, Tristan Whitehouse

Ms. Klein Corrigan called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in person at the Warren Town Offices and online via Zoom.

Public Comment

Mr. Bigelow inquired about the number of STR registrations received; Ms. Campbell indicated that approximately 6-8 payments are coming in each day.

Ms. Whitehouse requested that signage be placed to warn drivers of the frost heaves Dump Road; Ms. Campbell noted that there may not be enough signs available, and that the temporary signs create problems when snow needs to be plowed.

Agenda Changes

The Town Hall proposal from Janet Dandrige was removed from the agenda.

Mad River Valley Recreation District – Board Member Appointment

Alice Rodgers introduced Stacy Weston, and Ms. Weston provided some background information about herself and her interest in serving on the Recreation District Board.

MOTION: *Ms. Behn moved to appoint Stacy Weston as a Warren representative to the Mad River Valley Recreation District. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blake, and passed unanimously.*

Treasurer Appointment

Ms. Campbell explained that three people had expressed interest in being appointed to the Treasurer positions, that the Board members had reviewed the applications, and that Patti Begin was the preferred candidate. Ms. Begin confirmed that she had submitted a petition to be placed on the Town Meeting Day ballot for the position.

MOTION: *Mr. Blake moved to appoint Patti Begin to an Interim Treasurer position, as a contractor, for 19.5 hours per week until Town Meeting Day. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whitehouse, and passed unanimously.*

Capital Budget Discussion

Mr. Blake proposed using existing Town Improvement funds to pay in part for sidewalk repair, or to use a portion of the current Paving fund balance in the coming year, and to therefore reduce the related amounts of contributions to Capital Funds which are included in the approved Budget. It was confirmed that, if the Board decides to proceed with this plan, it will need to be presented as an amendment to the Budget at Town Meeting.

Board members expressed caution regarding drawing down Capital Reserve accounts, noting that the Board has in recent years been able to establish and maintain healthy fund balances, which has proven to be beneficial when unforeseen expenses arise.

Upcoming bridge repair work was discussed, with general agreement that this should not be postponed, particularly as this work is likely to become more expensive if delayed.

Andy Cunningham suggested that the past ten years of Capital Fund history be reviewed before further consideration of a reduction to the proposed reserve contribution amounts.

Ms. Behn and Ms. Klein Corrigan indicated a preference for using existing funds for bridge repair, potentially bolstered by grant funding, rather than for sidewalk (Town Improvements) or paving expenses. There was some discussion of level funding of the Bridge account, which would be a \$25K contribution, as well as it being noted that level funding of reserves is not sufficient at times of rapidly increasing expenses.

MOTION: *Mr. Blake moved to offer an amendment at Town Meeting to reduce capital funding allocations by \$195K, and to use existing funds to complete bridge repair work this summer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Behn, and after further discussion, the motion was tabled until the next Selectboard meeting.*

Ms. Whitehouse indicated that she would like to present ten years' worth of Capital Funds history at Town Meeting.

Fourth of July Discussion

Ben Olds was present to review Fourth of July plans with the Board. He began by explaining that, due to George Dorsey's having booked The Grift to play on the Warren Store balcony following the parade, a decision was needed regarding providing for Jewel House to play at the event. He outlined four options, noting those options that were not supported by either Mr. Dorsey or by members of Jewel House. Tim Holter was present, and spoke on behalf of Jewel House, indicating that they would be comfortable with setting up and playing at the municipal lot, and letting events unfold at the Store as Mr. Dorsey has planned. Mr. Olds noted that he would confer with the bands regarding whether to play simultaneously or sequentially.

Mr. Campbell indicated that the Fire Department volunteers are willing to park at the Town Garage for the day, freeing up some parking in the municipal lot for handicapped accessibility, as well as room for food vendors to be located there. It was agreed that it is essential to provide handicap parking at the lot, and discussed that it might be best to arrange for this to be near the library, so that the southern exit of the lot may be used once the parade is over and people are in the lot for music and food. Mr. Campbell also pointed out that it is not possible to close both Main Street and Flatiron Road at the same time, as there was some discussion of locating food vendors along Flatiron Road. Mr. Olds will map out food vendors and parking at the municipal lot.

It was reviewed that this year there is effort being put into having more activities up at Brooks Field, but that, as it is being approached as a transition year, it would be best to keep the band(s) and dancing in the Village. There was some discussion of what activities might be in place to draw parade attendees up to the Field, and suggested that it would be a good opportunity for local non-profit organizations to sponsor activities and have a venue for promoting their work and meeting with the community.

Other Business

Bond Anticipation Note Signatures

Ms. Campbell explained that this note would provide interim funding for architectural work, and that it is also possible to use Town Planning funds for this purpose and subsequently replenish that account with bond funds. She confirmed that the note can be signed but not drawn on.

MOTION: *Mr. Blake moved to approve signing a Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of \$150K at an interest rate of 4.25% per annum. The motion was seconded by Ms. Whitehouse, and passed unanimously.*

Sullivan and Powers Audit Engagement Letter

Mr. Blake reported that he had read the document and had no concerns to be noted.

MOTION: *Ms. Behn moved to approve the Audit Engagement Letter from Sullivan and Powers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blake, and passed unanimously.*

Weimann Lamphere Engagement Letter for Municipal Building Space Planning

Board members expressed concern with the cost of the proposal which had been submitted, at \$14K. It was agreed to inquire what level of services Weimann Lamphere would be able to provide for a cost of \$7K - \$8K. Ms. Klein Corrigan will discuss this with the firm.

Friends of the Mad River Grant Support Letter

Friends of the Mad River had requested an updated letter of support for a grant application to be resubmitted for the Hanks Road culvert work. Ms. Campbell will update the previous letter for submission.

Property Management Proposals

Mr. Blake reported on conversations he had with Chad and Pat of KMK Services, and with Lucas of Yukon Property Services. He made note of KMK's ticketing system for dispatching an employee to address needs reported by the Town, and also outlined some of the similarities between the two providers. Both proposals are set up to equate the \$50K base amount for services to a number of hours. As there is further information to be provided by Yukon Services, it was agreed to postpone a decision until that information has been received.

Reappraisal Information

Ms. Campbell and Mr. Blake reported on information provided by NEMRC regarding impacts of the reappraisal on the Grand List, property taxes, and the Town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). Mr. Blake indicated that he will be gathering further information, and will draft educational material to be provided at Town Meeting so that residents can better understand these matters.

LUDR Public Hearing

Ms. Behn outlined the format of the upcoming Hearing.

Administrative Items

MOTION: *A motion to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$182,462.38 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of \$39,242.81 passed unanimously.*

Form PDR4155, indicating there are no appeals pending from the actions of the Listers and no suits pending related to the Grand List for the years 2020-2025, was signed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Chamberlin

The Warren Selectboard

Devin Klein Corrigan, Chair

Camilla Behn, Vice Chair

Kalee Whitehouse

Joel Taplin

Harvey Blake