Minutes of October 27, 2026 Meeting
Warren Select Board

Members Present: Harvey Blake, Devin Klein Corrigan, Jeremiah Kemp, Joel Taplin
Staff Present: Patti Begin, Town Treasurer; Rebecca Campbell, Town Administrator
Others Present: Michelle Bennett (Planning Commission), Perry Bigelow, , Jim Crafts, (MRVTV), Debbie Wilson, Nathan Wilson

Ms. Klein Corrigan called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held in person at the Warren Town Offices and online via Zoom.

Ms. Klein Corrigan asked that the meeting begin with a moment of silence to acknowledge the death of Grace Dunbar, a Harwood student from Duxbury, in an auto accident in Warren.

Public Comment

Nathan and Debbie Wilson were present to provide feedback on their frustration with the STR registration process, indicating that they continue to receive threatening letters after clarifying with the STR Administrator that they never rent for more than 14 days in one year. Ms. Klein Corrigan acknowledged that the software being used has been problematic and that better solutions are being investigated. She apologized for the frustration experienced and indicated she would follow up with the STR Administrator.

It was clarified for Perry Bigelow that the Board continues to explore other software options, but that a decision has not yet been made.

Agenda Changes

Consideration of opting in to Tier 1B status was added under Other Business.

Brooks Recreation Field Sign & Language Approval

Ms. Klein Corrigan outlined that this sign was proposed to be located at the entrance to the field and other recreation features, placed on the corner of the field to be seen when turning right toward the field and away from the school. A couple of changes were agreed upon for the contents of the sign:

- Change the first line to be a 'Welcome' sign rather than a 'Welcome and Liability' sign
- Change the contact information to be simply the Town of Warren, rather than stating the Department of Public Works and providing the Town Highway's phone number

It will be confirmed that the funds for this sign are coming from the Rec Department's budget.

Town Hall Steps Bid Extension

The one bid received included synthetic decking material in the specifications, which had been agreed by the Board was not an option as this material is slippery when wet. Hardwood had been specified in the RFP. It was agreed to extend the bid deadline again, to December 4, 2026, with the intent that the work will be undertaken in the Spring of 2027. Further details will be requested of the one bidder who submitted a proposal.

Quarter 3 Budget Review

Mr. Blake reviewed budget expenditures for the third quarter, highlighting some Road Department line items; the Board then reviewed department level overages and underages. Ms. Begin outlined what is included in 'Other Expenditures.' It was discussed that some lines should be presented in these reviews as the amount to be expended, rather than the net amount budgeted, as related income is not necessarily reflected in the quarterly reports. Additionally, some line items are not spent equally throughout the year, and that can cause some lines to be somewhat significantly under or over, when at

the year's end they are likely to be closer to the budgeted amount. There was some discussion of the need to clarify the difference between employee benefits and health insurance coverage expenses, along with following up on some of the other topics raised.

Preliminary 2027 Budget Discussion

It was agreed that the items noted to be clarified in the spreadsheet/report will be reviewed and necessary adjustments made. Budget information will then be sent to each department with a request for a budget proposal for 2027.

Ms. Klein Corrigan announced that this would be Mr. Blake's last meeting, as he needs to resign from the Board, and asked him to provide suggestions regarding what detail/format would best present budget information to the public. Mr. Blake spoke of the benefits of continued regular review, as it provides increased familiarity with the details of the data. It was discussed that presentation of a summary, with some supporting dialog, and details of those budget areas that typically are requested at Town Meeting, would be the most suitable approach. It was agreed to post the summaries of each quarter as they are reviewed by the Board.

There was then a discussion of the potential to implement a LOT tax, with it being agreed that the timeline is too short to allow for a vote on a LOT at Town Meeting, but that the Meeting would be an opportunity to present information and receive feedback from residents. Mr. Taplin and Mr. Crafts will be consulting with Joshua Schwartz (MRVPD) regarding projected LOT receipt details for Warren.

Ms. Klein Corrigan thanked Mr. Blake for his efforts during his time on the Board.

Pavilion Sign Approval

Mr. Taplin offered some suggestions for changes to the text/layout of the sign. Mr. Kemp joined the meeting at this point. It was indicated that the sign would likely be placed on the header beam at the ramp access, and agreed that the sign could be scaled down, if necessary, in order to appropriately fit in that location.

MOTION: *Mr. Taplin moved to approve the sign with the design changes proposed, and conditioned upon it fitting on the planned beam correctly. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kemp, and passed with Ms. Klein Corrigan abstaining.*

Other Business

Tier 1B Opt-In Resolution – Ms. Klein Corrigan read the text of the Resolution; Ms. Bennett explained that this option provides for no Act 250 review for development proposals of 50 or fewer housing or mixed use units on parcels of ten acres or less in the Village.

MOTION: *Mr. Taplin moved to approve the Tier 1B Resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blake, and passed unanimously.*

VIA Contract Proposal – This proposal is for a community visioning process to take place to provide input when planning for the future of the Town Hall building. The Board asked that the community become engaged with the activities outlined, including scavenger hunts and community meetings. It was discussed that there are ARPA funds designated for this project, and that follow up is needed regarding other funding sources for the contract.

MOTION: *Mr. Blake moved to approve the contract with VIA in the amount of $27,220, contingent upon clarification of the funding sources. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taplin, and passed unanimously.*

Approve Remaining Bond Loan Amount – The Board reviewed with Ms. Campbell the amounts currently owed for the Garage Project, the current balance remaining on the project's budget, and other financial information. Ms. Campbell also reported on options discussed with the Bond Bank, and the logistics of

those options were outlined. It was agreed to look at this information in detail before determining the amount to bond for, with the Bond Bank application due in mid-November, and also to discuss potential changes to the bond anticipation note held through Northfield Savings Bank.

Town Garage Update – It was reported that the project is progressing well with final completion anticipated in March 2027. The fire pond strainer is yet to be installed, and work continues on locating a suitable well site before drilling a second time.

Poison Trap Literature – Ms. Klein Corrigan provided some literature related to poison traps and their impact on the food chain, noting she would like to bring this to Rootswork's attention, as they have traps outside the schoolhouse building. Other members voiced support for disseminating this information.

Administrative Items

Ms. Klein Corrigan recognized that Whitney Tree Service had donated time for removal of several small trees at the Elementary School, and thanked Adam and Marilyn for providing this $1200 value to the Town.

MOTION: *A motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2026 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of $32,770.74 passed unanimously.*

Executive Session – Personnel

MOTION: *A motion to enter Executive Session for a Personnel matter passed unanimously.*

The meeting entered Executive Session at 8:30 pm and returned to open session at 9:06 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Chamberlin

The Warren Selectboard

Devin Klein Corrigan, Chair

Joel Taplin, Vice Chair

Harvey Blake

Jeremiah Kemp