

TOWN OF WARNER



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February 2, 2021

Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED – Work Session Minutes

No physical location for this meeting; it was conducted via Zoom.

1. PREAMBLE

Read by Chairman Clyde Carson: Good Afternoon, as Chair of the Select Board, I am declaring a state of emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, iii (b). Federal, State, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of Town of Warner government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location. At this time, I welcome members of the public access the meeting remotely. The usual rules of conduct and decorum apply. Please note that all votes at this meeting will be done by roll call.

2. ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE

Chairman Carson took roll of Select Board members. ROLL CALL: Clyde Carson, 1 other person in residence; Jonathan Lord, alone; Sam Bower, four others in residence.

Also present: Rebecca Courser, member of Kearsarge Justice Alliance; Sherry Gould; Emily Karmen; Andrew Bullock, Director of the NH Indian Museum; Ray Martin, Town Moderator/President of Warner Fall Foliage Festival (WFFF); David Karrick; Abigail Strauss; Margaret "Annie" Kennedy, State Representative; Sarah Hansen; David Bates; Ken Cogswell; William Dragon; Lynn Clark, Executive Director of the Warner Historical Society; Police Chief William Chandler; Kelly Henley, Bookkeeper; Marianne Howlett, Tax Collector; Diane Ricciardelli, Town Administrator; Judith Newman-Rogers, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen; and Ray Carbone, Recording Secretary.

3. APPOINTMENTS

- a. Rebecca Courser: Changing the name of the holiday Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day. Courser thanked the Board for listening to the proposal to designate the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, rather than Columbus Day. She made some initial remarks, then introduced Sherry Gould, Emily Karmen, and Andrew Bullock, Director of the Warner Indian Museum, who read individual statements supporting the proposed name change. **[Statements attached]**

Speaking on behalf of the Warner Fall Foliage Festival (WFFF), Ray Martin noted that the WFFF never promotes the idea that its three-day event is held during Columbus Day Weekend, because people could think there are activities on the Monday holiday, when all events are held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Martin said the WFFF would be glad to partner with the Warner Indian Museum on holding activities during the fair related to indigenous peoples.

The Select Board indicated that it would be open to consider changing the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day, but Chairman Carson suggested that the group take up the proposal at its next regularly scheduled meeting later this month. In the ensuing weeks, others in the community can consider the idea and offer thoughts at that meeting.

- b. Town Moderator Ray Martin: Town Meeting/Election Day Update

Martin said that due to problems related to the coronavirus pandemic, the NH State Legislature recently passed a law that permits local municipalities to have more flexibility regarding the date, time and method of the annual Town Meeting, specifically what's generally referred to as the "business" session (when residents gather to vote on the Town budget as well as other warrant articles), and the "voting day" session, when residents vote on choosing officers, zoning amendments and the Kearsarge Regional School District ballot in a secret ballot vote on the second specific Tuesday in March.

Martin said that the NH Secretary of State's office has not provided any specific guidelines yet about alternate ways of holding the meetings, but some suggestions offered by the NH Municipal Association are "very onerous." He noted that the Board of Selectmen have the authority to change the date/location/time of either parts of the annual Town Meeting.

Based on the Town's success in handling the local primary and national elections, Martin suggested that the date of the Election Day session could be held as currently planned on Tuesday, March 9. However, he suggested that the Business portion of the meeting, currently scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, be changed to a later date; that would allow it to be held outside where the recommended social distancing will be easier to maintain. Martin noted Saturday, May 1, at 9 a.m., could be a good date and that the Board of Selectmen can change the time/date/location of the session as close to two hours before it is scheduled to begin. (Martin also said he's spoken with people associated with the Jim Mitchell Park about using the park's amphitheater for the meeting; they indicated that the location would likely be agreeable.)

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Article Wording for Creating a Warner Agricultural Commission, per RSA 673:4-b

Shall the Town vote to establish an Agricultural Commission in accordance with RSA 673:4-b. The Commission will consist of one member of the Select Board, one member of the Planning Board, one member of the Conservation Commission and 3-4 at large members, with a maximum number of 5 alternate at large members. The Select Board shall select the at large members and appoint them to staggered 3-year terms. All members of the Commission shall be residents of the Town of Warner. The Commission shall operate in accordance with the statutes related to Agricultural Commissions contained in RSA 674.

Chairman Carson said there is considerable support in the community for the creation of the Commission, which would provide legal protection for agricultural lands, work to maintain rural character and provide a voice for farmers' business interests, including the growing field of agritourism.

Several residents spoke in support of the idea, including both Lord and Bower. Margaret "Anne" Kennedy said she hoped the group would not become a board of "non-farmers" directing farmers; Carson agreed that the commission should be primarily people in agricultural businesses.

Carson made a motion to approve the proposed language; Bower seconded. ROLL CALL: Carson, yes; Lord, yes; Bower, yes. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Continue Meeting After Attending the 7:00 pm Budget Committee Meeting

Chairman Carson continued the meeting at 7:04 p.m. to allow the Board of Selectmen to attend the previously scheduled Budget Committee meeting. The Board meeting reconvened at 8:10 pm.

6. 8:10 pm Meeting Continued

MANIFEST MOTION

Motion to authorize the Selectmen to approve previously signed manifests and order the Treasurer to sign:

- Payroll check numbers 6601-6627 in the amount of \$81,239.30 (This is for 2 payroll runs and includes 46 direct deposits).
- Accounts Payable check numbers 58349-58403 in the amount of \$591,907.32
- Automatic withdrawals in the amount of \$22,600.03 for payroll taxes (This includes 2 payroll runs).

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, ROLL CALL: Carson, yes; Lord, yes; Bower, yes. Motion passed unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The board discussed applying for the 80/20 reimbursement funds available through the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP). They asked Town Administrator Ricciardelli to write a Letter of Intent and allow the board to review before sending.
- b. Motioned and seconded to have the Tax Collector deed Property on Map 34, Lot 26. ROLL CALL: Carson, yes; Lord, yes; Bower, yes. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Cover and dedication for the 2020 Town Report was said to be in “progress”, selectmen will review and confirm photo choice for the cover as well as edit the dedication if necessary. The board stated as a reminder, the Town Election will be unchanged and held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. However, the business portion of the Town Meeting is rescheduled to Saturday, May 9, 2021, at 9:00 am in the hope that the weather will cooperate to allow the gathering to be held outside.

8. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- a. *Article Wording for Creating a Warner Agricultural Commission, per RSA 673:4-b This Agenda Item , 8.a., was addressed earlier in the meeting.*

9. CONSENT AGENDA

No consent agenda

10. APPROVE MINUTES

- a. *No minutes*

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Kimberley Edelman commented that the selectmen may want to review RSA 31:19 and RSA 32:5 V-B and consider adopting them in a warrant article in the future.

12. NON-PUBLIC - RSA 91:A-3, if required

- a. *Not required*

13. ADJOURN

Selectman Carson called for adjourning the meeting without opposition. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.