



# TOWN OF WARNER

PO Box 265  
Warner, New Hampshire 03278-0265  
Telephone: (603) 456-2298 Fax: (603) 456-2297  
warner.nh.us

Board of Selectmen  
Clyde Carson, Chairman  
Sam Bower  
Christine Frost  
[selectboard@warner.nh.us](mailto:selectboard@warner.nh.us)  
Diane Ricciardelli,  
Town Administrator  
[administrator@warner.nh.us](mailto:administrator@warner.nh.us)

**January 31, 2022**  
**Tuesday, 4:00 pm**

## **SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES APPROVED**

**Town Hall  
Lower Meeting Room**

### **I. Open Meeting/Roll Call**

*Chairman Clyde Carson appeared to open the meeting at 4:00 p.m., recognizing the full board: Chairman Carson, Sam Bower, and Christine Frost.*

*Also in attendance: Town Administrator Diane Ricciardelli; Administrative Assistant to the Select Board Judy Newman-Rogers.*

*(Recording Secretary Ray Carbone compiled minutes from a recording. Note: The start and ending of the meeting were not recorded.)*

### **II. Warrant Article Discussion**

In preparation for the Budget Committee public hearing scheduled for February 2, 2022.

*(2:13 in recording): Meeting appeared to begin with BOS, Judy & Diane discussing a petition article that came to the Town regarding the purchase of a compactor for the Transfer Station; apparently Foreman Varick Proper told the Budget Committee during a recent review of his annual budget that he could not guarantee how long the current compactor would continue to operate because of its age. (The Transfer Station is part of the Department of Public Works, DPW.)*

Clyde said that he understood that if the Town were to move forward with purchasing a new compactor at this time, it could be temporarily stored on the Transfer Station property until its needed.

Judy asked the Board why they thought the Budget Committee didn't move forward with the idea its Chairman Mike Cutting had made at its recent meeting to put the compactor into the DPW's operating budget. Clyde said that he thought it would be better for voters at the annual Town Meeting in March to review the item in a separate warrant article.

Sam suggested that the Board consider advancing the idea of creating a "pool" fund to begin accumulating the money needed for a new compactor. He said that approach, which the Town has used in other instances, spreads out the tax impact on property owners and allows more time for research to insure that the project is going to work out beneficially.

Christine offered that Varick's comments to the Budget Committee created "unnecessary excitement" at the committee's meeting.

Clyde said that if the compactor costs were put in the DPW's operating budget, there might be some at the Town Meeting who would accurately say that the money could be used for other purposes.

Christine said she's been surprised by "the lack of trust" in the Town. Clyde said there are only a few people who have that opinion.

Judy suggested that, regarding the projected compactor cost, some citizens express distrust of the costs of any Town purchase or project unless there is documented proof, and yet the same charge could be made about the petition warrant article before the Board tonight. She said that the Budget Committee hearing discussion brought out legitimate concerns about the purchase such as a long lead time on delivery.

Christine said that if people are concerned about the compactor purchase, it properly belongs in the facility's operating budget. "What if the warrant article (calling for the purchase) doesn't get approved at Town Meeting," she asked rhetorically.

Clyde restated his opinion that the purchase is more likely to be approved by voters if it's in a separate warrant article, rather than in the DPW operating budget.

There was some discussion about whether the current emergency might call for the Town to order the compactor as soon as possible. Both Sam and Clyde said they would want to discuss that idea further with Varick before moving forward. Sam added that he's not even sure about the possible cost of a compactor; Clyde said it would be approximately \$60,000.

The Board decided to ask Varick to come to its next meeting.

Christine suggested that it might be a good idea to take some money from elsewhere in the proposed annual budget, e.g., the Skateboard Park improvements, and shift those funds over to the prospective compactor purchase. Clyde said the Board could cut the Skateboard Park warrant article requested amount in half, with the savings put towards the compactor. (The plan to complete the Skateboard Park renovation project could then be shifted to 2023.)

Judy said she's aware that there has been some information about the Skateboard Park renovation posted on the supporters' website. She also pointed out that it's been the usual process for department heads to bring significant problems and projects to the Select Board before the issues become urgent; the Board will then often begin putting money aside on an annual basis until the funds are there to handle the project. In conclusion, Judy said that most Townspeople would probably consider the compactor a "need" and the Skateboard Park renovation a "want."

Sam agreed with Judy, but he also suggested that there is a larger, looming issue behind the current problems that Townspeople have seen recently at the Transfer Station (i.e., large piles of trash scattered around and in the compactor into which residents must toss their trash bags). "There is a need to figure out how to generate less trash in this Town," he explained. Clyde agreed, and said that the previously

discussed plan to do an engineering study of the Transfer Station's grounds before moving ahead with any major purchasing decision would still likely help in that regard.

The Board agreed to move forward with the idea of reducing the Skateboard Park warrant article dollar request in half and putting those funds towards the Transfer Station Capital Reserve Fund. The balance of the Skateboard Park renovation could be in next year's CIP.

The Board then did a general review of how its role at the annual Town Meeting would be handled.

**Non-Public Session**

It was stated by Clyde Carson to enter non-public session and once non-public session ends, the public meeting will be adjourned.

**Motion to go into Non-public Session by: Carson Bower Frost**

Under: RSA 91-A:3 II (d) consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

- 1. Second: Carson **Bower** Frost
- 2. Vote by roll call: Carson-Yes Bower-Yes Frost-Yes
- 3. **Motion: Passed** Failed
- 4. Enter Non-public session at: 5:18 pm

**Motion to Return to Public Session by: Carson**

- 1. Second: Carson **Bower** Frost
- 2. Vote by roll call: Carson-Yes Bower-Yes Frost-Yes
- 3. **Motion: Passed** Failed
- 4. Return to Public session at: 5:37 pm

**Motion on minutes by: Carson Bower Frost**

Available Seal for: 1 year, presuming issue resolved

- 1. Second: **Carson** Bower Frost
- 2. Vote on minutes by roll call: Carson-Yes Bower-Yes Frost-Yes
- 3. **Motion on Minutes: Passed** Failed

**Adjourned 5:39 pm**