

Town of Worcester
Regular Town Board Meeting
November 19, 2024

Call to Order – Chairman Jim Michler called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m. at the Worcester Town Hall. Present were Supervisors Jeremy Pesko and Russ Long and Clerk/Treasurer Alli Mathys. There were 35 visitors.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call – Jim - present; Jeremy - present; Russ - present

Approve minutes from October 15th, 2024, Regular Town Meeting - Motion by Jim Michler, second by Russ Long to approve the minutes from the October 15th, 2024, regular town meeting. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer report – General Checking \$53,479; BCMMA \$604,337 (\$500K of this is the loan for Disappearing Creek Bridge). We also have a \$300K loan for blacktopping. Once the bills from tonight’s meeting are paid, we will have \$30K in General Checking.

Chair report –

- **Disappearing Creek Bridge update** – Chairman Jim Michler discussed the Change Order that is in place to fix the boulder issue, approximately \$14,814.52, state pays half, county pays a quarter and town will pay \$3,704.63. This brought about many other questions from the board and people attending the meeting. Looking into whether a DNR permit is needed to remove the boulder, not removing the boulder and adding a buoy with “Shallow Water” sign. Decided to have another meeting on Thursday November 21st at 1 PM to discuss this in more depth. Once the town receives the final bill and the documents are completed, we send everything into the state for reimbursement (which could take up to a year).
- **Elk River Terrace Culvert** – Recently discovered that the culvert is rusted out and needs to be replaced. Sent information to the county, and they plan to replace it next year and will pay for half of the cost. Town portion will be roughly \$13K.
- **ARPA Funds** – Grant funds that can only be used for recreational use projects. The town used up all our ARPA funds when we did work on Deer Lake, Dardis Lake and Bass Lake Boat Landing. Will apply in the future when allowed.
- **Room Tax update** – The town collects 4% for room tax, 70% goes to the county for tourism projects and the rest goes to the town and is kept in our General Checking account and the board has authority over what it is used for.
- **Murphy Lake Road culvert** – This culvert was estimated to be installed in 1986, the town put in a 400 ft culvert that is now plugged from heavy rain. The road crew is planning to run a camera through it to see what all is going on to decide the next steps.

- **Wake boat update** – Continue to ask the people to investigate the issue and communicate with the Town Clerk of any issues, concerns or experiences. The clerk will continue to post any information she receives onto the town website Wake Boat tab. DNR and Sheriff have said they will not enforce the rule/law.

Road Crew and Transfer Station Report – Road Crew Foreman – Neil Foytik discussed their biggest project as of recent was fixing the roof on the storage shed of the town building. It was leaking and rotted in some area, steel needed to be replaced. Put up the snow fence along Squaw Creek Road. The crew has been working on a different technique to reclaim gravel roads, experimenting on Tower Road. They are working on grading more roads before everything freezes, put two new tires on the grader, ordered the new signs for Hills Road (old Squaw Creek Road effective 1/1/2025). Neil said he believes they've put in 8-10 new culverts and 4 replacement culverts in 2024. Transfer Station – Mitch recently hauled away the old refrigerators, he was able to get a deal. He will be taking the aluminum cans to Medford soon.

Items for discussion and possible action

Approve budget for 2025 - The board voted to approve the budget for 2025 without the levy increase. Motion to approve the budget without the levy increase by Russ Long, seconded by Jeremy Pesko. Motion carried.

Schedule Special Town Board Meeting for selling the 25 acres the town owns – Set meeting for December 4th at 8 AM. Town Assessor will be present. Discussing a path forward and then the board will make a decision at the December Regular Town Board meeting.

Approve vouchers – Motion by Russ Long, second by Jim Michler to approve vouchers 17427 – 17451 in the amount of \$24,427.45. Motion carried.

Adjourn – Motion by Jeremy Pesko, second by Russ Long to adjourn meeting at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried.

Alli Mathys, Clerk/Treasurer