

January 24, 2022

Supervisor Wilcox called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led in the flag salute at the advertised meeting of the Worcester Town Board, held in the Town of Worcester Municipal Building.

Present: Jeff Wilcox ---- Supervisor
 Dave Miller ---- Councilman
 Harold Ridgeway ---- Councilman

Not Present: Tim Lehenbauer ---- Councilman

Others Present: Rita Tetenes, Don Zaengle and Marilyn Dufresne

Minutes: Councilman Miller moved, second by Councilman Ridgeway to accept the January 10, 2022 regular meeting minutes and the January 3, 2022 organizational meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: Ayes: 3 (Wilcox, Miller, Ridgeway) Noes: 0

Public Input: No comments or questions were received.

Financial:

Resolution #49: Audit of Claims:

Offered by Councilman Ridgeway, second by Councilman Miller: Be it resolved that the Worcester Town Board approves payment of the bills listed on abstract 1P.

General Fund:	claims: 9-17	\$3,728.08
Highway Fund:	claims: 10-22	\$24,490.97
Worcester Water #2	claims: 2-3	\$2,837.30
East Worcester Water #1	claims: 1-3	\$2,989.43

VOTE: Ayes: 3 (Wilcox, Miller, Ridgeway) Noes: 0

Resolution #50: Highway Fund Budget Resolution for 2021

Offered by Councilman Ridgeway, second by Councilman Miller: Be it resolved that the Worcester Town Board moves \$11,902.02 from Highway account DA5112.2 Capital Outlay – CHIPS into accounts DA5120.4 Bridges Contractual in the amount of \$8,905.54 and DA5110.42 General repairs oil and stone in the amount of \$2,996.48. VOTE: Ayes: 3 (Wilcox, Miller, Ridgeway) Noes: 0

The audit of the 2021 town court records will be done at the end of the February 13th Town Board meeting.

Supervisor Report: Supervisor Wilcox reported that the Town of Worcester never received the ARPA funding (COVID money). Supervisor Wilcox has calls in to find out where the funding is.

An architect will be in attendance at the next meeting to go over ideas for a new highway department building at the Route 7 gravel bank.

The assessor has asked that the following resolution be passed which allows for senior exemptions to automatically renew for 2022 unless there is reason to believe a person may no longer be eligible.

Resolution #51: 2022 Senior Exemption Renewals

Offered by Councilman Ridgeway, second by Councilman Miller:

WHEREAS, on December 26, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11, declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State of New York due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this State disaster emergency has resulted in limited hours in municipal offices in the Town of *Worcester* and rendered senior citizens and individuals with disabilities residing in *Worcester* homebound. These factors combined have made it difficult, if not impossible, for many in these populations to file their real property tax exemption applications in person and many, further, lack the ability to file such applications online; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the above problems caused by the pandemic, Governor Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11.1 on December 26, 2021, thereby extending Executive Order No. 11. This extension of the Governor's Executive Order modifies subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, the effect of which permits the governing body of an assessing unit (i.e., the Town Board of the Town of *Worcester* to adopt a Resolution directing the Assessor to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received such exemptions on the 2021 assessment roll (i.e., senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income), thereby dispensing with the need for such persons to file renewal applications to request such exemptions, and further dispensing with the requirement that assessors mail renewal applications to such persons; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 11.1 further allows the governing body of said assessing unit, in any such Resolution, at its option, to include procedures by which its Town Assessor may require a renewal application to be filed if he has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner or died; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Executive Order, the Town Board of the Town of *Worcester* wishes to adopt such Resolution directing the Town Assessor of the Town of *Worcester* to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all eligible senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income, and granting the Town Assessor of the Town of *Worcester* the authority to require renewal applications for due cause, as discussed above, utilizing procedures outlined below;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No. 11.1, issued by the Governor of the State of New York, that the Town Board of the Town of *Worcester* hereby directs the Town Assessor of the Town of *Worcester* to:

1. Grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all individuals who received the senior exemption on the 2021 assessment roll and all individuals who received the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll because they were recognized as a person with disabilities and limited income, thereby dispensing with the need for any such individuals to file renewal applications for such exemptions, except that;
 2. The Town Assessor may, in his sole discretion, require a renewal application to be timely filed with his office if he has reason to believe that any such individual, who qualified for the aforementioned exemption on the 2021 assessment roll, may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed for the relevant property, transferred such property to a new owner or died. If the Town Assessor requires such renewal application be filed, he shall notify the owner of the subject property of such requirement by regular mail, with such notice shall containing instructions on how to file the renewal application. Said renewal application may be returned by mail or by making an appointment to drop same off at the Town Assessor's office, 19 Katie Lane, *Worcester*, NY 12197
- VOTE: Ayes 3 (Wilcox, Miller, Ridgeway) Noes: 0

Old Business: Nothing at this time.

New Business: Don Zaengle spoke about the pool and reported the following:

- Tentatively the pool will open on June 27th and close on August 22nd. The pool permit should be applied for in April.
- Currently there are 4 lifeguards available and 2 additional ones that are likely

- Job descriptions were developed for lifeguards and pool director
- Hiring someone for \$25 a day to clean the bathrooms at the pool worked out well last year, and should be continued if finances allow.

Don Zaengle suggested that swimming lessons be put on hold for another year since the school district has received funding and will be holding an extensive summer program. Mr. Zaengle feels that attendance at swimming lessons would be low since a lot of kids will be involved in the school's summer program.

Don Zaengle said that the lifeguards are really young and could use some more adult supervision. Mr. Zaengle suggested that the summer director also be a lifeguard for about 35 hours a week, which would provide more supervision of the pool staff. Mr. Zaengle suggested that the summer director be paid \$17 an hour for life-guarding duties and an additional \$3,000 for the director responsibilities. Starting salaries of the lifeguards were discussed since we have lost lifeguards to nearby places that pay more.

Resolution #52: Lifeguard salaries and Pool Director Salary

Offered by Councilman Ridgeway, second by Councilman Miller: Be it resolved that the Worcester Town Board start lifeguards at \$15 an hour with an additional 25 cents an hour for each year that they return to the position. Additionally, be it resolved that the Worcester Town Board agrees to pay a salary of \$3,000 for the Summer Pool Director and \$17 an hour while life-guarding for approximately 35 hours a week. VOTE: Ayes: 3 (Wilcox, Miller, Ridgeway) Noes: 0

Resolution #53: Supplies for Pool Staff

Offered by Councilman Ridgeway, second by Councilman Miller: Be it resolved that the Worcester Town Board authorizes the pool director to spend up to a maximum of \$600 for life-guard shirts, first aid kits and buoys for the pool. VOTE: Ayes: 3 (Wilcox, Miller, Ridgeway) Noes: 0

Resolution #54: Appointing Brendon Ralph to the Worcester Town Board

Offered by Councilman Ridgeway, second by Councilman Miller: Be it resolved that the Worcester Town Board appoints Brendon Ralph to the Worcester Town Board to fill a vacancy through the end of 2022. VOTE: Ayes: 3 (Wilcox, Miller, Ridgeway) Noes: 0

Adjournment: Councilman Ridgeway moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller. VOTE: Ayes: 3 (Wilcox, Miller, Ridgeway) Noes: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Ann Beverland
Town Clerk