

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2015
SHEPARD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WORK MEETING**

PRESENT: David A. Delanski, Chairman, Robert E. Lavash, Sr. Vice-Chairman, Dario F. Nardi, Clerk

ATTENDEES: See attached listing

Chairman Delanski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room in the Shepard Municipal Building.

Chairman announced this is a work meeting between the Board of Selectmen and members of the Warren Public Library (WPL) and West Warren Public Library (WWPL). He would not be taking questions from the general audience. He turned the meeting over to WPL as they were granted permission to read a prepared statement with timed limit.

Mr. John Prunier; WPL Board member read a 2 page statement (attached hereto) which touched on budget concerns; legacy of the library; building highlights and a final note on their desire to work with WWPL to find solutions to concerns.

Ms. Elizabeth Kelly; WWPL Board member offered comments on the budget; and gave points on where both sides disagree; most notably discussions on buildings; locations and services.

Mr. Delanski offered that the Board is not going to favor one library over the other. He remarked on some of the challenges he sees; consolidation to 1 library and location; putting money into a building the Town does not own; state budget cuts and the QRSD school budget; both could strongly impact the Town's overall budget. The Board's intent is to identify the issues and what can be done to move forward to finding solutions to those issues.

There was discussion amongst the Selectboard and respective library board members as to having the Town take over the operations of the "Library" wherein staff could be paid as town employees; consolidation of efforts to maintain services while reducing costs; long term planning strategies that may include merging both libraries into one with a new building/location; upgrades to existing location(s) to meet compliance concerns. Additional discussion was had as to process of converting privately owned to Town owned and barriers to same; formation of a Board of Library Trustees that would have representation by both Warren and West Warren representatives.

The Selectboard offered their consensus that further discussion(s) would be necessary and obvious involvement by both libraries as well as Town residents is necessary to come up with a long term plan to move forward. Mr. Nardi remarked that this process is well overdue and necessary.

Both libraries are not opposed to further exploring the topics raised at this meeting; but each is admittedly cautious of the next steps. Mr. Delanski asked the Warren Public Library to submit their ideas/suggestions on this matter. WWPL has already voiced their intentions to pursue the “Town Owned” options; after which the Board would convene another meeting with both Libraries’ to continue discussions. As the room is needed for another meeting, Mr. Delanski closed the discussions for the evening.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Nardi; second: Mr. Lavash – unanimous at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorena Prokop
Administrative Secretary

Dario F. Nardi, Clerk