

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
December 21, 2010
Center School Office
7:00 p.m.**

Select Board Vice-Chair Joyce Palmer Fortune called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately to order on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley and Municipal Secretary Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the November 30th meeting were accepted as written Payroll and vendor warrants were reviewed and signed.

Town Administrator Update – Application for CPA funds - Lynn reported that seven applications were received for CPA funds. There were two applications for an APR; one for a historic barn repair; one for town hall architect fees; one for records preservation; one for the purchase of land to Herlihy Park and one for digitizing the Historical Society's records. **Animal Control Regionalization** – Lynn reported that the FRCOG is studying the issue of regionalizing animal control functions. Whately's biggest problem is kenneling animals. The sheriff-elect has discussed the possibility of having a kennel at the jail. **Transcript of Park & Ride Facility Public Hearing** – Lynn has a copy of the transcript for this hearing. **Holiday Party** – The employee holiday party is December 22 at noon in the Town Hall. **Liaison Duties** – Lynn reminded the Board about the need to meet with their department heads periodically. The Board thought that Jonathan was responsible for town offices and highway, Joyce was responsible for fire and Paul was responsible for police. **Swearing in ceremony** – Lynn informed the Board that they were invited to the swearing in ceremony for the new sheriff, Christopher Donelan. The Board decided that there will be **no meeting** on December 28. **Interior storms applied to Center School windows** – Lynn informed the Board that the interior storm windows had been put up in the office. She will have thank you notes for those that assisted with this project, Lynn DiTullio, Nicholas Jones and Richard Spencer to be signed.

Town Clerk – Dog Licenses – Lynn said that there is still one delinquent dog owner. They paid the fee, but did not provide a current rabies certificate. **Town Clerk exemption** – Lynn report that the legislature passed an exemption for elected and appointed town clerks to continue to administer elections under the Conflict of Interest Law. **Census Mailing** – Lynn discussed for the viewing audience that census forms will be mailed before the end of the year. The census plays an important role in such things as state reimbursements, grants and is one of the sources to compile the jury list.

Tax Classification Hearing – At 7:15 pm, Lynn read the legal notice for the tax classification hearing including the posting date. The Board discussed that many towns do not have a split tax rate. The tax rate unofficially will be increased to \$15.47/\$1000. There will be excess capacity of \$23,254. The collector should be ready to print bills in a couple of days. They need to be mailed by December 31. The Board voted to keep a single tax rate. The hearing concluded at 7:23 pm.

Police – Police Chief Jim Sevigne updated the Board on various issues. **The office painting and the sign** is done. A volunteer offered to put tract lighting on the sign to make the sign more visible. The sheriff's office did the painting. **Yankee Candle** provided gifts to the police and ambulance. Each service received \$2000. The police will purchase furnishings for the station with their money. The ambulance will use their funds for EMT training. Thanks to Yankee Candle for their continued generosity. **Cruiser issues** - Jim informed the Board that the cruiser had a number of mechanical issues that were covered under the warranty. The old cruiser would require \$6000 to get it repaired. Jonathan asked if it could be parked somewhere to curb speeding. Jim said that this would require the cruiser to be towed. The Board discussed the disposal of town vehicles. Having a sale and selling them for scrap is an option. Lynn will cancel the registration and insurance for vehicles not in use. Jim reported that **crime has been fairly quiet**. They have

been called out on a number of medical calls. The new officer, Dan Ryan, is working out well. An officer will average 100 miles per shift. A comprehensive loop around town will be approximately 30 miles. This should be done twice per shift.

Highway – Lynn had nothing new to report on the **Haydenville Road Bridge**. Regarding the **Haydenville Road/Mountain Street** project, she reported that the Town of Williamsburg wants to do the entire project from their end. There will be a meeting involving all parties to discuss this project further. Lynn spoke to Mark Baniesewski at Mass DOT regarding the **Williamsburg Road Bridge**. She was not optimistic that it would be considered for the bridge repair program. The Board said she should keep Rep. Olver's office informed as to the status of this project.

Old Business – Fire Station Roof – Lynn reported that the roof was supposed to be done by 2 pm today. Jonathan gave the contractor credit for getting the project done on time. Joyce signed the amended contract as Vice Chair. Lynn will do a final inspection.

One Person One Vote – The new school district agreement incorporating the concept of “one person one vote” needs to be voted again. Lynn anticipates there will be a petition article for the town meeting warrant. The Board discussed that it would not be in Whately's best interest to lose control on the school committee when the funding formula in the regional agreement is not in Whately's best interest. Lynn said that no town is going to vote to change the funding formula if it will cost them more money. The Board questioned why the school committee was in favor of losing representation without an offsetting gain in the funding formula for Whately.

New Business – District Local Technical Assistance Grant – Lynn discussed with the Board the request from the FRCOG for feedback on areas of need for the District Local Technical Assistance Grant. The Board decided the needs were assistance for updating the Master Plan, updating the Open Space plan and an ambulance service needs assessment.

MMA Conference and Town Report Contest – Lynn reminded the Board that the annual MMA conference is January 21 and 22. Lynn is probably not going to attend, but the Conference is a good networking opportunity. No western Massachusetts towns placed in the MMA's annual Town Report contest.

Complaint regarding Paul Kowal's ox – Lynn reported that she had received a complaint regarding Paul Kowal's ox. This is an old ox that has recently lost its' partner. While this is the first complaint the Town has received regarding the ox, it has been going over to the neighbor's property where she provides child care. Lynn presented a letter to the Board regarding the complaint. Jonathan requested an addition to the letter that Mr. Kowal has until January 3rd to fix the fence.

EMPG grant – Joyce signed the contract for this grant which will allow the emergency plan to be updated.

Youth Services Roundtable and Youth Serve Americorps Annual Legislative Forum – This event will be held at the Greenfield High School on January 28 from 3 pm – 5 pm.

Road race on Mother's Day – Lynn reported that Sue Monahan is organizing a road race for Mother's Day. She is seeking feedback on where to donate the money that is raised. The Board felt that the Cancer Connection in Florence was a good option.

Mass DOT Intersection and Signal Improvement at Exit 24 – Lynn reported that Mass DOT is working on redesigning Exit 24. The Town will have to wait to see what they are going to propose.

MassBroadband 123 project update – Lynn received a thank you for the Town of Whately's support of the ongoing work to bring broadband to Western Massachusetts.

APR announcement on River Road – Jonathan signed the Board notification that they have been made aware of and announced in a public meeting an APR request for Map 7, Lot 7.

Appointments – The Board appointed Robert Gaffney to the Green Communities Committee and Maryann Sadoski to the Council on Aging.

There was no public comment or executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Edwards, Clerk

Documents Used at Meeting and are on file in Selectmen's Office

Payroll and vendor warrants for warrant #13.

FRCOG email regarding Technical Assistance grant.

Town of Williamsburg email regarding the Haydenville Road/Mountain Street project.

Invitation to Christopher Donelan swearing-in ceremony.

FRCOG report on Regionalizing animal control functions in Franklin County.

APR announcement on Map 7, Lot 7 from the State.

Email from the general counsel for the State Ethics Commission regarding town clerk exemptions.

Letter to Paul Kowal regarding an ox complaint.

Results of the MMA Town Report contest.