

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
November 9, 2010
Center School Office
7:00 p.m.**

Select Board Chair Paul Newlin called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately to order on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Joyce Palmer Fortune, Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley and Municipal Secretary Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the October 26th meeting were accepted as written. Payroll and vendor warrants were reviewed and signed.

Town Administrator - ICS 100/NIMS 700 – Lynn informed the Board that there will be a ICS 100 and NIMS 700 class on November 16 at the police station. There is also the option of taking the classes online. **CPA funds** – Lynn informed the Board that she spoke to Chip Greenberg to get an approximate figure for architectural services to design a new town hall. **Time off** – Lynn will be out of the office from December 8th thru December 10th. **Cows** – Peter Hannum's cows got out on North Street today. The Town has very little recourse. The Town could build a fence and bill Peter for the cost. Abutters to his property could also build a fence and bill him for half the cost. Either scenario would possibly result in going to court in order to get the money.

Town Clerk – Dog Licenses – There are still two delinquent dog owners. **Clean Up Project** – Lynn and Maryellen are working on going thru boxes of files to see what can be thrown out. The Board also discussed the possibility of digitizing town records. Paper copies would still need to be kept even if the records were electronic. Computerizing the records would aid in searching for specific topics of interest. **Election Results** – The Board discussed the ramifications of the defeat for establishing a Capital Stabilization Fund. Lynn presented an alternative proposal submitted by a member of the committee that worked to defeat the question. Joyce talked about the need to discuss specific proposals like tearing down town hall and moving town offices to the fire station. Paul expressed frustration that some of the information circulated prior to the vote was not discussed in a forum like town meeting where other viewpoints can be heard. The Board will also need to consider debt exclusions for specific capital expenses.

Highway Department – Bob Boone and Keith Bardwell were present. **Williamsburg Road Bridge** – Bob discussed with the Board installing a temporary fix on the bridge until a more permanent solution could be found in order for him to access his property on Williamsburg Road. An engineer would still need to approve the design of a temporary solution. A bridge less than 20 feet long does not qualify for federal funds. A bridge over 10 feet long needs state approval for any work done to it. Lynn had drafted a letter to Mass DOT requesting that the bridge be included on the National Inventory Selection List to make it eligible for federal funding. Lynn will rewrite the letter to include a request to expedite making the bridge eligible for funding and to seek possible assistance for a temporary design from a DOT engineer. **Haydenville Road Update** – Lynn presented the Board a chart of Pros and Cons for the various options in improving Haydenville Road. Challenges for this project include having to deal with 2 highway districts and 2 planning agencies. The Board decided to focus limiting the project to one mile on each side of the town line. This project would encompass the Northampton reservoir.

The City of Northampton could be approached to help with the engineer costs. Including the reservoir would also allow the project to qualify for Enhancement funds which would help to expedite the over all funding process. Lynn will forward her chart to Williamsburg to get their feedback. **Haydenville Road Bridge** – Discussion occurred regarding applying for an exemption to start the work earlier in the spring. There was concern about the Conway Road culvert project not being completed due to lost funding. The possibility of starting that project first will be explored. The Board also discussed having an addendum added to the contract for the Haydenville Road bridge that would impose a penalty if the work is not completed by a specific date. The Board was concerned about having the bridge closed over the winter. **Sibley Driveway Hearing** – The hearing for the Christopher and Julie Sibley driveway is November 16 at 7:15 pm. **Highway Van** – Keith informed the Board of the state of disrepair for the highway van and pickup truck. He felt it was not worth buying parts. The Board agreed with him that his budget is better spent on trying to buy a used vehicle at an upcoming state auction.

Old Business

Fire Station Roof – RCI Roofing has requested an extension in the contract for the fire station roof. They would like to start the first week of December and allow for completion by the end of December in case of snow. Because of snow, the Board was concerned about allowing such a long time for completion. Lynn will talk to RCI about having the work be done by December 15.

New Business

Town Hall Paint Job– Lynn spoke to Ted Cycz regarding painting town hall. He will investigate if de-leading of the paint will need to be done.

Recertification – The Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee was recertified.

Grant Paperwork – Paul signed, as chair, the paperwork for the Small Scale Initiatives Grant, which will be used to purchase recycling bins.

License Fees – The Board approved keeping the license fees the same for the upcoming year.

Watchtower Letter – Lynn informed the Board of a letter she received from the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society protesting that Jehovah's Witness ministers were informed by the police that they needed to obtain a solicitation permit. The Board reviewed the Solicitation Bylaw. The Board agreed that as long as the Jehovah's Witness ministers were not soliciting money for something of intrinsic value, then the solicitation bylaw does not apply to them.

Promoters License – Lynn informed the Board of a new state issued Promoters License. This license would apply to businesses that are holding flea markets or professional tag sales.

Fire Truck Grant – Lynn informed the Board that the Town did not receive the Assistance to Firefighters grant. The Town had applied for a fire truck under this grant. Lynn is waiting for a reply to her request to find out the reason for the denial.

Appointments

CEDS appointment – The Board reappointed Harold Swift to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

CPC member – The Board discussed potential candidates for the vacant at-large seat on the CPC committee.

There was no public comment or executive session needed at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Edwards, Clerk

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

Payroll and Vendor Warrants for warrant #10.

Letter from Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York 10/18/10

History of license fees

Memo from Division of Standards regarding Promoters License 10/18/10

Letter from MEMA regarding REPC recertification 10/20/10

Contract/paperwork for the Small Scale Initiatives Grant

Options regarding Haydenville Road/Mountain Street

Mass DOT letter regarding Williamsburg Road bridge closure 10/26/10

Email regarding Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program 11/3/10

Email regarding appointment of CEDS member 11/4/10

Email regarding the highway department's 1993 van and 1995 Chevy 11/9/10