

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
January 11, 2011
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, January 11, 2011 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 December 21st meeting were accepted as written. Payroll and vendor warrants were reviewed and signed.

Town Administrator Update – Liaison Duties – The Board confirmed their departments for liaison duties. Paul is responsible for the police department. Joyce is responsible for the fire department. Jonathan is responsible for the highway department and town hall administration. **Thank you letters** – Paul signed, as chair, thank you letters to Lynn DiTullio, Nicholas Jones and Richard Spencer for their work on installing the energy efficient windows in the Center School. Additionally, Paul signed a thank you letter to Yankee Candle for the generous Christmas gifts to the police and ambulance service. **American Tower** - Lynn reported that she had contacted American Tower because the Town had not received a check from them since May. Apparently their computer showed that the payments had gone out, but the checks were not being created. Consequently, the Town received a check for \$27,000. **Capital Planning & Finance Committee** – The budget meetings for these two committees will start on January 18 when the Capital Planning Committee meets. The CPC will probably prioritize the capital needs of the town that could be voted on thru a debt exclusion. **Initial Meeting with Sunderland regarding joint Building Inspector** – Lynn reported that she will be meeting with Margaret Nartowicz to begin very preliminary discussions on combining building inspection services. Currently Sunderland has a part-time building inspector. Lynn felt it was beneficial to the Town to continue using the electrical and plumbing inspectors at the FCCIP. Joyce questioned whether or not Sunderland’s current inspector was employed at the time their school and public safety buildings were built. Joyce felt that it was important to pay more for quality work. The Board discussed that currently Whately is assessed \$6000 more for the building program than what is received in fees. **Clean Energy Choice** – Lynn purchased the following educational materials with Whately’s Clean Energy Choice funds: “Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs”; “Energy Savers Booklet” and “What’s Up with Renewable Energy Sources”. The first two publications are available in the Selectmen’s office. The last one will be distributed at the elementary school.

Town Clerk – Dog Licenses – The 2010 dog licensing is complete. **VIP Agreement** – Paul signed, as chair, the Vital Information Partnership to establish Whately as an online user to access and generate vital records. Lynn was also assigned as the Access Administrator. With this access, Lynn can generate a vital record for anyone regardless of where they live.

Highway – Haydenville Road Bridge Update – Lynn had nothing new to report. **Haydenville Road/Mountain Street Status** – Keith received a substantially lower bid of \$12,530 from Charles Dauchy for the Survey, Design and Permitting for the Haydenville Road Reconstruction. The previous bid Keith had received was for \$40,350. Lynn will work on finalizing the contract. Keith will use Chapter 90 money to pay for the cost. Keith had met with representatives from Northampton, Williamsburg and Paul Guertin from Coler & Colantonio to discuss options for this project. The Board agreed that it was important to put forth a Scope of Services that will draw up a project needs form that will provide a realistic amount of the cost. Having this will allow the Town to apply for funding of the project. Keith is also considering extending the scope of the project to Strippe Road. **Williamsburg Road Bridge Update** – Lynn reported on her conversation with Mary Jane Bacon from Senator Rosenberg’s office. Mary Jane is working with Mass DOT to get funding for this bridge. Because the State owns land near the closed bridge, Mary Jane

also suggested the “Access to State Owned Land” program that could fund the engineering costs. The Board discussed the option of discontinuing the road. If this happens, then the land owners could repair the bridge to a lower standard than the town is required to meet. The Town would be liable to the landowners for damages. The bridge is on a county road so discontinuing it would need the approval of the FRCOG. Lynn had no idea of how the FRCOG would react. **Backhoe** – Lynn informed the Board that the Town of Warwick is selling their backhoe for \$12,500 or best offer. Whately’s backhoe is working, but because of its’ age, it is becoming harder to find parts. Keith will be investigating this option when he returns from vacation. He may be asking the finance committee for assistance.

Change in Manager Hearing – At 7:30 pm the Board opened the hearing to consider Circle K’s request to change the manager listed on their liquor license to Joseph Hopfenspirger. Joseph has worked as manager at Irving Oil/Circle K for almost a year. Lynn explained that the delay in requesting the change is due to the ABCC changing the required paperwork. It is the Board’s responsibility to determine if an individual is a good candidate for managing a liquor license. Because Joseph indicated that he had been charged with a crime, he agreed with the Board that the hearing be continued in executive session. The hearing was continued until January 25 at 7 pm when the Board will begin with the executive session.

Old Business – Fire Station Roof – The fire station roof is complete. Lynn requested that RCI fix the vapor barriers which did not look good. They complied with the request. Some of the spots that had leaked have damaged the sheet rock. There is not enough damage to warrant filing an insurance claim. The Town’s insurance has a \$1000 deductible.

New Business – Storage Magazine License – Paul Fleuriel was previously issued an incorrect Storage Magazine License. Paul signed, as chair, the paperwork to issue him a gas storage license which also handles explosives under MGL 148 section 13.

MMA Conference – Vote at annual meeting - Lynn confirmed with the Board that no one would be attending this meeting.

Complaint regarding Paul Kowal’s ox – Lynn is waiting to hear from Rick Adamcek to see if Paul Kowal fixed his fence. Lynn spoke with Paul Dunphy from Steve Kulik’s office, who had received a call regarding the problem from Paul’s neighbor. Lynn explained to Paul that animal control laws for ox and cattle are woefully out of date. Steve is going to study the laws and see what can be done to solve the problem. Lynn suggested allowing non-criminal disposition for a violation.

Vermont Medicaid Provider- Paul signed, as chair, the town’s application to renew their status as a provider.

APR announcement on Christian Lane - Map 20, Lot 10- Jonathan signed, as clerk, the announcement that the State is considering this property for an APR.

Federal Excess Property Program-The Board discussed an anonymous article sent to Jonathan regarding this program. Whately looks at this program as well as the state’s surplus property program for equipment. The Town does pay attention to all options. Jonathan stressed that sending this article would have been more helpful if the individual had chosen to engage on the subject rather than remain anonymous. The Town does rely on good ideas.

Ambulance Abatements – Paul signed, as chair, the ambulance abatements of \$3,896.65 for FY11 claims. Abatements will be done more often with the new billing company. The Board discussed the challenges of maintaining an ambulance service, especially if some insurance companies pay the individual rather than the service provider. The Board discussed the possibility of a regionalized ambulance service. Lynn talked about the space that the WMRL is looking to rent in their building. She felt that would be a perfect location for a regional ambulance.

S.A.F.E. Grant – Paul signed, as chair, the contract for this fire safety education grant.

Appointments – The Board discussed appointing Fred Orloski to the newly formed Housing Committee. The Board would like to have two more people on this committee prior to appointments being made. The

Board had previously appointed Mary Ann Sadoski to the Council on Aging. Lynn reported to the Board that Mary Ann is going to attend a meeting of the Council to make sure she wants to serve on this committee.

There was no public comment or executive session.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Edwards, Clerk

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

Payroll and vendor warrants for warrant #14.

VIP Agreement

Vermont Medicaid Provider Application

APR announcement for Map 20, Lot 10

S.A.F.E. grant contract

Ambulance Abatements (Not public due to HIPPA regulations)

Circle K Change of manager application