

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
November 8, 2011
Center School Office
7:00 p.m.**

Select Board Chair Joyce Palmer Fortune called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately to order on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Paul Newlin, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley and Municipal Secretary Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the November 1 meeting were approved with edits by the Board. Payroll and vendor warrants were signed.

Town Administrator Update – CPC/Agricultural Comm. Update – Lynn reported that the CPC minutes were in draft form. Permanent minutes will be coming. The proposed \$50,000 cap for CPA funding of APR's is per farmer, not APR. She has received no response yet from the CPC on changing the timing of the applications. **Wellhead grant submitted/Need for working meeting with Engineers** – Lynn reported that the Hazardous Mitigation grant was submitted for the wellhead repair. The proposed solution has changed to include some sheeting rather than the blankets. Another critical issue is moving the mechanical equipment in the back-up well vault to a more secure location. The town could still lose the back-up well, but at least the equipment would be saved. Lynn suggested forming a working group to address some of these issues. Paul volunteered to be the select board representative. **Emergency Declaration** – The Board voted unanimously to lift the state of emergency. **Rooster case** – The rooster lawsuit will be heard in court tomorrow. Lynn asked the Board if they would be willing to pay for town counsel to be present at the hearing. If the damages portion of the suit is dismissed, then the insurance company's attorney would be finished with the case. The Board felt that it was important to support the Board of Health and agreed to have town counsel present.

Town Clerk – 1 owner brought to court – Lynn reported that 1 dog owner remains on the delinquent list. **Discussion of HB 1972 which would combine Presidential Primary and State Primary** – The Board discussed the benefits of supporting this bill. The State would save \$8 million. The Town would save money if it holds its' local election the same day. The Secretary of Commonwealth would have additional time to produce the ballots in order for the town clerks to mail them overseas. The Board agreed to send a letter in support of this legislation. **Possible Date for September 2012 State Primary – Thursday, Sept. 6th** – This new date, while earlier, is not ideal because it is the day after school starts for many towns.

Highway Department – Haydenville Road Bridge Update – punch list – Keith Bardwell reported that the punch list still needs to be completed. There is nothing major on list. With the recent storm damage, he is not sure when the remaining items will be done. **Haydenville Road/Mountain Street Status** – Keith and Lynn are still waiting for an answer from District 2 on their determination of the road width. District 2 has had difficulties in providing information in a timely fashion. **Haydenville Road – Drainage – Storm Damage – chipping of debris** – The Board discussed the ramifications of having the highway department provide chipping services as they have done after past storms. Some residents had abused the service by cleaning out their back yards of trees not damaged by the storms. Keith stated that the highway crew still has a lot of winter roads preparation to complete to get ready for the coming season. The Board agreed on the following options for residents:

1. Create a burn pile 75 feet from all structures and apply for a burn permit beginning January 15.
2. Bring the piles to the highway department on Chipping Day, which is the first Saturday in May and June.
3. Arrange for the brush to be removed by a private contractor.

Jim Sevigne – Police Chief – Monthly update – Appointment of Special Police Officers – Jim reported that crime has been quiet since the last meeting. The cruiser is being repaired as a result of an incident that happened over the summer. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Jeffrey Soto, Michael Labelle and Joshua Thomas to the position of Part-time Police Officer.

Old Business

Special Town Meeting and Master Plan Forum – Lynn reported that all of the warrant articles passed at the special town meeting. 36 voters were in attendance. There was not as much information gathered at the Master Plan Forum as hoped. The maps from the forum are in the lobby of the Center School and people can still complete maps indicating areas that would be their choice for trails and development.

Town Hall Feasibility Discussion – Lynn discussed with the Board the feasibility of adding an addition on to town hall and whether CPA money can be used to fund the study. An original feasibility study did comparisons with a new building. The new building will not be allowed using CPA money. An updated feasibility study may show the building should be used for another purpose.

New Business

Whately did not receive compactor grant – Transfer Station discussion – Lynn reported that the Town did not receive the compactor grant for paper. Repairs to the transfer station will be discussed at a future meeting.

Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test, Nov. 9th – Public notice has been given of this test.

Transfer Station Inspection – Lynn reported that she has the report for the inspection of the transfer station. There were some minor problems. The ramp between the recycling boxes also needs to be repaired.

PILOT agreement formal approval possible – The Board agreed to stop in and sign the PILOT agreement when it is available. The agreement was at the assessor's office for their signatures during their meeting.

Poplar Hill Road discussion – Lynn discussed with the Board the Smith College project on Poplar Hill Road. One of the residents impacted by the project, Peter Crisci, is willing to sign a temporary easement to allow work to move forward. He is not willing to sign anything permanent without some possible financial compensation. Lynn will arrange a meeting with Mr. Crisci to discuss his concerns further.

Website upgrade – Lynn presented to the Board a proposal to upgrade the town's website from Starstruck Design for \$3000-\$5000. Lynn will investigate additional possibilities like "Virtual Town Hall" for the web site.

Sign bond paperwork for dump truck borrowing – The Board signed the appropriate paperwork for borrowing money \$143,000 for the new dump truck. The borrowing will be for three years at a rate of 2.0%.

Joyce signed, as chair, ambulance adjustments totaling \$2271.23.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Newlin, Clerk

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

Payroll and Vendor Warrant #12-10

10/31/11 letter from Comcast regarding the Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test

10/11 FCSWMD Transfer Station Inspection Report

10/26/11 email from Lynn Nichols at Starstruck Design

12/1/2011 bond paperwork for dump truck borrowing

FY 11 Insurance Adjustment \$391.64 (not a public record)

FY 12 Insurance/Medicare Adjustments \$2271.23 (not a public record)