

**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
September 27, 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, September 27, 2011 at 7:03 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Jonathan Edwards and Paul Newlin, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley and Municipal Secretary Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the August 30 meeting were accepted by all members of the Board. Minutes from the September 13 meeting were accepted by Joyce and Jonathan. Payroll and vendor warrants were signed.

**Town Administrator Update – Grant Applications** – Lynn reported that she has submitted an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$425,000 to purchase a fire truck and equipment. Lynn reported that the deadline to submit a Hazardous Mitigation Grant to state is October 23. Lynn had submitted an application to the state’s Revolving Fund. Those applications will be reviewed in January with the goal of possibly funding projects by June. Lynn further reported that she purchased incident command materials, blankets and cots, as well as a power point projector and screen with EMPG grant funds. Lynn said that she also had purchased 4 new computers and 3 monitors for Town Hall staff with money approved in the budget. Bill Smith from the Water Department will receive the newest of the old computers. The Board discussed the possibility of donating the remaining computers to the Senior Center. **Storm update – FEMA kick off meeting** – Lynn reported that she attended the FEMA meeting to learn how to apply for federal disaster funds. The federal government will reimburse 75% of the town’s expenses during Tropical Storm Irene and the repairs. **Master Plan Update** – The Master Plan survey is available online and in the office. 65 surveys have been completed online. Three have been returned to the office. September 30 is the deadline. **ECEMP update** – Lynn reported that she submitted the updated Electronic Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

**Town Clerk – 5 owners (6 dogs) due Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. Two owners contacted and were extended to Sept. 30** – Lynn reported this update to the Board for delinquent dog owners.

**Kenneth Elstein – Hampshire Council of Governments** – Mr. Elstein, Electricity Aggregation Specialist with Hampshire Power, spoke with the Board about allowing the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) to be the default provider of electricity to those residents and businesses who have not chosen a supplier. Individuals can choose to opt out at the first notification or within 180 days. The HCOG would need to provide a lower rate than what individuals are currently paying for 6 months. The Board’s options are to do nothing, agree to join the other towns who have chosen the HCOG as their default supplier or join the program at a future date. The Board requested to meet with Geoffrey Rogers from the HCOG who can explain their “real time” payment plan in greater detail. The Board will take this under advisement and attempt to get the pulse of the town.

**Police Chief Jim Sevigne** was present and asked to update the Board. He has received 5 applications for the part-time police officer positions. Only one is a viable candidate. The only activity lately has been some thefts of truck batteries. The Board talked with Jim about coming to a meeting on a regular basis with more information and statistics on the activities of the department. Today he participated in a lock down drill at the school and had a annual safety meeting in Deerfield at Berkshire Gas. Jim will bring more detailed information in the future.

**Highway Department – Haydenville Road Bridge Update** – Everything is still on schedule. The contractor needs to work on the approaches and guard rails. **Haydenville Road/Mountain Street Status** –

Lynn reported that the letter that the Selectmen sent to Al Stegeman produced action. David Blei and Rich Masse from District 1 met with Keith and Lynn and will come up with an agreement on the width of the road. **Haydenville Road – Drainage** – The highway department is doing drainage work on Haydenville Road. The road will be closed while the work is done. The work will probably take 3 days. The announcement was made that the road will be closed a week in case the highway crew needs additional time. **Town silent auction** – The cruisers have been sold. All items from the auction are gone. **Bid for dump truck** – Keith is working on purchasing the dump truck thru a state bid.

## **Old Business**

**Update on Nourse Farms** – Lynn received notification from Ron Hall at the Department of Agriculture that an agreement has been reached with Nourse Farms regarding the mound of plastic on the APR property. The pile will be removed by December, 2012.

## **New Business**

**Contracts for Don Bates and Lynn Sibley** – Don, Lynn and Paul had a productive meeting Friday morning discussing the contracts. The Board had an extensive discussion regarding the wording of section 5 on suspension and section 6 on termination. The Board asked Lynn to verify with Town Counsel the proposed wording of the contract. The Board is seeking flexibility and equity in the contract language. **One day liquor license procedure and application** – The Board discussed and approved the draft procedures and application with a few changes. The Board agreed to make the license fee \$75 for both all alcoholic and wine and malt licenses.

**Special Town Meeting/Master Plan Forum** – Lynn reported that there are currently 8 articles for the special town meeting warrant.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade MMA essay contest** – The Board authorized participation in this contest if the school Mr. Crisafulli, school principal, agrees as well.

**Heartsafe Community Application** – The Board agreed to have Joyce sign, as chair, this application. Whately has met the goals and just needs to receive the designation via the application process.

**Escrow balance and MRF revenue** – Lynn discussed with the Board the escrow balance at the Franklin County Waste Management District. The money is currently used to buy trash bags and blue bins. The Board discussed the possibility of putting a portion of this escrow money into a revolving fund for use to upgrade the transfer station.

**Free Flu Vaccine** – There are free flu vaccine clinics being offered in Conway and Deerfield that Whately residents are eligible to attend.

**Mower Agreement** – The Board signed the intermunicipal agreements with WMECO and Sunderland as lead town which will allow the Town access to a road mower for the upcoming year thru a shared arrangement.

**Solis Solar Company** – Lynn reported to the Board a discussion she had with a representative from Solis Solar Company. They are interested in putting a solar array on private farmland next to the elementary school and selling the electricity to the school. Lynn had some concerns regarding procurement on this project. An attorney at the Inspector General's office informed her that because the array will be on private party and electricity is not subject to procurement that this project appears to have found a loophole in the law. It is not subject to procurement laws. Lynn is waiting for the written proposal from the company to study it further.

**Town Hall Update** – Lynn is working on a scope of services to bid for an updated feasibility study at town hall. She also had contacted two painters for quotes on the painting of town hall. The Franklin County jail was still willing to do the job, but it would have required more extensive lead paint testing for the inmates. Lynn said that one possibility could be to have a painter scrape the lead paint and then have the jail paint the building.

**Appointments** –.The Board voted to appoint Donna Wiley to the Historical Commission. The Board also voted to appoint the individuals listed below to the position of election workers.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Newlin, Clerk

**Appointment of Election Officials – FY11**

Virginia Allis	Jeff DeRose	Jennie Rup
Carol Annis	Katherine Fleuriel	Maryann Sadoski
Patricia Barschenski	Jane Grybko	Beverly Sanderson
Lois Bean	Constance Ludlam	Randy Sibley
Carl Brooks	Janet Korytoski	Marianne Simon
Wilma Brooks	Joanne O’Shea	Frances Symanski
Charlene Butterworth	Shirley Pielock	Linda Theriault
Suzanne Cycz	Roberta Reardon	Martha Zigmont

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

Payroll and Vendor Warrant #12-7

9/25/11 email from Donna Wiley

9/26/11 WMECO contract for a brush mower with the Town of Sunderland

Agreement for Sharing a Roadside Mowing Machine

9/13/11 response to DEP from New Environmental re: Chang Farm

9/15/11 email from Laura Peckham re: liquor liability for fire department muster

2011 delinquent dog owners list

Frontier Region Emergency Dispensing Site Free Flu Vaccine Flier

9/21/11 MMA 6<sup>th</sup> grade essay contest

MDPH Heartsafe Community Designation Application

8/2011 – 8/2012 Election officials appointment list

9/13/11 FCSWMD Memorandum

9/27/11 letter to the planning board re: Smith College and Peter Crisci

8/26/11 Hampshire Power letter re: expansion of program

One day liquor license application and rules

Contracts for Don Bates and Lynn Sibley