

**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
February 8, 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, February 8, 2011 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 January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as amended. Payroll and vendor warrants were reviewed and signed.

**Town Administrator Update** – Lynn informed the Board that former fire chief, Dick Hannum died this morning. Mr. Hannum is the father of the current fire chief, John Hannum. She will arrange for flowers to be sent from the Board. **Collaborative Health Services** – The Board of Health decided to participate in both grants. Paul signed, as chair, the Franklin County grant. Both Paul and Jonathan signed the Hampshire County grant. **Liquor License** – Paul and Jonathan signed Form 43 from the ABCC for the Circle K Change of Manager on their Liquor License.

**Highway** – Highway Superintendent, Keith Bardwell, was present for this discussion.

**Haydenville Road Bridge Update** – Lynn reported that the application for approval from the Army Corps of Engineers has been submitted. Lynn will call Rep. Olver's office to see if they can help expedite the process. Keith felt that the State does not want to do this project in stages any longer, because that would not be the simplest and quickest way. Keith also reported that drilling 2 borings has been standard procedure on other bridges. He clarified that the contractor is the one who wanted to make it a one phase project to begin with, not the State. Keith talked about the challenges of fixing a pot hole that appears again the next day. Water is the worst enemy for pot hole repair. **Haydenville Road/Mountain Street Status** – Lynn and Keith will be meeting with Paul Guertin from Coler & Colantonio tomorrow to discuss this project. Lynn has not had a response yet from the Williamsburg Town Administrator on this project. Mr. Guertin has said that he also has not heard a response since the meeting he had with the highway superintendents. The Board discussed benefits and negatives of awarding Mr. Guertin the contract. While Mr. Guertin is offering to do the initial legwork for free in order to get the job, Paul was concerned that it may be to his economic advantage to create a big job. Lynn said that the Town needs to get enough information so we can get this project on the TIP list. If Mr. Guertin secures the money, then he expects to have the larger job. Keith did not know if Mr. Guertin's firm would be the cheapest for the design work. Keith also said that the Town could spend the up front money and never get approval. Working with Mr. Guertin means the Town does not have to spend the money. Mr. Guertin does seem to have a good track record. Keith will get more references for past projects that Mr. Guertin has completed. **Williamsburg Road Bridge Update** – Lynn said that she has sent 3 letters to Mass DOT regarding various highway issues and the Williamsburg bridge request and has not received a response. She will try again. **Backhoe** – Keith discussed with the Board his plan for buying the Town of Warwick's back hoe. By buying this back hoe, which is 14 years newer than the one the Town currently owns, he will be able to remove this item from the capital needs list. It will buy time, which will hopefully free up some money to buy a truck for a rapidly aging fleet. While Keith felt that this was not necessarily the best plan for the highway department,

he felt it was the best plan for the Town. Lynn polled the individual members of the finance committee about the proposal. They were in agreement with it. The Board was also in favor of the proposal. **Resident access to town salt/sand** – Jonathan asked Keith if there was a policy regarding residents taking salt/sand from the highway shed. As long as residents are not loading up their trucks to resell it, they are allowed to take what they need for their property. Keith said it would be hard to calculate the cost to the Town. Jonathan did not like this policy. He felt it was not right that town taxes are paying for material used on private property. He felt that getting your own salt/sand is the cost of owning your home. Keith suggested polling other towns to see what they do.

### **Old Business**

**New application for Federal Surplus Property** – Jonathan's signature was needed to complete the application.

### **New Business**

**CDBG Rehabilitation Grant** – Lynn reported that only half of the money for housing rehabilitation has been committed. She thought that people may be reluctant to apply for this funding because it would require a lien to be put on their property.

**Pavilion roof collapse** – Lynn reported that the old pavilion's roof at Herlihy Park collapsed. She has filed a claim with the insurance company. The Rec Committee will need to decide how they want to rebuild it.

**Quonquont Special Permit** – The Board reviewed the plans submitted for the banquet facility at Quonquont Farms.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:06 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 #16.

Collaborative local public health services participation form

Form 43 Circle K of MA liquor license

CDBG Rehabilitation Grant reports dated 1/27/2011

Federal Surplus Property application

Quonquont plans for a banquet facility (on file in Clerk's Office)