

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
March 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, March 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Joyce Palmer Fortune and Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley and Municipal Secretary Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the February 8, 2011 meeting were accepted by Paul and Jonathan. Minutes from the February 22, 2011 meeting were accepted by Paul and Joyce. Payroll and vendor warrants were reviewed and signed.

Public Comment – Because Mary and Richard Lesenski of 282 Long Plain Road were present, Paul decided to move the public comment period to the beginning of the agenda. The Lesenskis presented the Board their concerns regarding continuing flooding issues from water across the road onto their property. This was a major problem last year and continues to be one. In addition to the flooding, the water poses a driving hazard when it freezes at night on the road. The drainage at the school appears to be an issue, because there is flooding there as well. Mrs. Lesenski stated that another problem is the plowing of the field across the street. With the trees being cut down at the field, every time it is plowed, it alters the lay of the land. The retention ponds in the rear of the property also don't appear to be working. Mrs. Lesenski stated that she called everyone last year, including the Ag Commission, and no one indicated that they could help her. Lynn indicated that any re-design of the area could move the same problem to a different area. Any grants will require that a specific dollar amount has already been expended to fix the problem. The Board requested that Lynn organize a special meeting for all parties impacted by this issue on Monday, March 21 at 6:30 pm either at the school or town hall. Lynn will invite Keith Bardwell, the Ag Commission, the Conservation Commission, the school committee and abutters on Long Plain Road.

Pole Hearing – A pole hearing was called to order at 7:45 pm to discuss putting a pole at 216 Christian Lane. Also present for the hearing was Albert Bessette, Jr. from Verizon and Dewitt Thomson from 216 Long Plain Road. Mr. Thomson is requesting the pole for additional electrical services for his business, Full Bloom Market. Jonathan recused himself from this vote. Paul and Joyce approved the pole and signed the appropriate paperwork.

Town Administrator Update – FY12 financial picture – Lynn reviewed with the Board the current status of the budget that the finance committee is working on. There is approximately a \$100,000 deficit. There is approximately \$270,000 in free cash. No personnel raises or capital purchases have been factored in the budget yet. The initial capital projections include paying for the fire panel at the school and town hall painting from free cash. The cruiser and the dump truck should be put to a debt exclusion vote. The ambulance will need to wait until next year. There is the possibility of putting \$20,000 in a capital stabilization account earmarked for the ambulance. The Board had some discussion as to what exactly the capital stabilization vote meant. They felt putting the money into a capital stabilization account would be fine as long as it was earmarked for the ambulance. **Federal Surplus Property** – Lynn reported that Keith is still working on purchasing the Osh Kosh Truck. The purchase price is \$2000. It will cost \$2500 to transport it to

Whately. **Sand/Salt follow up** – Since Jonathan was not at the last meeting, Lynn reviewed what she found out on how towns handle residential use of sand and salt. Jonathan suggested that we should put a sign up that says there should be no commercial use. He also suggested an article at town meeting to charge commercial vendors. **2011 Rosenberg Conference for Municipal Officials** will be held April 9. The Franklin County Selectmen’s Association is April 7 at the Whately Inn. Lynn reviewed the **changes to pricing for Comcast**.

Town Clerk – Lynn reported that **Dog Licenses and Nomination Papers** are available.

Highway – Haydenville Road Bridge Update – Lynn reported that this project appears to be set to start in May. It is relatively certain that the road will need to be closed to complete the project. The Board suggested putting up signs warning motorists of the impending road closure prior to the start of construction. **Haydenville Road/Mountain Street Status** – We are waiting on Williamsburg’s response to Paul Guertin’s proposal. **Williamsburg Road Bridge Update** – There was nothing new to report. **Backhoe** – Keith has the backhoe from Warwick. The old backhoe needs to be declared surplus property at town meeting. **Road Safety Audit** – Lynn reported that she met with Keith Bardwell, Jim Sevigne and representatives from Mass DOT and Stantec to discuss potential low cost improvements to high accident intersections like Christian Lane and State Road and the Exit 24 off ramps off of Route 91. There are many issues at the Exit 24 ramp. Potential solutions include changing the placement of signs at Christian Lane/State Road.

New Business

Petition to put Frontier article on warrant – Lynn reported that she received a petition for the Frontier “one man, one vote” article that contained enough certified signatures to put on the warrant. The Board can either choose to place the article on the warrant or have it on there by petition. The Board agreed to place the article on the warrant by petition. Joyce does not support the article. Jonathan does support the article.

Letter from Ag Commission regarding a neighbor’s complaint re: Manheim Farm – Lynn reported that a neighbor had concerns with the Manheim’s farm as to how they were washing vegetables. The Ag Commission is working on resolving the problem. The Board expected this type of response to the flooding of Long Plain Road. Lynn said that the Ag Commission is an advisory/advocacy group. They can’t take more steps without the Board’s approval.

HCOG letter regarding Article at Town Meeting for expansion of electricity program and Profit Share check of \$211.14 – Lynn reported that the Hampshire COG is looking to expand the electricity program to residents and businesses. They need a town meeting vote for this to happen. The Board approved placing this on the warrant. The Town received \$211.14 from the HCOG for purchasing their electricity. Last year the check was \$700.

MEMA letter regarding new mutual aid laws – Lynn provided copies of the proposed new mutual aid laws being proposed by the state for the Board. The state would like the approval of the Select Boards. The Board will read the hand out and vote on it at another meeting.

CDBG grant application time – Lynn reported that it is time to think about potential CDBG grant projects. She felt it was probably too early in the town hall renovation process to apply for these funds.

Retirement of Leo Parent and Judy Bresciano – Lynn reported that Veterans Agent Leo Parent and FCCIP Office Manager Judy Bresciano will be retiring this fiscal year.

Appointment of Animal Inspector – The Board vote was unanimous to appoint Richard Adamcek as Animal Inspector.

Sign two more parts of the EMPG grant – Because she signed the original grant application, Joyce signed additional paperwork for the grant.

Ambulance Abatements – Paul signed, as chair, ambulance abatements totaling \$2,237.05

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:18 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 #18.

April 9 Notice of 2011 Conference for Municipal Officials

April 7 Meeting Notice of Franklin County Selectmen's Association

Letter dated 2/16/11 from Whately Ag Commission regarding Manheim Farms

Letter dated 2/4/11 regarding changes to Xfinity Cable

Petition dated 1/24/11 to put Frontier article on warrant.

Letter dated 2/23/11 from HCOG regarding Town Meeting article for electricity expansion

Letter dated 2/25/11 from HCOG regarding profit sharing

Letter dated 1/31/11 regarding CDBG grants from Franklin County Regional Housing

Letter dated 3/7/11 appointment letter for Animal Inspector

2010 EMPG Grant application

Verizon Pole application for 216 Long Plain Road

Letter from MEMA regarding new mutual aid laws

Ambulance Abatements (not public due to HIPPA regulations)