

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
October 28, 2008
Center School Offices
7:00 p.m.**

Select Board Chair Alan Sanderson, Jr. called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately to order on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectman Paul Newlin, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley, and Municipal Secretary Barbara Hancock. Selectman Jonathan Edwards was absent. Vendor and payroll warrants were reviewed and signed. October 14th meeting minutes will be reviewed and voted at the next meeting.

Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Change Meeting Date – The next regularly scheduled Selectmen’s meeting falls on Veteran’s Day. The Selectmen agreed to reschedule their meeting for the following day, Wednesday Nov. 12th at 7pm. Lynn will check with Jonathan about his availability. **License Fees Reviewed** – In preparation for issuing annual license renewals, the Selectmen reviewed the license fees. The Board voted unanimously to increase liquor licenses by \$200 each to keep them proportionally inline with fee limits: Off premises W & M increased from \$800 to \$1000, Off premises All Alcohol increased from \$1100 to \$1300, On premises W & M increased from \$1000 to \$1200, and On premises All Alcohol increased from \$1800 to \$2000. The Board also increased Driveway Permit fees and Open Trench Permit fees from \$50 to \$75. All other license fees will remain at their established rates. **FCTS’s Policy Committee** has scheduled a meeting on Nov. 10th to review their admissions policy. **Franklin County Home Care** will hold their annual meeting on Nov 7th from 2-4 pm at the Shea Theater. Rep. Kulik is scheduled to speak. **Recap of Sunderland Meeting** – Local town leaders met with Senator Rosenberg and Rep. Kulik on Oct 16th in Sunderland to discuss the state’s financial future. The Selectmen recounted the bleak forecast discussed at the meeting. **Thank you Letters** – The Select Board signed letters of thanks to Shirley Pielock who resigned as Senior Center Director and Frances Symanski who resigned from the Council on Aging. There was a short discussion regarding the rocky transition for the new director so far. Lynn has been in contact with Sunderland’s Town Administrator who has received similar complaints. **MMA legislative breakfast** will be held Friday, Oct 31st at GCC. Lynn, Jonathan and Paul plan to attend. **MCAS Recognition** – The Selectmen reviewed and signed a letter to Whately Elementary School recognizing their exemplary performance on the MCAS tests. **Police Grant** – The Selectmen reviewed and signed for the police grant reimbursement. **Upcoming Flu Clinics** – The Four-town Emergency Management exercise will be held Saturday Nov. 8th at Frontier from 8am – 1pm. Free flu vaccines will be available for ages 2 to adult. Tetanus and pneumonia vaccines will also be available. The Senior Center will also hold a flu clinic on November 5th. Other area flu clinics are being held. Details are available on Whately’s website.

Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Dog Licenses – All dogs are licensed.

7:15PM ABCC Hearing – New Manager for Irving Oil (IOCMA – Blue Canoe)

IOCMA, Blue Canoe located on Route 116 in Whately is requesting a change in managers for their Off-Premises Wine & Malt liquor license. The new manager Jim Boyd appeared before the Board seeking their approval and submitted ABCC forms 43, 997, and Form A along with \$200 fee. The Board reviewed the applications submitted which included primarily personal information about Mr. Boyd. Mr. Boyd explained that he had worked as the assistant manager at the store and was promoted to manager after the previous manager left to work at another store. Alan motioned to approve Mr. Boyd as the new manager and Paul agreed. Lynn will submit the forms to the ABCC immediately to help get ABCC approval by Nov 30th when license renewal applications are due.

Highway Department: Haydenville Rd - Lynn update the Board. Keith was attending the Planning Board's meeting to present ANR plans necessary for the easements at the Haydenville Rd Bridge. Work continues on the easement process. The fees related to the easement process, bounds, easements, and engineering services including preparing mylars, are expected to approach \$2500 and it is unclear how that will be paid. **Long Plain Rd** – The project is nearly complete except for the one culvert area involved in conservation determinations. A topcoat of blacktop and some seeding will need to be done in the spring.

Conservation Restriction

Brandon Vickery from Franklin Land Trust and Gabe Cooney of Poplar Hill Rd appeared before the Board to present plans for 22 acres owned by Gabe Cooney and his wife Elisabeth to be put under conservation restriction. Mr. Vickery explained that the conservation restriction process requires the approval of the Selectmen. The land involved includes 17 wooded acres on the North side of the property on the discontinued portion of Poplar Hill Rd. The remaining acres lie on the west side of the homestead and border Conway Rd. The homestead lot would be excluded from the restriction. The restriction would decrease the tax revenue from those acres but the property would be of limited value having a minimal effect on the tax revenues. The homestead would remain at its present tax rate and accounts for much of the property's assessment. Smith College owns the neighboring property and has agreed to put a conservation restriction on their property if other neighbors do the same. The Cooneys agreed to pursue the restriction. The Selectmen reviewed the conservation restriction and maps. Alan and Paul both voted to approve and signed the restriction.

Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement – The Board reviewed a final agreement between Hatfield and Whately. The agreement includes direction for dispatch to tone the other town after two unresponsive tones or immediately in the case of a structure fire. The Selectmen approved and signed the two contracts representing the mutual commitment between the towns.

Heritage Landscape Inventory Program – A public hearing will be held on Dec. 16th at Town Hall where all Town boards, committees and residents will discuss what constitutes Whately's legacy.

Cultural Council Grant – Paperwork for the \$4300 worth of grants was reviewed and signed.

STM – Lynn explained that a special town meeting would be necessary to take care of some necessary items. The Finance Committee has not met yet to determine their recommendations. Possible items include: Connect CTY service, Two FY08 bills (flags for the cemetery and an ambulance bill payable to Airgas), Move insurance appropriations from Property/Liability to Worker's Compensation accounts, Move \$35,000 in storm damage reimbursement back to Highway Department's budget, Change Town Elections to second Tuesday in June (which would allow ballot questions resulting from ATM to be put together with elections), and Vote funds for the fees associated with the Haydenville Rd Bridge (anticipate approximately \$2500). The Selectmen discussed Dec 9th or Dec 16th as possible date for the Special Town Meeting. Dec. 16th at 6:30pm at the Selectmen's Office may be the best date because the Heritage Landscape Inventory hearing will be held at 7pm the same night.

ESCO Contracts – Just received the contracts. Kopelman & Paige will review. The Selectmen will invite Roland Butzke from Siemens and the Energy Committee to their next meeting on Nov. 12th. A credit application needs to be completed.

Vacancies – One Historical Commission and two Council on Aging positions remain vacant.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Newlin, Clerk