

**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
December 30, 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, December 30, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Paul Newlin and Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley, and Municipal Secretary Barbara Hancock. Minutes from the December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> meetings were accepted as written.

**Police Department, Jim Seigne Police Chief** updated the Board on a number of issues. **Station** – The department has settled into their new station and all is running smoothly. The Lion’s Club donation was used to install a garage door. There has been an issue with regulating the heat evenly throughout the building. The thermostat needs to be moved. Yankee Candle donated \$2000 to purchase furniture for the department’s training room. (Another \$2000 was donated to the Ambulance department to buy newly mandated reflective gear) Residents may stop by the police station and summons the officer on duty by ringing a doorbell in the lobby or by using the doorbell outside the front door. **Community Policing Grant** – Recent government cuts have reduced the amount Whately will receive in community policing grants by over \$6000, from \$28,500 to \$21,717. This will require a cut in training and limit new equipment purchases. The department has purchased \$65,000 worth of equipment through these grants in the past. **Cruiser** – Jim has obtained a price quote on a new 2009 retail purchase for approximately \$3000 less (\$26,500) than the state bid’s lowest quote on a 2008. The purchase may be made in two installments, which would allow time for a vote at Annual Town Meeting. The Board discussed the possible uses for the old cruiser, as a decoy or possibly used by other departments. **New Marijuana Law** went into effect on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Town Clerk collects the citation payments. Jim is investigating whether citations used by the Board of Health could be used. **Department Activity** – Speeding has decreased lately. The Board asked whether the new booster seat law was being followed. Jim wasn’t aware of any violations. The Selectmen thanked Jim for the updates.

**Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Trench Regulation** – Enforcement has been delayed until March. Lynn addressed a list of remaining questions and concerns in a letter to the Department of Public Safety (copies to Kulik and Rosenberg). Enforcement issues and a clear definition of what constitutes a ‘construction project’ are a couple of the remaining issues. Lynn has also asked Rep. Kulik and Sen. Rosenberg to consider action to rescind the regulation. **Sr. Center Pot Luck** – The Senior Center Director has invited the Selectmen to a ‘Celebrity Pot Luck’ at the Senior Center on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30am. Those who are unable to attend may submit a recipe instead. The Selectmen are unavailable that date. **MMA Meeting** will be held Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. Lynn plans to attend Friday’s meeting. MIAA is also holding its annual meeting. The Selectmen’s Chair needs to complete a delegation form if another Selectman wants to vote on the Town’s behalf. **Town Report Contest** – Whately’s 2007 Town Report was entered in the MMA’s Town Report Contest but did not win. The Board suggested more photos, clip art, or graphics be added to future reports. **Mass Recycles** – Recycling totals have decreased. It is not clear whether use has been reduced. Recycling still needs to be encouraged for environmental reasons and economically. Removing trash costs the town money while recyclables generate money for the town. **Siemens’ Contract** – Alan signed the contract for Siemens to perform a preliminary audit. The walkthrough is scheduled for the week of January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Selectmen wanted to remind Roland Butzke to include high school students. **Kingston’s CPA Amendment Request** – The Town of Kingston has written the Senate President requesting an amendment to the CPA that would allow funds to be used for green energy initiatives. Kingston has asked Whately to consider writing a letter of support. The Whately Selectmen agreed that reducing the Town’s carbon footprint could be considered preserving the community. The Board agreed to write a letter of support to Stan and send a copy to the Senate President.

**Comcast** has sent a letter explaining new changes regarding high definition conversion and changes to packages.

**Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley:** Census forms will be mailed out by the end of this week. Lynn asked residents to complete and return the forms.

**Highway Department:** Lynn updated the Board. **STRAP Grant** – Whately may want to submit an application based on some changes to the grant’s guidelines. There are more towns included in the program, which makes the grants more competitive but there is no payback required. The Town would be responsible for engineering costs. Keith has recommended Conway Rd or Egypt Rd as possible projects. The Selectmen asked that a letter be sent to Conway Rd residents to see how they feel about their road being improved. There may be conservation issues regarding drainage because Conway Road’s close proximity to the brook. **Haydenville Rd Project** – The plans have been signed. There has been confusion regarding writing the takings whether the Town or FrCOG is doing the takings. There is also a question surrounding a small section of the road layout. Lynn has been working closely on the progress so the project is not delayed. **Chapter 90 Reimbursement** paperwork for Long Plain Rd (\$168,400) forms were reviewed and signed. **Trench/Driveway Permits** – May want to discuss the current \$75 fee. Will discuss when Keith is present.

#### **New Business**

**Unabate FY07 Ambulance Bill** – Received payment on an FY07 ambulance bill that had been abated. The Selectmen voted to unabate the bill and receive payment.

**FrCOG Fuel Bids** – Whately has not participated in the FrCOG’s fuel bid in the past. However, FrCOG has made some changes. Bids are going out in March when fuel prices are typically lower rather than in the summer. And fuel companies can chose which towns they will service. Hopefully, that will bring in bids from some smaller local oil companies. Whately has been bidding fuel at a fixed markup while FrCOG bids a fixed price. There would be a fee for participating in FrCOG’s bid and the towns are required to use the amount of fuel requested in their bid. The Selectmen wanted to monitor FrCOG’s system but will stick with doing our own bidding for now.

**Historical Commission** – The Selectmen appointed Jessica Monti to the Historical Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 2009.

**The Selectmen’s Meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>** will be held in the Town Hall at 7pm because a public hearing will be held during the meeting.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul K. Newlin, Clerk