

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
May 13, 2008
Center School Offices
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, May 13, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Alan Sanderson, Jr. and Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley, and Municipal Secretary Barbara Hancock. Minutes from the May 1st meeting were accepted as written. Vendor and payroll warrants were reviewed and signed.

Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Police Station Renovation – The Selectmen reviewed and signed the contract. The standard contract was arranged by the architect and reviewed by the general contractor, Vern Harrington from Thayer Street. Vern's only concern was the June 30th deadline for completion. There is some expectation that the grant will extend the deadline date, but at this time there is no new date. The Special Permit from the ZBA has been filed with the Registry of Deeds and the Building Inspector is reviewing the building permit application. The project could get underway as early as next week. It was discovered that the plan calls for two layers of sheetrock on the ceiling which should be changed to one.

Instructional Aide Negotiations Representative for the district towns will be Jonathan. There was some confusion whether the towns had selected a representative and Superintendent Nash wrote a letter requesting a representative be selected. Scott Bergeron from Sunderland has volunteered to be an alternate if that was allowed. The Board supported his participation. Sunderland is attempting to verify whether the group is officially organized.

Barn Rental – Ron Belder is interested in renting the barn on Chestnut Plain Rd near the cemetery for tobacco season again this year. The Board approved at the same rate, \$750.

Trench Regulation- The new regulation is causing concern for area towns in determining fees, determining a permitting authority, liability, and interpretation. Highway Dept. drainage ditches and some farm ditches may fall under this regulation. Rep. Kulik suggested contacting the Division of Local Mandates to question the unfunded mandate. The legislators did not process this regulation, but rather the Dept of Public Safety. While the regulations went into effect this past January, enforcement will not be done until next year. Selectmen agreed to write a letter regarding the unfunded mandate issue.

Mass Highway – A State Rd. resident sent a letter to Mass Highway regarding the culvert near their home. The letter addresses the condition of the culvert, the effect on their property, and Mass Highway's responsibility.

Memorial Day Parade – The Selectmen have been invited to participate in the Memorial Day Ceremonies on May 25th. Church services begin at 10, the parade steps off by 11am, and the Selectmen will raise the flag on the town common during ceremonies following the parade. All three members expect to attend.

CDBG Support – Stan Rosenberg sent a letter of support for the multi-town community development block grant application that includes Whately.

Reports Available for Review – FrCOG's annual report and the Retirement System's annual report are available in the Selectmen's Office.

Chapter 61 Laws – Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust compiled a booklet of information on chapter 61 land laws that is available for review in the Selectmen's Office.

Vacation – Lynn will be out of the office on Monday, June 2nd and Tuesday, June 3rd.

Recognition – The Selectmen agreed to send citations of appreciation for long-term volunteers: Bob Bourke for 10 years as an assessor and Gary Lawrence for his 25 years with the Board of Health. Gary will continue to serve on the Solid Waste Management Committee.

Bicycle Regulations – There has been some interest in the proposed bicycle citations brought up at the Annual Town Meeting. Resident Peter Crisi contacted Lynn interested in disseminating the bicycle regulations among the cycling group he belongs to,

Northampton Cycling Group. Paul Newlin offered to invite a bicycle enthusiast that he knows, to the next Selectmen's meeting to review the mass bicycle laws. And Juli Mason, Whately Elementary's school nurse is educating the students about bicycle regulations.

Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Dog Licenses – A late fee of \$25 will apply to dog licenses on June 1st. Lynn reminded residents of the licensing fees: \$10 unaltered or \$5 neutered/spayed with valid rabies certificate.

Elections- Town elections will be held Tuesday, May 20th at the Town Hall from 10am-7pm. Three positions are vacant: Cemetery, Assessor, and Library Trustee. Anyone interested in running a sticker campaign should contact Lynn for information. Residents may write in a candidate for any position.

New Business

Chambers Advisory Group- The one-year contract with Chambers is about to expire. Chambers offers a month-to-month contract to continue to monitor and handle any of the town's telephone system needs for \$50 a month. The Selectmen decided to continue Chambers' service for now, until all the telephone lines have been added to the program (Board of Health and Fire). The Board plans to revisit the monthly contract in 2-3 months. The Town will now appreciate the full savings from switching the telephone service, which has averaged about \$240/month and has been split with Chambers this past year.

Senior Center Staff- Lynn attended a meeting at the Frontier Senior Center today. The Center is looking to fill three positions, Director, Assistant, and Social Worker, and would like the three town administrators to participate in the hiring process. Another meeting is set for next Wednesday to continue the discussion.

Fence Viewer and Field Driver- Alan Sanderson, Jr. nominated Richard Adamcek to the Fence Viewer and Field Drivers. Jonathan second the motion and all members voted yes.

FCSWMD sent a memo outlining the importance of the Hepatitis B vaccine especially for transfer station workers. Not all private insurance companies cover the costs and the Town may want to consider funding the vaccine for workers. Lynn mentioned that EMT's had these shots a few years ago and may want to arrange another round to cover new EMT's. The memo also discussed the growing concern with people scavenging for scrap metal and the risks involved. Whately doesn't collect scrap metal, so that is not generally a problem here.

Mass Development sent a letter to the Selectmen requesting information on any conflicts with covenants or zoning issues with Valley Steel Stamp's plans to purchase and build within the industrial park. The Board is not aware of any conflicts.

Firefighter's Charitable Foundation has been fundraising by telephone in Whately. A resident reported that the soliciting representative maintained that the funds were for the Whately department. Lynn called the organization for clarification. It is a Massachusetts organization where family members of fallen firefighters can seek financial assistance. The donations would not directly benefit the Whately Fire Department. Residents with any questions regarding solicitations should contact Lynn.

Municipal Alcohol Enforcement Training- A session will be held Saturday, May 31 in Greenfield from 8:30-12:30 for licensing authorities. The Board was not available but will pass the information on to the police department.

Northampton Public Works has invited the Board to a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new water treatment facility on May 30 at 1pm.

Association of Town Finance Committees Workshop will be held at the Amherst Town Hall on June 5th from 5:15-7pm to discuss rising regional school costs. Lynn plans to attend.

Municibid is a municipal auction site where towns can buy and sell equipment online. Membership fee is \$200/yr. The Board felt that Whately wouldn't use the service enough to justify the membership fee.

Vacancies remain on the Historical Commission, two positions on the Council on Aging, and a democrat is needed on the Board of Registrars.

Highway Department, Keith Bardwell, Superintendent: Haydenville Road Bridge- Mass Highway has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, May 28 at 7pm at the Town Hall. Abutters have been notified and the public is welcome. Keith met with all the utility companies two weeks ago to review the necessary work. Design and survey crews are working with Jim Toth on temporary and permanent easements. Once the easements are established, the COG will schedule a public hearing as required for the county road. Awards for the taken land will need to be determined. **Hazardous Mitigation Grant** for Williamsburg Road has not been awarded yet. Keith will check. If awarded the grant, the Town will have to have the funds available. **Dump Truck Bid-** Specs are almost ready to be sent out. Bids will be opened on June 4th. **Long Plain Rd NOI** is progressing. There will need to be some permanent easements because the culvert will be 90ft wide where it is currently 50ft wide. The remainder of Long Plain Rd will be finished this year including some drainage changes. **Haydenville Rd** – There is not enough money in the budget to fix Haydenville Rd this year. There may be some more drainage work done. There was some patching done recently. **Webber Rd** – Repairs will be made before winter to rectify the problem with ice build up coming off the field in the area of the Bean’s house. **North St** – Keith was asked to check the new drainage a North St resident installed around their foundation and draining onto the road, regarding the effect of additional runoff on the road. **Liberty Tree** – An elm tree will be donated to the Town under the program. The library trustees have agreed to allow the tree to be planted on the front lawn of the library. The Hatfield boy scouts will help the town highway department install the tree. The program requires the boys scouts be involved and there is no Whately troop. The tree should be in by Memorial Day. **Account Transfers** – An overage in Highway Salaries for FY08 will be used to offset a shortage in the winter roads account (\$2,272.08) and to pay for the work to clear the stump dump (Pantermehl provided the lowest estimate at \$5000). Jonathan motioned to transfer \$7,272.08 out of the highway salaries account. \$2,272.08 will go to winter roads and \$5000 to general highways to clear the stump dump. Paul seconded the motion and Alan voted yes. **Full Crew** – Keith is back to a full crew working a full schedule.

There being no further business to come before this meeting it was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan S. Edwards, Clerk