

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
July 29, 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, July 29, 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. Vendor (FY08 and FY09) and payroll warrants were reviewed and signed. Minutes from the June 24th and July 8th meetings were accepted as written.

Whately Triathlon

Organizer Sue Monahan appeared before the Board to present the triathlon proceeds to Police Chief Jim Sevigne, also present. The event brought in nearly \$12,000 with a net fundraising total of \$7,900. With the support of the Selectmen, \$900 will be held in an account for start-up costs for next year's event and the police department received \$7000. Sue was extremely grateful for all the help and support the event received from the Tri-town beach committee, police department, fire and emergency personnel, the highway department, the Selectmen's office, and the residents. The event will be held again next year continuing with a law enforcement recipient, perhaps growing into a scholarship fund. The Selectmen expressed their appreciation for the effort Sue and her co-organizer, Donna Wesoloski put into the well-organized event. The members commented on how organized, fun, and successful the event turned out to be. The event was finished and cleaned up before noon that day. The Selectmen thanked Sue for all her hard work and for the evening's presentation.

Energy Committee – Present: Nat Fortune, Lynn DiTullio, Jonathan Edwards

The energy committee members appeared before the Board to update them on the energy performance contract initiated through FrCOG. Sixteen towns and three school districts combined in a bid request to energy service companies, ESCOs, recently. An outside company was hired to evaluate the bids received from three companies. As a result, Siemens Building Solutions was selected. Legal counsel from FrCOG and Mahar Regional are reviewing Siemens' preliminary audit agreement. Whately will be able to pick and choose which projects to do from the audit. The Green Communities Act recently passed allowing rebates to be paid directly to companies saving the Town the need to appropriate rebate money upfront. The Selectmen reviewed and signed a confirmation letter maintaining the Town's continued interest in the energy audit. Lynn DiTullio will find out if Frontier has since joined the audit.

Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Police Station Update – Interior painting is being done. Floors are expected to be installed Monday. The police department may be able to move in within two weeks. Weekly update meetings with Vern from Thayer St continue. The Selectmen have been happy with Thayer Street's services throughout the project. **Assessor's** position remains vacant. **Anonymous Letter Re: 41-lot Subdivision** – The Selectmen agreed to discuss an anonymous letter from someone concerned that the recent planning board preliminary review of a proposed 41-lot subdivision was not televised. STM was televised that evening. Joyce Palmer-Fortune from the cable committee was on hand and spoke to the need for more volunteers in order to record more meetings or more than one meeting at a time. She also suggested that committees and residents should notify Joyce or the cable committee when there is something they want televised. The cable committee's contact information is on the cable channel. The meeting in question was a preliminary review and a definitive plan will need to be presented to the Planning Board, which will include much more detail and require more scrutiny. The Selectmen agreed that arrangements should be made to televise future meetings regarding this project. **Storm Damage** – Much of the town has been cleaned up following the destructive storm on July 19th. The Selectmen requested a thank you to all responders, police and fire departments, the highway department, WMECO,

Mass Highway, DCR, and residents for the patience and understanding throughout the road closures, power outage, and related cleanup. Lynn plans to run a public letter of appreciation in the newspaper. Emergency responders held a debriefing meeting. The response was great. Areas that need improvement involved reaching the radio stations. Lynn was not able to contact any radio personnel because the radio stations run prerecorded programming on weekends. Not sure whether the Civil Defense or MEMA could help in that regard. Lynn plans to investigate the automated telephone (land line or cell) notification service through Connect CTY. The highway department expects to spend another 2-3 weeks cleaning up including another couple of days at the school. The Selectmen discussed the severe damage from Haydenville Rd starting at Masterson Rd, down through the center of town, Christian Lane, and a large part of Long Plain Rd and River Rd. Other areas in West Whately also received a lot of damage and were without power for the longest period of time. **Audit Management Letter** – Scanlon’s office is looking for any comments or corrections before they bind the audit management letter. No corrections needed. **CDBG** has been approved. Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority will be notifying those who are on the waiting list for housing redevelopment grant funds. Residents who have not already enrolled may want to inquire, as there may be more funds available. A notice will appear on the website. **MIAA Rewards** – Discounts received for attending meetings/seminars totaled \$2015.00 last year. **Medicare Ambulance Contract** was approved. **WES Principal Resigned** – Donna Zaeske has accepted another position in eastern Massachusetts. Currently advertising for an interim principal. **FCTS Acceptance Practices** – Bernardston has written a letter to FCTS regarding their concern with the percentage of member-town students that do not qualify to attend FCTS based on the school’s acceptance guidelines. Bernardston has written other member towns to poll their experience. The Selectmen requested a response from the Technical School for further information regarding their enrollment procedures. **BOH Office Use Request** – The Board of Health has asked permission to use the Selectmen’s office for their monthly meetings. Air quality in the basement is posing a problem for members. The Selectmen were reluctant to schedule another committee in their office on Tuesdays. The Selectmen need some flexibility in their schedule and the Finance Committee meets on Tuesdays. The Board of Health will be contacted to see if they can change their meeting night. Mondays seem available. Lynn will contact them. **Letter to the Railroad** – Lynn drafted another letter to the railroad regarding the deteriorating condition of the tracks through town. The rail runs very close to the elementary school and to Berkshire Gas’s LNG facility, which concerns the Board if there were a failure on the tracks. The Selectmen reviewed and made recommendations for changes to the letter. **Thank You Letter** was received from the Gagnon family for the flowers sent by the Selectmen to Grant Gagnon’s funeral. Grant had served as a selectman. **FCAT Quarterly Report** submitted by FCAT director Martin McGuane was distributed to the Board for their review. The report appears to be very detailed. If the Selectmen have any questions after reviewing the report they will invite Mr. McGuane to a meeting. **ZBA Secretary** – The ZBA hired Bill Cardaropoli. **New Transfer Station Attendant** – Lee Felton was hired to work on Saturdays. Alan Thackeray will continue to work the Tuesday shift. George Tower was also hired to be an alternate. Roland Kinsman will also continue to serve as an alternate. The Selectmen recommended a policy for tracking bag sales between more than one employee be developed. Jonathan also recommended the Solid Waste Committee begin investigating alternatives for waste disposal. The current transfer station will be in need of costly repairs in the near future and the Town should be aware of all the choices and costs before decisions are made. **Cemetery Commissioners** – Lynn plans to meet with the commissioners again next week.

New Business

Propane Bids – Two bids were received to provide propane for FY09. George’s Propane bid 63¢ fixed mark-up price and Osterman Propane bid 40¢ fixed mark-up. The new police station will be heated by propane along with the Town Hall. The Selectmen motioned to award the propane bid to the low bidder, Osterman. All voted yes.

Four-day Workweek – Area towns are switching to a four-day workweek to save energy. Lynn’s is the only office open on Fridays. The Selectmen felt it was important to remain available to residents on Friday.

New England Wildflower – Lynn drafted a letter to New England Wildflower proposing the company plant and raise trees for the Town in an in-lieu-of-taxes agreement. The not-for-profit is tax-exempt. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the letter.

Americorps has asked permission to use Town space (the community room in the Town Hall) for their twice-monthly training sessions. The meetings would be held during the day throughout the winter. The Selectmen felt a fee to cover the cost to heat the room should be collected, \$100/month. Lynn will contact Kate Allen the Americorps representative.

Appointment – It was motioned and voted to appoint Samantha Warner as weigher & measurer at the auction barn.

Election Officers – The Selectmen motioned and appointed the list of election officers as submitted.

Vacant Appointments – Charlie Zaskey did not accept reappointment to the Council on Aging. Robert Bourke did not accept reappointment to the Implementation Committee.

Letter to Conservation Commission – Tracy Gordon wrote the conservation commission recently regarding the hazard created by the flooded ditch near her property on River Rd. Her property is eroding around the ditch and the standing water is creating a health hazard for her children and the children at her daycare. The letter was forwarded to the Conservation Commission Chair, Scott Jackson.

Electronic Waste Bill – In 2002 the Select Board at the time signed a resolution that would require electronic manufacturing companies to take back old electronics from customers. Toxins are released from these products. The bill provides for safe disposal of the products by the companies that produce them. Senator Rosenberg has recently submitted another bill that would provide state funding for the safe disposal of these products. The Selectmen supported the provision for safe disposal of electronics noted in each of the two bills, but did not have an opinion between the company mandated program or Rosenberg sponsored bill.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day is scheduled for September 13 at the Orange and Montague transfer stations and the Route 2 Park and Ride in Charlemont. Pre-registration is required.

Retirement Party Invitation – A retirement party will be held for Paul Douglas retiring after 30+ years working for the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The Selectmen were invited.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul K. Newlin, Clerk

Appointment of Election Officials – August 1, 2008 – August 1, 2009

Virginia Allis
Carol Annis
Patricia Barschenski
Lois Bean
Carl Brooks
Wilma Brooks
Charlene Butterworth
Jeff DeRose
Lynn DiTullio
Katherine Fleuriel
Jane Grybko
Janet Hale
Constance Ludlam
Janet Korytoski
Sylvia Nye
Walt Nye
Joanne O'Shea
Diane Porcella
Shirley Pielock
Roberta Reardon
Jennie Rup
Beverly Sanderson
Marianne Simon
Frances Symanski
Linda Theriault
Martha Zigmont