

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
February 26, 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, February 26, 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 February 12th meeting were accepted as written.

Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Rooster- There has been no new developments regarding the rooster dispute. The last conversation Lynn had with Mr. Delaney, he expressed his intent to write the Selectmen when he returned from traveling. **Transfer Station Repairs-** Lynn recently consulted with Steve Mason regarding the necessary repairs to the transfer station. It would be difficult to complete the project in stages in order to spread the costs over two or three years. There is too much mobilization involved and separating the project would lead to added costs such as, setting up cement equipment twice. The Capital Planning Committee and the Finance Committee are considering the entire project as a debt exclusion for the FY10 budget year. Mr. Mason estimates an increase cost of \$10,000 for the project since the original quote three years ago, bringing the project total to approximately \$70,000 today. Continued patch-type work may need to be done in the meantime. **Generator Grant-** Whately has applied for \$45000 to purchase and install a 65kw generator at the Elementary School through a five-town application being submitted by the FrCOG. The funds are available through the regional Homeland Security department. The Selectmen suggested soliciting legislative support for the grant. Lynn may contact Ray Goden who is the president of the Western Mass Homeland Security Council. **Implementation Committee** will be conducting a presentation on the CPA for town board and committee members tomorrow evening at the Town Hall at 7pm. The presentation will provide all boards with the information necessary to field questions from residents and give the Implementation Committee some experience in presenting before the public forum to be held at the Elementary School on April 3. The CPA is expected to be voted on at the April 29th Annual Town Meeting and appear on the November ballot. Once the CPA is passed, a CPA committee will be formed and will include a member from Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Historical Commission. **NIMS Compliance!**

Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Federal Census- Address corrections on the federal census report (LUCA) have been completed and submitted. **Nomination Papers** are available for positions to be voted on at the May 20th elections. There may be vacancies on the Cemetery Commission and the Board of Health. **Dog Licenses** are now available.

Police Station Renovation Project- Eight bids were opened on Feb 19th but all were over the \$120,000 budget (low bid was \$167,000). After reviewing the bid documents and receiving feedback from some of the contractors, the Selectmen have discovered many specifications on the bid that request expensive or unnecessary items. The architect contends that items were required to be commercial grade and while specific manufacturers and model numbers were specified, the bid noted that similar items were acceptable. The Selectmen have 30 days to accept or reject bids. The Board decided to postpone their decision until the March 11th Selectmen's

meeting so details can be investigated. The project may need to be put out to bid again, which will incur additional expenses for advertising and new bid documents. The Board felt some negotiating should be done on the part of the architect for redoing the bid documents. Lynn consulted with the Attorney General to see if the Board could accept the low bid and then change specifications to further reduce the cost of the project. No negotiating is allowed. It is unclear whether the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security will extend the June 30th deadline for the work to be completed. The extension requires a vote of the legislators, so Lynn will contact Steve Kulik and Stan Rosenberg to encourage them to support the extension.

Highway- Lynn updated the Board on the Hazardous Mitigation Grant for Williamsburg Road. The highway superintendent met with a MEMA representative today to view the area. The Town's costs regarding the past repairs may be underestimated. Keith didn't document his time associated with each washout, such as placing barricades, etc. Keith is going to estimate his time and recalculate the costs. The cost versus benefit calculation is an important factor in determining the grant. Grant approval is not expected until late summer or early fall. Once MEMA approves the grant it needs to be approved by FEMA.

New Business

ABCC Hearing has been scheduled for the Castaway Lounge regarding an alleged violation of serving a person under 21 years of age. A new date for the hearing is April 8th according to Cris Carl.

Sunderland's Frontier Budget Request- Sunderland is looking for support from the other district towns to support a cut in the proposed FY09 Frontier budget. Whately's portion of the Frontier budget has increased by 6.7% over FY08. Sunderland is facing a very tight budget and is looking to cut town department budgets as well. The Selectmen discussed the need for the towns to support each other when necessary. Whately faced budget problems two years ago and Deerfield struggled last year. A meeting between town administrators and Superintendent Nash will attempt to discuss the budget in a smaller more intimate atmosphere. The Selectmen suggested including the Board chairs or a Finance committee member from each town.

Stan Rosenberg's Conference is scheduled for April 5th at the Clarion Hotel Conference Room.

Insurance Quotes- Lynn has requested insurance quotes from a new company for property and liability, worker's compensation, and police and fire. The quotes are expected in March.

Selectmen Workshops are scheduled for March 13th and April 3rd.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Edwards, Clerk