

Board of Selectmen
March 11, 2008
Center School Offices
7:00 p.m.

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately was called to order on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 7 p.m. by Chair, Paul Newlin. Selectmen Alan Sanderson, Jr. and Jonathan Edwards were present. Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley was also present.

Minutes from February 22 and February 26, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

Town Administrator – Police Station update -Alan Sanderson, Jr. updated the Board on the status of the police station project. After reviewing the bid documents with Roy Omasta and Jim Ross it was determined that significant savings could be had by re-bidding the project. Therefore, Alan moved that the Selectmen reject all bids due to insufficient funds and re-bid the project with new bid documents. All members voted in agreement. Selectmen felt that there were many inaccuracies in the bid documents along with items specified which were not approved by the town such as changing the windows from double hung to casement and hardware was specified as computer monitored when the town was looking for manual combination locks. Just these two items will save a significant amount of money. Alan, Jim Ross, Jim Sevigne and Lynn Sibley will meet again on Monday to flag all changes in the documents. Then a meeting will be set up with the architect. **Hannum Property** – Jackie Duda, Health Agent and Charlie Kaniecki, Department of Public Health met with Peter Hannum at 32 Dickinson Hill Road and discussed the cow situation including the feeding and fencing for his cows. For town liability purposes, Charlie Kaniecki recommended that cow crossing signs be put up to warn drivers that there may be a cow ahead. Selectmen agreed to having Keith put up the signs at the Hannum's expense but these signs don't give permission to Peter to allow the cows to roam freely. **Boston Post Cane** – the eldest resident in town, Chanchalben Patel has passed away, the next eldest resident is new to town. Lynn confirmed with the Selectmen that there was no residency requirement for the gold can. She will inform Mr. Jarosewicz of Webber Road that he was now the eldest resident in town and set up a time to present the cane. **Tax payments** – Susan Warriner has collected a \$14,000 delinquent tax payment. **Water Department** – there were two water breaks on Monday, March 10th. One was a service break and the other was reported as a water main break but turned out to be a saddle break at the corporation.

Town Clerk – Nomination papers are available. There are presently no candidates running for Assessor, Board of Health and Cemetery Commissioner. Lynn also reported that dog licenses are available.

Highway Department – Haydenville Road – Keith Bardwell, Highway Superintendent will be setting up photocell flashing barricade lights on the jersey barriers on the Haydenville Road Bridge. The street light helps a lot but this would add additional warning. Bids on the bridge are expected to go out by February 2009 so hopefully construction can begin in early spring of 2009. **2005 Storm Damage** – This project has been completed. All \$70,000 has been spent to repair

the storm damage. **Hazardous Mitigation Grant for Williamsburg Road** – Keith reported that he met with a representative from MEMA at the site which is half way between Dry Hill Road and the town line. Grant request was for \$160,000 which would be used to take out 2 undersized culverts and put in one large shallow culvert. It is hoped that the City of Northampton will help with the match for this project which may be as high as 25%. **Bids on Dump Truck** – We will wait for town meeting in April for additional appropriation before this truck is bid out. **Long Plain Road** – Keith reported that Jim Toth will be doing field work for the Notice of Intent as soon as the weather improves. Keith has additional work to do on the road while the notice of intent is being processed. **Winter Roads** – Keith estimates that Winter Roads will go over by about \$4,000 which is mainly for the cost of salt.

New Business

Library – Selectmen signed a settlement agreement for compact disc antitrust litigation. It is anticipated that the library will receive at least \$300 from this agreement.

Community Preservation Act Status – Paul reported on the Historical Society presentation and Lynn reminded people that there will be a public forum on April 3rd at the Elementary School. Lynn has also obtained a quote of \$3,400 for the computer upgrades necessary for the tax bills. She has also obtained the wording for the article and ballot question from town counsel.

Franklin County Selectmen's Association meeting – A meeting of this association will be held on March 27, 2008 at Bill's restaurant. A report from the County Education Regionalization Committee will be presented. Jonathan Edwards and Paul Newlin will attend.

CET workshop on Residential Energy Code/Green Buildings will be held March 25th in Belchertown and April 23rd in Lenox. The purpose is to promote education on the new Mass. Residential building code and to make builders aware of green building programs and incentives.

Budget Scenario – Lynn reported that the House and Senate have committed to a resolution as far as Chapter 70, Lottery Aid and Additional Assistance state aid is concerned. However, the individual town dollars have not been announced as of yet. Lynn is expecting that \$22,000 additional lottery aid will be available. This amount was tied to casino gambling in the Governor's budget.

Neighbor's Convenience Store – Lynn reported that she has been contacted by Irving Oil who is interested in purchasing Neighbor's Convenience Store and a number of other Rice Oil properties in the area. Application for a transfer of liquor license should be forthcoming.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan S. Edwards
Clerk