

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
January 13, 2009
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, January 13, 2009 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 30th meeting were accepted as written. Payroll and vendor warrants were reviewed and signed.

FCAT – Joyce Palmer-Fortune appeared before the Board to present FCAT’s annual report. Joyce distributed a summary from FCAT Executive Director Martin McGuane, a report on the pilot program, and a draft of the 2009 calendar year budget. The Selectmen were asked to consider funding FCAT through community access funds at the same level as last year, \$5,582.50 in quarterly installments. Additionally, FCAT requests the member towns share the cost, proportionate to each town’s Comcast subscribership, of moving the upstream feed to their new location. The wiring change cost \$6,830.30 and Whately’s share would be \$751.33. Another smaller expense request is expected in the coming weeks to cover the cost of expanding the feed into the gymnasium at Frontier Regional. In addition to the success of the Pilot Program, Joyce explained that the new studio has launched training classes, live broadcasts, and taped productions. Frontier students have been involved in the training and productions. FCAT is offering memberships and are seeking underwriters as well as considering fundraising events. Goals for the future include continuing with the current efforts and developing a capital plan to allow for larger projects like transitioning from analog to digital. The Selectmen have been pleased with FCAT’s accomplishments. The Selectmen suggested a programming schedule so viewers know when programs will be broadcast. FCAT representatives will return in the next few weeks for a decision on the funding requests.

Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: K-12 Regionalization – A meeting will be held tonight at 8:15pm at Frontier to begin discussions about the feasibility and benefits of creating a K-12 regional district. A committee will be formed, made up of a school committee member from all five school committees and a select board member or designee from each of the district towns. **Franklin Technical** – The FCT school committee is continuing to investigate their admissions policy. A policy committee was formed and their final findings should be available in the next couple months. **Kingston CPA Letter** – The Selectmen reviewed and signed a letter addressed to Stan and Steve regarding Whately’s support of funding through CPA of green initiative projects and the relevance such projects have on the preservation of towns’ futures. **Yankee Candle Thank You Letter** – The Selectmen reviewed and signed a letter thanking Yankee Candle for their donations to the Police and Ambulance Departments. **Elementary School Roof** – The school plans to submit a capital item request for the FY10 budget to replace the roof at the Elementary School. They have received one estimate so far for \$245,000. That does not include any warranty or insurance claims. The superintendent’s office is investigating the 30-year warranty/guarantee on the 17-year old shingles and considering a property insurance claim alleging the shingles were damaged during this past July’s storm.

Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Census – Census forms have been mailed. Lynn asked residents to complete and return the forms. **Election Day Change** – The Attorney General’s office has acknowledged receipt of the Town’s vote to change town election day to the second Tuesday in June. The Attorney General’s office has 90 days to approve the change. Lynn will contact the AG’s office to request a quick response.

Highway Department: Haydenville Rd – Lynn updated the Board. Details have been worked out and FrCOG will be doing the takings. **STRAP Grant** – The Selectmen reviewed a letter to Conway Rd residents asking for their input regarding improving their road.

New Business

Ag Commission – David Jackson has submitted his resignation from the Ag Commission. The Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Margaret Christie to the Ag Commission to replace David.

Campaign Finance Reports – The Selectmen signed the yearly campaign finance reports indicating that they have spent no money on their campaigns.

Community Development Block Grant – A public hearing will be held January 27th at the Town Hall. The Selectmen’s meeting scheduled for that evening will be held at Town Hall. The public hearing was originally a hearing about the weatherization program. However, the federal funding for that grant fell through. The hearing will consider renewing/updating or applying for a new rehabilitation housing grant. Residents can apply for weatherizing projects under the rehabilitation program.

Hampshire Power – The Town received \$23.13 from the profit sharing plans. The Water Dept. has saved \$800 under the market share plan.

Energy Performance Contract – The walk-through for the preliminary audit has been postponed until next week.

Elementary School Water Damage – The school has repaired the damage caused by the sprinkler system failure in December. The repairs will be covered under the Town’s property insurance, which carries a \$1,000 deductible. The insurance company is investigating whether the failure was caused by the sprinkler company during their last service visit.

Freezing Temperatures – Lynn has warned departments to maintain enough heat in the Town buildings to keep pipes from freezing. By the end of this week, temperatures are expected to fall below zero in the overnight hours.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paul K. Newlin, Clerk