

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
October 13, 2009
Whately Elementary School
7:00 p.m.**

Select Board Chair Jonathan Edwards called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately to order on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 7:15 p.m., following the Special Town Meeting. Also present were Selectmen Paul Newlin and Joyce Palmer Fortune, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley, and Municipal Secretary Barbara Hancock. Minutes from the Sept 29th meeting were accepted as written. The vendor and payroll warrants were reviewed and signed.

Chapter 61A Parcel: Selectmen's Right to First Refusal

Greg Lawrence appeared before the Board. Greg Lawrence and Nikki Lankowski of North St plan to add a second stall to their one-car garage. However, their property line falls short of the zoning bylaws' setback requirement of 20'. They have come to an agreement with their abutting neighbor, Alan Sanderson, to obtain a 16' portion of Sanderson's property to extend their property line. The parcel is filed under Chapter 61A and is in the process of being removed from that program. The Selectmen are offered the right of first refusal on Chapter 61A properties, but waived that option and signed.

Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Connect CTY – Verizon installed a telephone line dedicated to receive messages regarding the automated system. A test message will be sent soon. A link will be available soon on the Town's website so residents can provide additional telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, and/or email addresses. **Green Communities and Energy Grants**– Lynn reviewed several programs all featuring benefits for the Town and the Town Hall but struggling to get deadlines to line up with the projects' timing. The ESCO recommended energy updates for the Town Hall including envelope upgrade, windows, and weatherizing. But the Town is uncertain whether a renovation of the building will happen in the short-term. An EEBG, Energy Efficiency Block Grant application is due by Dec 7th that would provide for energy performance buy-downs but the Investment Grade Audit would need to be completed and not sure it will be. There is another grant available that would provide the Town with a buyer's agent to guide the Town through the ESCO process or any other energy conservation project. The Board also discussed installing solar producing energy panels on Town buildings/property. Lynn will follow through with the buyer's agent grant application. The Selectmen will revisit the Green Communities program at another meeting in the future. **Structural Evaluation** – After reviewing the engineer's assessment of Town Hall, the Selectmen agreed that a number of maintenance projects need attention whether the building is renovated or not. An itemized estimate of the repairs could help in prioritizing projects. The Municipal Building Committee will be reactivated to review the building's needs. **Franklin County Selectmen's Association** will hold their next meeting at the Franklin County Technical School on Nov 19th. The Selectmen plan to attend. **FCAT** – Jonathan and Paul approved FCAT's request for an increase in the Town's allocation of PEG Access funds to FCAT from quarterly payments of \$1375 to \$2515.68, totaling 8963.29 annually. Joyce recused herself. **Circle K** misplaced their liquor license. The Selectmen voted to assess a \$25 fee for a duplicate license in the future. **Senior Center** – Jonathan updated the Board on the oversight committee's progress. The committee has prepared a first draft MOU and has completed an organizational chart. Eventually a policy and procedures handbook will be available to guide personnel and volunteers. **Town Hall Rental Tables** – Lynn reported that the tables stored at Town Hall are not very stable and should not be rented out. The Board asked that the tables be discarded, perhaps at the Bulky Waste collection on Saturday. **Hampshire Council of Governments** has returned the Town's initial deposit of \$990 plus interest, totaling \$1007.63. **Pasiernik's Appeal** is in the process of being withdrawn by his attorney.

Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Dog Licenses – One Owner remains with unlicensed dogs (3) and will be summons to court.

Highway Dept: Lynn updated the Board. **Haydenville Rd Bridge** – Mass Highway is scheduled to advertise the bid on Oct 17th. Nothing new to report on other projects.

New Business

Heritage Landscape Inventory – Some items recommended in the report have already been started or the planning has begun. The Cemetery Commissioners have been repairing gravestones. A structural assessment of the Town Hall was completed recently. Other recommendations include: A local historic district (more restrictive) designation for the center and W Whately, A demolition delay bylaw that would postpone the demolition of a building to investigate its historic significance, Whately Water District should continue to seek ownership of the property surrounding the pump station, and the Town should update its Master Plan. Any comments should be forwarded to Historical Commission Chair Alan McArdle who will be submitting a report by November 1. It was suggested that a town presentation of this report be made.

Select Board Representative to the FRS Negotiating Team – The Selectmen voted Sunderland Selectman Tom Fydenkevez to serve as the FRS representative on the negotiating team. Tom had previously served as the negotiations representative and has requested a directive from each town to provide some guidance, limits, and strategy to the team and Attorney Dick Hayes as the negotiating process begins. Some ideas discussed included: One year contracts instead of three, No raises for non-union employees, and Consider one week break in March instead of a break in February and April. Lynn will forward the current contract to the Board for their review.

APR – The final paperwork was reviewed and signed for the APR on Farrick's property on Christian Lane.

Award Water Dept Truck Bid – A vote taken earlier in the evening at the STM approved the additional funds needed to accept the low bid on a 2009 truck for the water department. The Selectmen voted unanimously to award the bid to Lorenz of Greenfield for a 2009 pickup truck quoted at \$31,852.13.

School Roof Bond – The Selectmen reviewed and signed the three bonds for the school roof, each bond is \$63,204 plus interest at a rate of 2.45%.

Zoning Task Force Meeting – The Zoning Task Force will hold a departmental meeting on Oct 21 at 7pm at the Town Hall. A public forum will be scheduled in November.

Announcements – Barb Hancock announced that flu clinic information will be on the town's website and there is a seasonal flu clinic for children on Saturday, October 24, 2009 at the South Deerfield Fire Station from 9 – Noon. She also announced that you can pay your tax bill online. There is a link on the Town's website. Barb also reminded everyone that tax bills are due November 2, 2009.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Joyce Palmer Fortune, Clerk