

**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
October 27, 2009  
Center School Offices  
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, October 27, 2009 at 7 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Paul Newlin and Joyce Palmer Fortune, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley, and Municipal Secretary Barbara Hancock. Minutes from the Oct 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as written. The vendor and payroll warrants were reviewed and signed.

**Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Connect CTY** – The system is in place and Lynn will be sending out a test message soon. Residents will be directed to the website for further information including a telephone number for residents to respond regarding the call. **Green Communities/Energy Grants** – The stretch code requirements for energy efficiency on new construction applies to all new construction. Guidelines outlined in previously summaries referred to the energy standards (HERS ratings of 70 minimum) for construction of 3000 sq. ft. or larger. But there are also requirements, reduced to 65 HERS, for new construction under 3000 sq. ft. The municipal building committee plans to schedule a meeting in the coming weeks to consider the Town Hall renovation options. Lynn DiTuillio and Gary Grybko are examining the Center School and will submit recommendations. Lynn Sibley continues to work on the application for a buyer's agent. Paul encouraged residents to use clotheslines instead of dryers as an energy saving measure. **FCAT Support** – The Board discussed Sunderland's hesitation in approving the increase in PEG Access funding requested by FCAT director Marty McGuane. Jonathan brought up a couple of issues that may be causing Sunderland to pause: FCAT decided to rent their current studio without consulting with the three towns' telecommunications committees who may have supported free space at Frontier, and The limited amount of participation/inclusion of Frontier students at the studio. The Selectmen will wait to see what Sunderland decides to do before interjecting their opinion. **Tim Nourse Letter**- Mr. Nourse wrote requesting an Agricultural Commission member be appointed to the CPC committee. Lynn has responded, notifying him that all members have been appointed and Whately's agricultural community should be well represented in the appointments of Cris Coffin, Alan Sanderson, and Nikki Ciesluk. **Senior Center Update** – Jonathan was pleased to announce that Lisa Ballou had accepted the position of interim director at the Senior Center, as Karen Herold had resigned. She will work on in-house services as well as outreach for area seniors and work together with the oversight committee and the consortium as organization, bylaws, and eventually a MOU are created. Once in place, the position of director will be advertised. Well-defined job descriptions for volunteer positions will be included in the plan to help offset budget constraints. **Legislative Breakfast** – MMA will host a legislative breakfast in Deerfield on Friday at 8:30am. These meetings are usually open to topics of concern, expected to address the new Conflict of Interest requirements under the Ethics Laws. Lynn plans to attend. **Online Tax Payments** – Residents now have the option of paying their real estate taxes online. There is a link on the homepage of the Town's website. Residents will need their bill number and bank or credit card information. There is a fee associated with credit card payments. **Tax Classification Hearing** will be held during the next Selectmen's meeting. New growth has been certified at \$50,260. Lynn will check to see if the Town has the option to excluding energy upgrades from affecting the assessed value of residents' homes.

**Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Dog Licenses** – One owner remains with three unlicensed dogs. A complaint has been filed in court. **Conflict of Interest** – Recent changes require that all board/committee members, employees, and many others associated with the Town in various ways complete an educational online program. Lynn will be sending the information out to everyone in the next couple of days.

**Highway Department, Superintendent Keith Bardwell: Haydenville Rd Bridge** – Lynn reported that she did not see the project on the bid list recently and has emailed our contact person. The project had been scheduled to go out for bid on Oct 17<sup>th</sup>. **STRAP Grant** – Lynn continues to work on the capital plan. Also

need to call for traffic counts and get a cost estimate for the project. **Williamsburg Rd** – Lynn reviewed the grant application prior to the Board signing it. The Town agrees to assume maintenance responsibility once the project is completed and ‘upon STM appropriation’ agrees to the grant’s match. Northampton continues to support Whately’s application with engineering design work and financially. The grant is very competitive funded through DCR and MEMA fed with FEMA funds. **Shared Grader** – Keith plans to use Hatfield’s new grader before deciding whether the Town wants to enter into a shared equipment agreement for its use. **Haydenville Road Project** – Keith received a bid for the project from Heritage Surveyors for \$40,000. As Keith explained at a previous meeting, Joe Dunn had planned to do the work but recently turned the project down. His estimate for the job was significantly less, approximately \$20,000 although it did not include design plans. Keith plans to consult with Scott Jackson to see if everything quoted in Heritage’s estimate is necessary. Keith will update the Board after further investigation. **Cemetery Leaves** – Alan Thackeray has asked Keith if the Highway Dept. could help remove leaves from the cemetery. Last year the cemetery staff cleared them by hand, which was a huge project. Keith felt he had the available time this year and would use the leaf loader to remove the leaves. The cemetery staff will rake the leaves to the cemetery roadway. The Selectmen approved. **Department Pickup** – Keith asked what the Selectmen plan to do with the highway dept’s 1995 pickup truck once Keith receives the water dept.’s old truck (1999). The truck does not have any mechanically problems and had a new transmission installed last year. Keith thought a farmer might pay \$500 to use around their farm, for example. Lynn will find out how much the truck costs to insure and the Selectmen will decide at their next meeting. The department also has a 1993 van, which offers the convenience of shelter for the equipment they have with them. **Stop Signs** – Keith has ordered stop signs for the Webber Rd/Haydenville Rd intersection as well as replacements for others in Town. There are new reflective requirements for stop signs and Whately’s current signs don’t meet those requirements. They will be installed once they arrive.

#### **New Business**

**Heritage Landscape Inventory** – Judy Markland prepared a summary, which the Selectmen reviewed. The Historical Commission is looking for feedback and comments. The Selectmen were in support of most of the recommendations but were hesitant on the Local Historic District. Some projects are already underway. The Board did suggest the program be presented to residents perhaps through a public access program.

**Frontier Negotiation Letter** – The Board reviewed and signed a letter to Tom Fydenkevez outlining some negotiation terms discussed at the last Selectmen’s meeting.

**Nasami Farms** will appear before the ZBA in November to request a permit for a directional sign at the North St/Swamp Rd intersection.

**License Fees** – A list of the current license fees was dispersed to the Board for their review. License fees will be reviewed at the next Selectmen’s meeting.

**Comcast Changes** – Comcast has sent a notice regarding programming changes and rate increases.

**Citizen’s Advisory Committee to CDBG-** The Selectmen agreed to appoint Richard Korpieski if he is willing to serve.

**Winter Parking Ban** – The Selectmen voted to enact the annual parking ban November 1 – April 15. No parking on streets or in municipal parking lots between midnight and 7am.

**Council on Aging Vacancies** – Jonathan appealed to anyone who would come forward to serve on the CoA. There have been two vacancies for quite some time. With the efforts to get the Senior Center off to a new start, some fresh volunteers would be welcomed.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 9:20.m.

Respectfully submitted.

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Joyce Palmer Fortune, Clerk