

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
December 1, 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, December 1, 2009 at 7:05 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 Nov 10th meeting were accepted as written. The vendor and payroll warrants were reviewed and signed.

Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Connect CTY – The test message sent out last month successfully reached 87% of residences and 82% of businesses in town. Lynn will research the failed calls to remove outdated information, fax numbers and make any necessary corrections. **Clean Energy Funds** – Lynn has selected three different informational booklets to be purchased with the \$363 in energy grant funds. The Energy Committee may hand out a couple of the booklets at town events. The third informational booklet is geared toward students in grades 5-8. **Thank You Cards** – The Selectmen received notes of appreciation from the families of Jim Rewa and Jim Ostrowski thanking them the flowers and condolences. **Investment Grade Audit** is scheduled for Monday, Dec 7th. The police station was removed from the project list because there weren't many energy upgrades projects needed. The proposed projects for the Center School were discussed. Jonathan felt the windows should be replaced under the audit. However, the payback is outside of the guidelines of 20-30 years. **Tax Rate** has been set at \$14.51, two cents more than FY09, and will be submitted tomorrow. **GIC Insurance** recently notified participants that some benefit changes would be going into effect, increases in co-pays and new deductibles. Whately had chosen not to join the GIC. **Shelburne Control Letter** – Jonathan signed the letter of support for funding with the revisions suggested at the last meeting. **Charter School Hearing** – Nat Fortune attended a hearing for the proposed charter school in Montague, Discovery Charter School of Sustainability. Lynn distributed a copy of Nat's letter outlining his points of objection to the new school, such as: Local school funds being tapped into for the project. And why establish a new school when the state is pressuring the area to consolidate schools?

Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Dog Licenses – Last outstanding dog owner to license their dogs for 2009, came in today and licensed all three dogs. **Reimbursement for Special Elections** seems very unlikely. The two elections are expected to cost Whately approximately \$2500. The State will only reimburse the 3 additional hours of time. Jonathan would like to see the process to replace a vacant seat mid-term revert back to an appointment by the governor, as it had been before the legislators changed the law. He suggested the legislators consider changing the law when there is no vacant seat available and therefore no political agenda. An appointment would eliminate the cost associated with additional elections, which have been passed on to cities and towns.

Castaways Lounge – A movie, filmed in part at the Castaway Lounge, will be shown at the Academy of Music in Northampton on Thursday evening. Demetrios Konstantopolous (not present) discussed with Lynn recently his interest in holding an after-viewing party and wanted to request an extension of hours for the evening. The Board would consider the extension if Mr. Konstantopolous were to submit the request.

Highway Department: Lynn reported that according to Paul Dunphy from Rep. Kulik's office, the Haydenville Rd Bridge project would be advertised on Dec 5th. **Keith Bardwell, Superintendent:** **Haydenville Rd Bridge** – All the solar powered warning lights were smashed about three weeks ago, totaling approximately \$350. No one has complained about the missing lights and Keith is not sure he

will replace them. The traffic light seems to be the most helpful warning at that site. **Hatfield Grader** – Keith had an opportunity to use Hatfield’s new grader recently and found it to be adequate but certainly smaller than Whately’s old grader. Projects will take longer with the smaller machine, but it should be able to handle the work that Whately needs it for. Keith did suggest the minimum use portion of the original MOU (64 hours per year) be removed because the new grader was obtained through the federal surplus program and didn’t cost the Town of Hatfield anything. Since Hatfield is not depending on Whately’s rental income to pay for the grader, Keith felt a use-by-hour agreement (\$75/hour) should be sufficient. Hatfield’s Superintendent will discuss it with the Hatfield Selectmen at their next meeting. Lynn will contact Hatfield’s Town Administrator to discuss details of an agreement. **Haydenville Rd** – Keith talked with Chuck Dauchy, upon the suggestion of Terry Reynolds of the Conservation Comm, who agreed to delineate wetlands in the area. That would isolate the areas that would need Con Comm and DEP approval and should help to reduce the costs. It is unclear how much work will be completed before winter sets in. **Highway Dept Truck** – Keith recommended keeping the 1995 truck on the road. He thought the department would use it enough to justify the \$350 in insurance costs to the Town. Keith will begin driving the water department’s old pickup (1999) soon.

Fire Department’s Bronco – The Firefighter’s Association donated the Bronco to the Whately Fire Department to use as a commuter vehicle to training sessions and to transport tanks to the scene of a fire. The department no longer uses the Bronco. The Town could declare it surplus property and sell it or donate it back to the Association, who has someone interested in buying it. Keith reported that there are some mechanical issues with the vehicle. The Selectmen agreed unanimously to donate it to the Firefighter’s Association.

New Business

Appointment – The Selectmen signed a letter appointing Lynn Sibley as the Whately’s Emergency Response Coordinator to FrCOG, voted at the last meeting.

Thank You Letter – The Selectmen accepted Blanche Wojtkielewicz’s resignation from the Council on Aging and signed a letter of thanks.

APRs Announced – The Board reviewed two APR applications for land owned by Paul & Charles Maiewski on Long Plain Rd and River Rd. The Selectmen offered their verbal support for the applications. Financial support for APRs in Whately have generally come from funds raised by the Whately Land Preservation group. When CPA funds are available, Whately may be able to contribute financially.

Whately Land Preservation Group wrote to recommend the Selectmen adopt a policy outlining the Board’s decision-making principles pertaining to CPA and Chapter 61 properties that come before the Board for right-of-first-refusal. The WLP submitted a copy of the Hilltown Communities’ Collaborative as an example of such policies. The WLP would also like to be involved in policy guidelines for the CPC. The Selectmen would like to consult with other town boards (Assessors, Planning Board, Open Space and Conservation Commission) along with the WLP to discuss creating this policy. These groups will be invited to a Selectmen’s meeting, possibly Dec 29th.

Transfer Station Inspection was successfully completed recently.

Comcast – Residents should be aware that changes to the digital recorder management are scheduled on or around December 10th. Comcast will be notifying its customers.

EECBG Grant – Lynn DiTullio is finishing up the grant application for the Center School. The \$90,000 project would convert the heating system, streamline the piping and create four heat zones. Other

components of the project include: window upgrades (\$10,000), Sealing drafts (\$6500), Attic Insulation (\$6500), Project Manager (\$5000), and Photovoltaics at the Police Station (\$42,500). Lynn Sibley is finishing the grant application for a buyer's agent to assist the Town through the energy audit/upgrade processes. The Board reviewed and signed the authorization pages.

Senior Center – Jonathan updated the Board on the newest developments at the Senior Center. The Oversight Committee continues to work towards a MOU, Bylaws, and consensus on the operation of the Center. The progress is slow and steady. The interim director is doing a great job. The Oversight Committee is trying to meet with the members of the Association to iron out their role. Budget issues will likely require a STM to allocate additional funds to support the operating budget. The operating budget has been under-funded for years, relying on the Association for financial support.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Joyce Palmer Fortune, Clerk