

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
February 10, 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, February 10, 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 January 27th meeting were accepted as written. Payroll and vendor warrants were reviewed and signed.

Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Pine Plains Estate – At the Planning Board meeting tonight, they are reviewing the definitive plan. The Selectmen discussed briefly the plan. The cable committee is televising that hearing and will not tape tonight's Selectmen's meeting.

Senior Center – A Select Board representative from each of the three towns participating in the Frontier Senior Center will formalize an inter-municipal agreement to support the Center. Jonathan will serve as Whately's representative. A draft agreement was distributed at the last Selectmen's meeting. Lynn was mainly concerned with the idea of Deerfield Council on Aging members having a weighted vote and also the equal sharing of capital costs associated with the building/grounds.

Structural Evaluation of Town Hall – An evaluation of the structural integrity of the Town Hall by Huntley Associates would cost approximately \$1000. The Selectmen wanted an evaluation of the building as they consider the building's future. Decisions will need to be made soon about what kind of repairs (including exterior paint) and energy efficiency upgrades should be done on the building. A national preservation funds grant will be available in June and would cover the evaluation if awarded. The Selectmen were concerned about postponing an evaluation until June or later, but in light of the pending budget constraints spending is also a concern. No decision was made.

GASB 45 – Whately needs to create a report on its post employment benefits by 2010 and update it every five years. Whately is small enough to create its own actuary through available software at \$750 per use rather than hiring an accountant costing \$4000. Will address this next fiscal year.

FCAT Director, Marty McGuane had written the Board to clarify his budget request presented at the last meeting. The 2009 budget of \$5582 approved by the Board is \$82 above the 2008 budget, not a level-funded request. The Selectmen appreciated the clarification and had no objection to their previous vote.

Kay Klippel is having difficulty exiting her driveway safely because of merging traffic off from Webber Rd onto Haydenville Rd headed west and the added problem of snow buildup. She will attend the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss possible solutions.

Assistance to Firefighter's Grant – The Selectmen supported the grant application for a new fire-truck.

Borrowing – The Treasurer will need to borrow money until the next real estate taxes are paid. The Selectmen approved. Quarterly billing next year should alleviate the need to borrow.

Marijuana Law – Lynn has received the first payment under the new marijuana civil citation. Whately has received two notifications of citations issued (both by State Police) since the new law. Lynn reports to the issuing agency when payment is received. It is unclear how other conditions under the new law are enforced, such as mandated education for individuals under 18 years of age.

Highway Department: Lynn updated the Board. **Haydenville Rd** – Lynn will remind Keith to get the residents' easement agreements signed so the FrCOG can review them at their meeting on Thursday. **STRAP Grant** – Several residents on Conway Rd have contacted the office to endorse the plan to improve their road. Lynn will also submit an article to the next edition of the Scoop to let residents know that the Board is considering improvements to Conway Rd. **Trench Permit Reg.-** Need to appoint a permitting authority and alternate at the next meeting so they are in place by March 1st. **Shared Equipment** – Lynn has spoken to Hatfield's Highway Superintendent Frank Motyka about sharing equipment, a grader and possibly other equipment. Lynn and Hatfield's Town Administrator, Marlene Michonski are working up a rental agreement for the Selectmen to review.

New Business

Local Aid Cuts – Whately's local aid was cut by \$16,276 for the current fiscal year. After discussing Whately's revenues with the Town Accountant, Lynn feels the budget can absorb the cuts. In addition to revenues, all departments were asked to turn money back at the end of this fiscal year which should help the Town absorb the State's cuts.

Appointments – The Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Richard Korpiewski as Whately's representative on the CDBG Advisory Committee and voted unanimously to appoint Mary Shanley-Koeber to the Implementation Committee.

Castaway Lounge – Demetrios Konstantopoulos has written the ABCC to refute a report from someone who claims to have been a patron at the Castaway Lounge prior to being arrested for OUI. Mr. Konstantopoulos claims that his manager turned the man away that night and would not serve him. Mr. Konstantopoulos submitted copies of his letter to the ABCC to the Selectmen to keep them informed.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul K. Newlin, Clerk