

**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
March 10, 2009  
Center School Offices  
5:30 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, March 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Also present were Selectman Paul Newlin, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley, and Municipal Secretary Barbara Hancock. Selectman Jonathan Edwards arrived later. Minutes from the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as written. Payroll and vendor warrants were reviewed and signed.

**Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Gaffney Driveway Update** – Information obtained from Police Chief James Sevigne did not indicate any increase incidents of motor vehicle accidents at the Webber Rd./Haydenville Rd intersection. The police department has no motor vehicle accidents at that intersection as far back as 1998. There have been five vehicles involved in single vehicle accidents on Haydenville Rd in that vicinity, swerving off the road. The police chief did find record of two multivehicle accidents at Strippe Rd/Haydenville Rd intersection. The Board agreed that a stop sign should be installed at that intersection, as Strippe Rd does allow vehicles to cross traffic onto Haydenville Rd. Highway Superintendent Keith Bardwell is in the process of reviewing the Road Sign Standards with Mass Highway regarding the appropriate signage options at that intersection. It was suggested by the Board, that the residents install a mirror that would allow them to view oncoming traffic from the Webber Rd/Haydenville Rd direction. The residents should continue to keep their driveway snow from piling up at the end of the driveway. The Board will take the Highway Superintendent's recommendations into consideration regarding signage. The Board does support 'Blind Drive' signs. **Celebrity Lunch** – The Board has been invited to participate in a potluck lunch at the Frontier Senior Center on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. **Sunderland Selectmen Letter** – Sunderland is struggling with a FY10 budget deficit of approximately \$600,000. They have requested that the Frontier Teachers' contract be opened to renegotiations and that a wage freeze be applied to all non-union school employees. Reportedly, teachers have refused to renegotiate their contract in the past even to save teacher positions. The Board agreed with the Sunderland Selectmen regarding opening the teacher contracts without necessarily supporting a wage freeze. In light of the current and anticipated budgets in the next couple of years, the Whately Board felt that all expenditures should be up for negotiations, including pay raises for all employees including the teachers. [Jonathan Edwards arrived.] The Board will write a letter of support. The Board briefly discussed pay increases for Town employees and felt that while Whately's current budget may allow for a 2.5% pay increase, the budget climate suggests a lesser amount may be more appropriate. **Legislators' Meeting** – Lynn attended the meeting where most topics centered on ways to offset reduced state aid. Local aid options were discussed, including meals tax and how the Federal Stimulus aid could offset state budget cuts to towns. Another idea discussed would allow towns to redesign health care plans, such as changing deductibles or co-pay amounts without renegotiating contracts. The state is allowed to make such changes but towns can't.

**Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Elections-** Nomination papers are available. **Dog Licenses** are available. A late fee will apply after June 1<sup>st</sup>. **New England Municipal Clerk's Institute** – A weeklong training session will be held in Plymouth NH this July. There is no money in the Town Clerk's budget to cover the registration fees, so Lynn has applied for a scholarship. The Selectmen signed a letter supporting Lynn's application and the fact that the classes would not be funded by the town.

**Highway Department:** Lynn updated the Board. **Haydenville Rd Bridge** – Awaiting the order of takings by FrCOG. The executive committee is meeting Thursday evening and would be able to sign them if they are ready. The Selectmen asked that every effort be made to get the executive committee the takings so the project doesn't get delayed. **STRAP Grant** – The Selectmen will ask Keith to get an estimate of engineering costs from Jim Toth, as they consider moving forward with the Conway Rd

project. The Town is spending a lot of money taking care of the washouts on Conway Rd already and the Board felt the project should be done. **Hatfield Grader Agreement** – The Board reviewed a revised copy of the agreement and questioned the yearly obligation to rent the grader for 8 days. Previously, the highway superintendent felt the Town would need the grader between 6 and 8 days. The Selectmen would like to hear from Keith before signing the agreement.

#### **New Business**

**Animal Inspector Appointed** – The Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Richard Adamcek as Whately's Animal Inspector. The appointment is required by the state by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**US Census** is gearing up to do their counts. The Census Bureau sent a guide to help the town set up a committee if interested.

**ABCC** has approved the liquor license transfer from IOCMA to Circle K. Circle K will hold the license following their March 24<sup>th</sup> closing on the transaction with IOCMA. The Selectmen signed the new liquor license and common victualler's license, which will not be released until March 24<sup>th</sup>. Circle K will be required to pay Whately the full license fees: \$1000 for the Off-Premises Wine & Malt liquor license and \$25 for the Common Victualler's license.

**April 2007 Storm** – The Selectmen reviewed and signed FEMA's contract for storm reimbursement from the April 2007 storm, totaling \$80.69.

**Whately Grange** – The Grange has offered to purchase new curtains for the Virginia C Allis Community Room at the Town Hall. They plans to raise the money through bake sales and other fundraisers. The Selectmen approved of the plan.

#### **Updates**

**ISO** – Alan reported that he had spoken with Fire Chief Hannum about the ISO requirements.

**Regionalization** – Jonathan attended the first Regionalization Meeting. The Board discussed briefly their limited expectations for savings through a regionalization of Union 38 because so much of the district is already regionalized. The Frontier district has joined a large group of school districts in a bid for bus service for next year. As the Board discussed busing, it was suggested that parking permits for Frontier High School students may reduce the amount of students that drive to school, increase bus use, and create new revenues.

**Frontier Senior Center** – The Deerfield Selectmen have appointed themselves to the Deerfield Council on Aging. They attended the last meeting and harmony seems to be their objective. The Council will have to vote seven of the now ten member Council on Aging, as voting members.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul K. Newlin, Clerk