

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
May 12, 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, May 12, 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 April 28th meeting were accepted as written. The vendor and payroll warrants were reviewed and signed.

Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Memorial Day Activities – The Selectmen plan to participate in the Town's Memorial Day parade and memorial services on Sunday, May 24th. The flagpole at the Town Hall should be repaired, repainted and a new flag should be raised by Memorial Day. **Herlihy Park** was vandalized. Nikki Ciesluk notified Lynn Monday that the building had been spray-painted. Nikki will try to determine the extent of damage to see if it is worth filing an insurance claim. The Town's property insurance carries a \$1000 deductible. Paul Newlin suggested motion detecting lights be installed to deter nighttime activity at the park. **George Owens**, a member of the Town's Conservation Commission, has successfully completed the Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners Program. Conservation Commission members have been actively participating in training opportunities. **MIAA Loss Control Report** – Whately's Property Insurance Company, MIAA, conducted its annual town building inspections and filed a report itemizing potential hazards at each building. The reports were forwarded to the department heads at each facility. Many of the items were housekeeping issues with no major concerns. **FCTS Selectmen's Rep** – A meeting is scheduled tomorrow evening for Selectmen from each of the FCTS towns to get together to select a Selectmen's representative for FCTS's collective bargaining. **FrCOG's Annual Report** is available in the Selectmen's office. The report outlines all the services offered by FrCOG and profiles services utilized by each town in 2008. **Swine Flu** – Information has been disbursed to the public through links on the website and print materials at the Post Office, Library, Transfer Station, and Town Hall. There have not been any inquiries from residents. The Board of Health has been in touch with the Town Administrator and the schools. Jackie Duda served as the public information officer while Lynn was out of the office last week. Lynn reviewed the recommendation and safety precautions residents should practice to avoid contracting the disease. **Housing Rehabilitation Program** still has funds available for residents to make repairs to their homes including roof, septic, furnace, and insulation. The program pays the contractor directly and a lien is set on the house payable when the home is sold. Low to moderate-income families are eligible. The funds available to Whately expire in December. The Selectmen would like to encourage residents to take advantage of this program and requested an article appear in the upcoming issue of the Scoop. **FRTA Advisory Board** – Lynn attended a recent meeting regarding the new transportation center in Greenfield. The building is being designed as a net-zero building. The bus terminal will occupy the ground floor and the FRTA and FrCOG offices will be on the second floor. **FCSWMD** will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary at the Blue Heron on June 11th and the Selectmen were invited. Paul plans to attend. **Assistance to Fire Fighters' Grant Application** was submitted for a new fire truck. **Community Forums** have been scheduled across the state to collect budget saving ideas from residents and learn their priorities. Our local forum will be held tomorrow evening at 6:30pm in the Deerfield Town Offices moderated by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles Rachel Kaprielian. Governor Patrick scheduled these forums to find out from residents what they want from their state government and how best to pay for it.

Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Elections – There is no one running for the open Assessor's position. Anyone interested can be elected through write-in votes. **Dog Licenses** – Dogs must be licensed by June 1st to avoid a \$25 late fee. **Selectmen's Meeting Date Changed** – The Selectmen agreed to change their June 9th meeting to Monday, June 8th to avoid a conflict with the June 9th Town Elections.

Highway Dept: Lynn updated the Board. **Haydenville Rd Bridge** – The paperwork has been accepted and everything seems to be on track for the scheduled May 30th bid date. There is one right-of-entry request still being investigated but that should not hold anything up. **Long Plain Rd** – The Conservation Commission has approved the Notice of Intent. **STRAP Grant** – The FrCOG will be doing a traffic count to be included with the grant application. **Gaffney's** – Keith recently met with Mass Highway regarding signage at the intersection of Webber Rd and Haydenville Rd. Mass Highway will visit the site. **Shared Highway Grader** – The agreement with Hatfield has been postponed as Hatfield considers buying a used grader or repairing their present grader instead of purchasing new. A new agreement would be negotiated in that case.

New Business

Franklin Hampshire Career Center will use Federal Economic Stimulus Funds to run a Summer Youth Employment Program. Keith thought he might have work for a student through the summer. Jonathan suggested cemetery mowing.

Conservation Commission needs the expertise of an engineering firm to review Yankee Candle's storm-water management plans associated with a project Yankee Candle is doing. The Conservation Commission has contacted Doucet & Associates, Inc who drew up an agreement for the project. Town Counsel has reviewed, revised, and approved the contract. Yankee Candle will pay the \$1000 in engineering costs. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the contract.

Northampton Fire Ambulance Intercept Agreement – The Selectmen reviewed the new 2-year contract. Lynn explained that the contract is very similar to the Am-B-Care contract except the fee will be 50% of payments collected. Lynn calculated the 50% arrangement based on the ambulance payments collected last year and the arrangement benefits the Town. Northampton is Whately's third intercept service. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the contract.

FY2010 CDBG – Community Development Block Grant funds of up to \$500,000 will be available in FY10 for public facilities and infrastructure improvements. The Board considered whether the Town Hall renovation project would be ready to submit in 2010. A structural engineering assessment needs to be done on the building to see if it should be renovated. The Board considered Schafer Engineering's quote to evaluate the building for \$1500 but decided to seek references for the company first and revisit the decision at their next meeting. The Board also discussed the parking limitations at the Town Hall. Lynn will investigate whether the Post Office could be relocated elsewhere in town, allowing for more parking around Town Hall.

Budget – Firm numbers for the FY10 state budget are not likely until the end of June. The Board discussed moving \$50,000 from the free cash account (current balance of \$118,000) to the stabilization account so it can be accessed through a STM vote if the budget has surprising cuts. The Finance Committee will consider options at their next meeting and provide the Selectmen with their recommendations.

Bulky Waste Collection Day will be held at the Transfer Station on Saturday from 8am – 1pm. Details and a fee schedule is available on the Town's website.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Paul K. Newlin, Clerk