

**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
May 26, 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 26, 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 May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as written. The vendor and payroll warrants were reviewed and signed.

**Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Selectmen's Meeting Date Change** – The Selectmen agreed to meet Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> instead of June 9<sup>th</sup>. Lynn will be at Town Elections on June 9<sup>th</sup>. **Historical Society** has requested the use of the Selectmen's office on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the expected audience for their guest speaker. The Selectmen approved the use. **Franklin County Technical School's Selectmen's Representative** for collective bargaining will be Scott Bergeron of Sunderland. **Budget Update** – Whately's FY10 budget appears to be \$35,000 over budget as the Senate and House release their versions of the budget. The House and Senate have both based next year's budget on an increase in the sales tax, but the Senate's version uses the tax revenue to offset the state's budget instead of sharing it with cities and towns like the House's version. The Board discussed possible options to offset a deficit. A special town meeting could be scheduled to move a portion of money from free cash (current balance \$118,000) into stabilization where it could be accessed if needed when the state budget is finalized. Or, the Town could wait for the state budget and then hold a STM after free cash is certified, usually late summer/early fall. The Selectmen wanted wait until the Finance Committee revisits some of the department budgets. The Selectmen will be meeting with the Finance Committee soon to do some end-of-the-year account transfers. **Coalition for Jobs and Growth**, a pro-casino group, have contacted the Board to solicit support based on the jobs and revenue the group claims a casino would generate. The Selectmen chose not to pledge any support for the group. **Frontier Graduation Ceremonies** – The Selectmen have been invited to Frontier's Class Night, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Graduation on June 5<sup>th</sup>. **New Librarian** – The trustees have hired a new librarian, Tiffany Hilton. The Selectmen each made a personal donation to the library in honor of the previous librarian Christine Moulton, who passed away last Friday. **Public Information Officer Training** session will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> in Williamsburg. **Barn Rental** – Ron Belder would like to rent the Town's tobacco barn again this year. The Selectmen agreed to rent the barn for \$800. The rate was increased by \$50 over last year to keep it in line with the current rental rate for barns in the area.

**Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Elections** will be held June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall from 10am-7pm. The Assessor's position remains open. **Dog Licenses** are due by June 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a \$25 late fee. Reminders have been mailed to owners that have not registered their dogs yet.

**Energy Committee** – Nat Fortune appeared before the Board to discuss the recent preliminary energy audit done by Siemen's and to consider pursuing the next step in the audit process. Lynn Sibley and Jonathan Edwards were also present from the Energy Committee. The group discussed their collective concerns with the many obvious mistakes in the audit, making the rest of the information questionable. Lynn had spoken to the Siemen's representative, Roland

Butzke, about the errors. Nat Fortune also recommended submitting an application through the US Dept of Energy funded by stimulus funds, for a buyer's agent to represent the Town. The third party would guide the Town through the energy performance process and monitor energy efficiency afterwards. Nat did support moving forward with an actual audit because he felt more savings would be identified. The group questioned the commitment level the Town would be subject to at the next level and whether a fee would be incurred following the next steps. They will also ask Mr. Butzke what would happen if improvements were made to a building such as Town Hall and the building was sold before the 20 year payback on the energy modifications. The Selectmen decided to invite Roland Butzke to their June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting provided a decision on their part is not required prior to that date. Lynn will work on the buyer's agent grant.

**Police Department, Police Chief Jim Sevigne: Franklin County Compliance Task Force**

visited two Whately liquor license establishments recently, Irving Oil and Gays Package store. The compliance checks test the establishments' enforcement of the Ma drinking age by sending individuals in as liquor customers. No violations were found. **Classes** – The department has participated along with the Sheriff's Department in offering a 'resist aggressive defense' RAD Kids Class for Whately Elementary students during the after-school program. A RAD women's class was held recently at the high school. And a license-to-carry class will be held soon. **Recent Arrest** – Whately Police recovered stolen property from Hadley, Conway, Shutesbury, and Whately recently during a vehicle search. **Vandalism**, spray painting, at Herlihy Park is being investigated. Farm equipment in Town has also been damaged recently. And there have been reports of stolen items and cash from roadside farm stands. **Police Station Dedication** – Chief Sevigne suggested a dedication and plaque to honor the memory of Richard LaSalle for whom the building was originally built. Chief Sevigne had a conversation with Jim LaSalle recently who indicated a memorial to his son would be appreciated. Randy Williams from the department, a mason, offered to create an outside marker. The Selectmen supported the idea, which may be planned to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the new station. **Policy Change** – Chief Sevigne asked the Board to consider rescinding the policy that forbids police officers in Whately from working at more than one other police department. The Chief explained that often part-time officers in other towns work for more than two departments to supplement their incomes. Officers may work a couple shifts a month at some of the departments. The Fire Dept. was removed from this policy. Fred Orloski, a Whately resident in attendance, suggested that the police department should not be held to a policy that does not apply to other departments such as the highway or fire departments. Lynn will investigate the policy and the Selectmen will discuss it at their next meeting. **Cruiser** – Lettering was completed on the new cruiser and it is running well so far. The Chief said the old blue cruiser has been used a couple of times to attend trainings and recently parts were taken off it to repair the white cruiser. The Selectmen reiterated their desire to have the old blue cruiser parked as a decoy throughout town to deter drivers from speeding.

**Highway Dept:** Lynn updated the Board. **Haydenville Rd Bridge**– Waiting for the final word about the project going out to bid on May 30<sup>th</sup>. **Long Plain Rd** – The Notice of Intent has been finalized but there are some easements that need to be done. **STRAP Grant** – FrCOG is still working on the traffic counts for the ongoing application. **Haydenville Rd Repaving** – Keith plans to use \$37,000, from the funds reimbursed to the department for expenses incurred during the July 2005 storm, to reclaim a small part of Haydenville Rd beginning around Masterson Rd and continuing NE halfway to Dickinson Hill Rd. The department had completed drainage work in that area last year. Keith will need to use some Chapter 90 funds to help pay for the repaving.

## **Old Business**

**Gaffney Driveway** – After reading Keith Bardwell’s comments regarding the driveway the Selectmen decided that Keith will install a stop sign at the end of Webber Rd where it intersects with Haydenville Rd. The Selectmen would like the Gaffney’s to install a mirror across from their driveway facing North to help them see oncoming traffic from Webber Rd and Haydenville Rd and to cut the banking back on the North side of their driveway also. The combination of the stop sign, mirror, and moving the banking back should reduce the Gaffney’s visibility issue.

Lynn will write the Gaffney’s a letter.

**Council on Aging Appointment** – There had been some confusion at the time of reappointments last June regarding Josie Wasielewski’s interest in being reappointed. However, she would like to continue to serve. The Selectmen unanimously appointed her to the Council on Aging for a three-year term expiring in 2011.

## **New Business**

**Comments on Passenger Rail** – Expanding rail service from Springfield north to Greenfield is being considered. The Selectmen have been given the opportunity to comment on the idea. The Board supports exploring the viability (rider ship) of the project. Paul expressed an interest in having a stop between Northampton and Greenfield. Lynn will submit the Board’s comments and the Selectmen will also submit individual comments as well.

**Herlihy Park Rental** – Kathy Farrick is interested in renting Herlihy Park to celebrate her mother’s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. She would like permission from the Selectmen for partygoers to ‘bring-their-own-beer’. After some discussion regarding insurance liability, the Selectmen denied Ms Farrick’s request unless she adds Liquor Liability Insurance to her homeowner’s policy.

**Park & Ride** – There have been rumors about a plan to establish a parking area/bus stop in Whately adjacent to the current Irving Gas Station on Routes 5 & 10. The Selectmen have not received any information about the plan, but recently the Conservation Commission received some paperwork regarding wetlands in that area.

**Memorial Day Thank You Letters** – The Board would like letters to be drafted and sent out to Roland Kinsman and Jim Ross thanking them for repainting and repairing the flagpole at Town Hall and a letter to Carl Brooks thanking him for erecting the flags along Chestnut Plain Rd. Continuing the discussion about the past Memorial Day events, Alan suggested that Chestnut Plain Rd remain closed to traffic during Memorial Day ceremonies at the Town Hall. The police department will be asked to detour traffic off from Haydenville Rd south onto Chestnut Plain Rd.

**Town Elections Warrant** – The Selectmen reviewed and signed the warrant.

**Emergency Management Performance Grant** – Lynn presented the grant to update the CEMP plan. It requires in-kind services, which Lynn has already completed. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the application.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

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Paul K. Newlin, Clerk