

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2023
Town Offices
Hybrid Session via Zoom
6:00 pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on May 30, 2023, at 6:05 pm by Chairperson Joyce Palmer Fortune. Also present were Selectboard members Fred Baron, and Julie Waggoner. Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee were present. Residents Ruth Leahy, John Zaikowski, and Jane Banash were present

1.Meeting Minutes: Review and vote whether to approve the meeting minutes from May 9, 2023

Fred made a motion to accept the Minutes from May 9, 2023. Julie seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes

2.Vendor & Payroll Warrants: Review past vendor and payroll warrants

No Comments

3.Public Comment: Listen to comments from the public related to items not listed on the agenda

No Comments

4. Scheduled Appointments:

a. none

5.COVID19:

Joyce reminded residents that COVID19 rapid tests are available at the Town Offices, Library and Police Station

6. Old Business:

a. To discuss and to consider taking action to change all address zip codes in Whately to 01093

Ruth Fairman, 18 Long Plain Road discussed with the Selectboard concerns she had regarding the proposed changes She questioned why residents were not notified properly regarding the possible change to the zip code. Joyce informed her that it was placed on the Town's website, Facebook page, front page of the Greenfield Recorder newspaper as well as put into the Scoop that is mailed to all households in Whately. Ruth questioned if it would be possible to have an informational session for residents before this change occurs. John Zaikowski expressed his concerns and questioned why the town is proposing this now. Joyce explained that the USPS now has the capacity to make this change easily.

The Selectboard agreed to set up an informational session for residents. Amy Lavallee agreed to find a date and put together a session for the near future.

b. To discuss and vote whether to obligate and/or rescind Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Fred motioned to allocate an additional \$6,942 from CLFRF money to the ambulance fund. Julie Seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes

7. New Business

a. To discuss and vote whether to approve/sign the election warrant for the election to be held on June 13, 2023

The Selectboard agreed with and signed the election warrant for the Whately local election to be held on June 13, 2023. The polling location will be the Town Offices and the hours will be from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

b. To review, discuss and vote whether to approve wages and salaries for fiscal year 2024

Fred made a motion to approve the compensation rates for employees as shown on FY24 Personnel Salaries & Wages spreadsheet. Julie Seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes

c. To discuss and vote whether to approve a proposal/contract from Advanced Energy Group for weatherization work at the Whately Elementary School (Green Communities Grant)

Julie made a motion to approve a contract from Advanced Energy Group for insulation and air sealing work at the Whately Elementary School. Fred Seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes

d. To discuss and vote whether to approve a proposal/contract from Alliance Clean Energy Solar for the installation of a solar array with battery storage at the Town Offices (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant)

Julie made a motion to award the bid for the solar array to Alliance Clean Energy Solar pending the execution of a mutually agreeable contract. Fred Seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes

e. To discuss more inclusive ways to operate Town Meetings to ensure that all attendees have the opportunity for meaningful participation

The Board discussed a letter sent by a resident expressing disappointment that the reading of the full warrant articles at Town Meeting didn't take place. The resident stated that this is detrimental to people with disabilities or who may not be able to read the materials at Town Meeting. The Board agreed that not reading the articles could create hardships for some attendees and will discuss this issue with the Moderator who has control over the conduct of Town Meetings.

8. Selectboard Liaison Updates: Timely updates from the Selectboard members serving on other boards and committees

Joyce shared that the South County Senior Center Board of Oversight did a site visit at a building on Plumtree Lane in Sunderland as they explore options for a new senior center building.

Joyce informed the Board that she, Chief Sevigne, and Brian interviewed two candidates for the two full-time officer positions and that Chief Sevigne will hopefully have hiring recommendations for the next meeting.

9. Town Administrator Updates: (Items likely to be discussed)

FRCOG Fuel Bids - Brian informed the Board that the low bidder for gasoline through FRCOG is Sandri Energy from Greenfield.

Herlihy Field Accessibility Project - Brian informed the Board that the paving has been completed and the restrooms have been completed, except for several small punch list items. Brian mentioned that there is still additional cleanup around the edge of the parking area, line painting and plantings needed before the project will be complete.

Haydenville Road Reconstruction Project - Brian informed the Board that the project engineer has submitted the 75% design plans to MassDOT for review. MassDOT is scheduled to bid the project in October 2025 (estimate).

Employment Vacancies - Whately currently has 2 full-time officer police officer positions, the community development position, and the administrative assistant position open.

GAP III Scope of Work - Brian reminded the Board about this small grant to install a solar array at the main pumphouse

Complete Streets Procurement (FRCOG) - FRCOG will conduct the bidding on Whately's behalf next month with construction happening in late summer or early fall

Housing Production Plan - Brian informed the Board that a final version should be provided by FRCOG in the near future for consideration by the Selectboard

Future Planning Projects – funded (Master Plan Update, Municipal Digital Equity Plan) – Brian informed the Board that the Master Plan update and Municipal Digital Equity Plan are scheduled to start up this summer with FRCOG as the consultant doing much of the work.

10. Items Not Anticipated

The Board members discussed their availability during the summer months. It was agreed to move the meeting times to 4:00 pm to accommodate the Board members' summer work schedules. The Board also agreed to move the June 13th meeting to June 14th to accommodate the local election scheduled for June 13th.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm. Motion Seconded. All in favor

Next Meetings: June 14, 2023 and June 27, 2023

Documents

Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2023

Vendor and Payroll Warrants, WP23-24

Excel spreadsheet, CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS TRACKING, May 2023

2023 Annual Election Warrant

FY24 Personnel Salaries & Wages, May 23, 2023

Town of Whately Insulation Contract, May 2, 2023

ACE Solar Response-Town of Whately RFP