

**Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
November 28, 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 November 28, 2023, at 6:00 pm by Chairperson Fred Baron. Also, present were Selectboard members Julie Waggoner and Joyce Palmer Fortune. Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant Jessica Murphy were also present.

**1. Meeting Minutes: Review and vote whether to approve the meeting minutes from November 14, 2023**

Joyce made a motion to accept the minutes from November 14, 2023. Fred Seconded. All in Favor. Fred-yes, Joyce-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:**

None

**5. COVID19:**

Tests are available at the Town Offices, Library, and Police Station for free for residents.

**6. Old Business:**

**a. To discuss the new municipal aggregation program rates effective for the January 2024 meter reads**

Brian shared that The Town has signed a twenty-four-month contract with its current supplier, Dynegy Energy Service. Under the new contract the current standard rate of \$0.09433 per kWh will expire and the new rate of \$0.14354 per kWh will take effect in January 2024. The Whately Community Choice Power Supply Program will offer residents 2 new Optional Green options with a national rate of \$0.14302 per kWh and a New England rate of \$0.15643 per kWh. Fred

and Joyce noted that although the increase in rates may seem high, they are much lower in comparison to Eversource rates. Brian noted that a postcard with updated rates will be sent to notify residents.

**b. To discuss how to approach Host Community Agreements and Community Impact Fees for marijuana establishments under the newly adopted Cannabis Control Commission regulation**

Brian shared that he has recently been contacted by two establishments in the Town regarding the new cannabis regulations that went into effect in early November: specifically, about the Host Community Agreement (HCA) and the community impact fees. Brian noted that the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) will need to review and certify invoices submitted by a municipality in order for the municipality to collect a community impact fee. Brian recommends that the Town include a community impact fee in its HCA, however it would be prudent to see what types of community impact fees are approved by the CCC before the Town tries to collect them. Brian expressed concern about the CCC having more authority suggesting that the Town may want to look into creating a bylaw in order to grant the Town more authority over the cannabis establishments. Julie plans to look at similar towns' bylaws to gain a better perspective. Brian noted that he is working on drafting a new template HCA to use going forward.

**7. New Business**

**a. To discuss and vote whether to implement winter parking regulations effective immediately until April 15, 2024**

Brian shared the 2023-2024 winter parking regulations which state no parking shall be allowed on streets or in municipal parking areas between the hours of 12:00 (midnight) to 7:00 am effective immediately until April 15, 2024. This parking restriction shall not apply to residents of the Smikes House and their guests who park in the spaces designated for the Smikes House.

Joyce motions to enact the winter parking regulations. Julie Seconded. All in Favor. Fred-yes, Joyce-yes, Julie-yes

**b. To consider the appointment of Sean Kirkendall to the Whately Fire Department**

Joyce moves to appoint Sean Kirkendall as a part-time Firefighter. Julie Seconded. All in Favor. Fred-yes, Joyce-yes, Julie-yes

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

Fred shared that SCEMS has 2 interviews scheduled on December 7, 2023, for the Chief position.

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

**Center School RFP site visit:**

Brian shared that two individuals attended the site visit with one being interested in the building for single-family residential and the other in a multi-unit building. Proposals are due December 13, 2023.

**South County Senior Center site visit at 23 Plumtree Lane, Sunderland:**

Brian shared that the South County Senior Center toured the location and attendees were excited about the possibility of moving to that building. Brian stated that if the Town of Sunderland decides to move forward with the purchase, they would need to seek approval at a Town Meeting. Brian noted that due to certain factors that may slow down the purchasing process, there is uncertainty that Oxford University Press, the building owner, will be willing to postpone selling to an alternate buyer.

**10. Items Not Anticipated**

None

**11. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 7:01 pm. Motion Seconded. All in Favor

**Next Meetings:**

December 5, 2023 (Tax Classification Hearing) & December 21, 2023

**Documents:**

*Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2023*

*Vendor and Payroll Warrants, WP24-12*

*New rates – Municipal Aggregation Program*

*Winter parking regulations*

*DRAFT – Revised Host Community Agreement*