

**Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2021  
Open Session Via Zoom  
6:00 pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on November 10, 2021 at 6:06 pm by Chairperson Jonathan Edwards. Also present via Zoom was Selectboard members Joyce Palmer-Fortune and Fred Baron. Town Administrator Brian Domina, Highway Department Superintendent Keith Bardwell, Community Development coordinator Hannah Davis, and Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee were present. John Dewey representing Whately Mustang was also present.

**Meeting Minutes: Review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from October 20, 2021 and October 27, 2021**

The Board voted to approve meeting minutes of October 20, 2021. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes

The Board voted to approve meeting minutes of October 27, 2021. Roll call vote- Jonathan-abstain, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes

**Vendor & Payroll Warrants: Review past vendor and payroll warrants**

The Board had no comments or questions on past vendor and payroll warrants.

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

There were no public comments.

**Scheduled Appointments:**

- a. **John Dewey (Whately Mustang) to discuss the status of the marijuana cultivation establishment located at the corner of State Road and Christian Lane**  
John Dewey of Whately Mustang explained that the previous prospective tenant at their property on the corner of Christian Lane and State Road backed out of agreement. Whately Mustang would like to handle all licensing and permitting for any future tenants. He will send paperwork and the Host Community Agreement to Brian and Joyce for further review. John Dewey was advised by the Board to speak with the Board of Assessors at a later date regarding Chapter 61A questions. The Board requested information regarding the status of other marijuana growers/ retail services previously licensed in Whately.
- b. **(Circle K) to request a Change of Officers on the retail alcohol license for the Circle K convenience store located on the corner of Route 116 and Old State Road**  
Brian explained to the Board that this is a request from Circle K for a Change of Officer for its retail alcohol license. The Board reviewed the requested change and voted to approve the amendment. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

#### Old Business:

a. **To discuss the status of town buildings and other protective COVID19 measures**

Brian presented the Board with a letter from the Board of Health regarding their COVID-19 recommendations. The Board of Health is continuing talks with Town Counsel regarding vaccination requirements for public buildings. The Board will continue to discuss this matter at future meetings. The Board voted to keep current recommendations in place that require social distancing, face coverings, adequate ventilation and attendance logs at private events and for in-person public meetings that have a compelling justification to be held in-person at the discretion of the Selectboard Chairperson. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

b. **To discuss the design costs of the Christian Lane culvert project**

Brian informed the Board that he met with Tighe & Bond regarding an estimate for the culvert project. They gave him an estimate of \$90,000-\$120,000. The Town currently has a \$57,000 grant to cover design costs. The Board discussed the possibility of using Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds or the MVP grant program. Brian, Keith Bardwell, and Hannah Davis spoke with MASSDOT regarding the impact of any future reconstruction of the intersection of State Road and Christian Lane to mitigate safety issues. MassDOT staff relayed to Town staff that there is no future plan in the works for upgrades to the intersection.

#### New Business

a. **To discuss potential projects for the MVP action grant**

Hannah discussed with the Board that she is just starting the process of developing project ideas for the MVP action grant. Hannah is looking at projects that address the immediate needs of the Town and that are eligible for the MVP grant, such as the Christian Lane culvert project, the lack of a back-up water supply, and solar energy generation with battery back-up. Currently the Town has \$30,000 in money appropriated for a generator to be installed at the Town Offices. There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of solar versus a fossil fueled generator to provide emergency power to the Town Offices. The Board would like to learn more about solar systems with battery back-up. Hannah explained to the Board that there is a January deadline for the MVP grant expressions of interest and that the Town must match 25% of total MVP project costs.

#### Town Administrator Updates:

**Items likely to be discussed: Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony (11/11/21) at 1:00 pm; update on MassDOT meeting held on 11/10/21 regarding the Christian Lane – State Road intersection; update on informal survey of conflict of positions bylaws in surrounding towns**

Brian reminded the Board of the Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony on 11/11/21 at 1:00 pm.

Brian informed the Board that Amy Lavallee sent out an informal survey to surrounding towns with similar population regarding any policies or bylaws put into place regarding individuals serving on more than one Board. The towns that responded did not have anything in place. There was further discussion regarding the possibility of putting something in place for the town to avoid any conflict.

**Items Not Anticipated:**

None

**Adjourn**

Jonathan Edwards moved to adjourn at 7:24 pm. Seconded. Meeting Adjourned.

**Documents Presented**

Selectboard Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2021

Selectboard Meeting Minutes from October 27, 2021

Vendor and Payroll Warrants- Warrant W2240A

ABCC Application for Amendment form Mac's Market aka Circle K

Board of Health COVID recommendations

MVP Action Grant Project Development

Email from Amy Lavallee to Brian Domina re: Board member conflicts