

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2022
Town Offices
Hybrid Session Via Zoom
6:00pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on March 30, 2022, at 6:02 pm by the Chairperson, Jonathan Edwards. Also present via Zoom was Selectboard members Fred Baron and Joyce Palmer Fortune. Present were Town Administrator Brian Domina, Community Development Director and Assistant Town Administrator Hannah Davis via Zoom, Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee, Highway Department Superintendent Keith Bardwell via Zoom, and Sue Monahan via Zoom.

Meeting Minutes: Review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from March 9, 2022

Motion made to approve the minutes from March 9, 2022. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

Vendor & Payroll Warrants: Review past vendor and payroll warrants

No comments

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

Brian shared with the Board an email received from a resident requesting an update on the Christian Lane Bridge project. Keith explained that according to MassDOT metrics the bridge is not deemed structurally deficient and is in 3,383rd place on the state list for replacement funding. The pilons on the north side show deterioration so it was closed as a precaution. Keith's time estimate until replacement is approximately 5-10 years as the Town does not have the funding for the repairs, so the Town has to wait for the state funding.

COVID19

No Comments

Old Business:

- a. **To discuss recommendations from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Committee (CLFRF) on the expenditure of CLFRF monies for proposed capital projects**

Brian shared with the Board the CLFRF recommended expenditures for FY23 totaling \$142,000. They included \$22,000 for floor replacement at the Whately Elementary School, \$21,000 for dishwasher replacement at the Whately Elementary School, \$12,000 for automatic door openers at the Town Hall, \$42,000 for a new tractor at the Highway Department, \$35,000 for new financial management software, \$5,000 for a replacement fire

door at the library, and \$5,000 for replacement computers at the Library. The Board discussed the recommendations. Jonathan suggested that maybe the funds would be better used on a smaller number of more substantial projects. Motion made to authorize spending \$142,000 of CLFRF funds for the projects listed above. Motion seconded. All in favor. roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

b. To discuss a letter received requesting that the Selectboard consider re-establishing a portion of Dickinson Hill Road

The Board discussed a letter received from a resident requesting the Town of Whately maintain the discontinued road from 72 Dickinson Hill Road to 74 Dickinson Hill Road, which is currently privately maintained. The Board discussed possible costs and implications if that section became a public way again that was maintained by the Town. Keith discussed concerns about the costs that it would take to bring that portion of the roadway up to the required standards. Selectboard agreed to take no action at this time. The Board will request that the resident present a more definite proposal for consideration that includes how the cost of extending the roadway will be paid for.

c. To discuss that status of installing a generator at the Town Offices

Keith discussed with the Board the money approved at the Special Town Meeting to install a generator at the Town Offices. The Board agreed to wait to see if grant money for the solar arrays with battery backup for the Town Offices is approved.

New Business

a. To discuss the special event application submitted by Cancer Connection (Sue Monahan) to hold the Western Mass Mother's Day Half Marathon Road Race

Sue Monahan discussed with the Board the Annual Mother's Day Marathon event application. Motion made to approve application. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

b. To discuss the one-day liquor license application (wine and malt) submitted by Cancer Connection/Hitchcock Brewing to serve beer and wine at the Western Mass Mother's Day Half Marathon Road Race

Sue Monahan discussed with the Board the Annual Mother's Day Marathon one day liquor license application. Brian read the two conditions previously included in the approval of the license last time. Motion made to approve application. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

c. To discuss future grant applications (Green Communities and Complete Neighborhood Partnership)

Hannah discussed with the Board the Green Communities energy audit at the elementary school. Town can receive up to \$200,000 to cover costs to insulate the Whately Elementary School. The Board agreed to move forward with the insulation project and look at other possibilities from a previous energy audit a few years ago. Hannah also shared with the Board the Complete Neighborhood Partnership grant that offers technical assistance for housing in the Town. Hannah requested approval to submit and a support letter from the Board to submit with the grant. Motion made in favor of participating in the Complete Neighborhood Partnership grant. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

d. To discuss Chapter 90 project requests

Keith discussed with the Board various Chapter 90 projects to spend the approximately \$350,000 in available funding for FY23 including:

- 1) Culvert replacement on River Road: Notice of Intent-\$10,500.
- 2) River Road crack sealing- \$40,000.
- 3) Haydenville Road resealing and repair- \$155,000.
- 4) Purchase of new excavator ditch bucket and grapple -\$14,000.
- 5) Fairview Way water retention basin improvements for drainage -\$10,000.

Motion made to approve the River Road culvert replacement project. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

e. To discuss the composition of various town boards and committees and how they are appointed

The Board discussed forming a working group to investigate and assess bylaws of other comparable towns to avoid conflicts of interest when electing or appointing members to boards and committees. The Board agreed that this would be a good thing to do, it simply isn't one their top priorities for staff to spend time on.

f. To discuss and vote to renew the insurance policy on the Center School

Brian presented the Board with the insurance policy renewal for the Center School. Motion made to renew the policy. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

Town Administrator Updates:

Brian discussed with the Board that the bids for the Police Station septic repair project were due on March 31, 2022.

The Board discussed whether to join the Franklin County Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Board agreed to decline at this time.

Brian informed the Board that the South County Senior Center is looking to fill an Outreach Coordinator position.

The Board discussed the retirement of the Fire Chief next year. Brian informed the Board that he and Fred Baron met with the Fire Chief and Officers of the Fire Department last week. The Department will be putting together a short-term organizational plan by November 1 of this year.

Items Not Anticipated:

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Motion seconded. All in favor. Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Meetings: April 13, 2022, and April 27, 2022

Meeting Documents

Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2022

Warrant WP22-20

Warrant W22-20

Email from Dan Denehy to Brian Domina, *Public Comment for 3/30-22 Board Meeting*, March 29, 2022

Memorandum to Selectboard from CLFRF Committee, *RE: CLFRF Recommended Expenditures*, March 30, 2022

Letter to Selectboard from Melanie Chorak, re: Dickinson Hill Road, February 22, 2022

Town of Whately Special Event Permit Application, Sue Monahan for Mother's Day Marathon

Town of Whately One Day Alcoholic Beverage License Application, Sue Monahan for Mother's Day Marathon

Town of Whately Upcoming Grant Applications