

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2022
Town Offices
Session Via Zoom
6:00pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on April 27, 2022, at 6:02 pm by the Chairperson, Jonathan Edwards. Also present via Zoom were Selectboard members Fred Baron and Joyce Palmer Fortune. Present were Town Administrator Brian Domina, Community Development Director and Assistant Town Administrator Hannah Davis, Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee, Police Chief James Sevigne, and Highway Superintendent Keith Bardwell.

Meeting Minutes: Review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from April 13, 2022

Motion made to approve the minutes from April 13, 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

No comments

COVID19

No discussion

Old Business:

- a. **To accept the withdrawal of a zoning petition for amendments to the solar zoning bylaw submitted by John Baronas**

Brian explained that the request to reduce zoning setbacks for solar facilities has been withdrawn by the petitioner, so an article does not need to be placed on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. No action required.

- b. **To discuss the purchase of a new front line police cruiser (electric or hybrid?)**

Chief Sevigne discussed with the Board discussed his findings regarding the research of an all-electric police vehicle. Chief Sevigne informed the Board that the technology is not available for police pursuit rated vehicles yet. Board members expressed their disappointment and frustration that an all-electric police vehicle was not feasible at this time. Chief Sevigne is requesting approval of funds at Annual Town Meeting for purchase of a hybrid police vehicle, with possible electric purchase in the future. The Board requested that the warrant article specify that the purchase is to be a hybrid vehicle and the Board also asked Hannah to keep working on finding funding for EV charging infrastructure.

c. **To discuss fiscal year 2023 budgets and the warrant for the May 24, 2022, Annual Town Meeting**

Brian shared with the Board the FY23 Total Operating Budget approved by the Finance Committee. Board discussed the various line items and COLA.

Motion made to recommend the budget as presented. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

Brian discussed with the Board the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Board voted on the following:

Motion made to recommend Article 1-Article 14 pending the budget place holder being filled as discussed. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

Board agrees to table Article 15-Article 27 until next meeting due to changes likely coming from the Planning Board on several proposed zoning articles

New Business

a. **To discuss the one-day liquor license application (wine and malt) submitted by 250 Anniversary Committee to serve beer and wine at several 250th Anniversary celebration events.**

Keith discussed with the Board the need and logistics for the one-day liquor license request for the Polka Concert, Chicken BBQ, and Firemen's Muster. The Board asked staff to make sure the insurance and ServSafe/TIPS certifications are obtained prior to the events. Motion made to approve the 3 one day liquor licenses. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

b. **To discuss future grant applications – Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program and One Stop for Growth**

Hannah discussed with the Board the applications for the MVP and One Stop for Growth grant programs. The MVP application will be a request to fund a solar array with battery backup storage at the Town Offices. Motion made to authorize Hannah to submit MVP grant application. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

The Board agreed that it would like Hannah to submit the 2 projects (Exit 35 planning study and engineering and design for the water loop closure on Egypt Road). A Motion was made and seconded to submit the applications as discussed above. All in Favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

Town Administrator Updates:

Items likely to be discussed: Christian Lane culvert replacement project – construction funding, highway garage design process, Green Communities grant application submitted for weatherization at the Whately Elementary School, Floodplain bylaw updates – delayed, water merger project site work resuming

Brian discussed with the Board the Christian Lane Culvert project. He discussed that the federal funding

through the regional Transportation Improvement Plan will not happen because of the short time frame and there would be a need to redesign the project to meet federal, as opposed to state standards.

Brian discussed with the Board the process to build a new Highway Garage which is likely going to require the hiring of an Owners Project Manager, as well as a project engineer.

Brian discussed with the Board the Green Communities Grant Hannah submitted for weatherization of the Elementary School.

Brian discussed with the Board the status of the flood plain bylaw amendments that the Planning Board has been working on. Brian indicated that there is some uncertainty statewide as to how the FEMA required standards relate to the agricultural exemptions in the MA Zoning Act. Conversations are on-going with multiple state agencies.

Brian discussed with the Board the Water Merger project progress.

Items Not Anticipated:

None

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm. Motion seconded. Adjourned.

Next Meetings: May 11, 2022, and May 25, 2022

Documents

Meeting Minutes, April 13, 2022

2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Draft

Letter from John Baronas to Whately Selectboard, RE: Withdrawal of Request for zoning Bylaw Change Related to Solar, April 25, 2022

Letter for Chief James Sevigne to Selectboard, RE: Electric Police Cruiser, April 21, 2022

TOWN OF WHATELY - TOTAL OPERATING & ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS - FISCAL YEAR 2023

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant Application Project Narrative, May 2022

Special One Day Liquor License Application, Whately 250th

Warrants WP22-22, W22-22