

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2022
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 11, 2022, at 6:02 pm by the Chairperson, Jonathan Edwards. Also present was Selectboard members Fred Baron and Joyce Palmer Fortune via Zoom). Present were Town Administrator Brian Domina, Community Development Director and Assistant Town Administrator Hannah Davis via Zoom, Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee, Town Clerk Amy Schrader, Highway Superintendent Keith Bardwell via Zoom, and Board of Health member Fran Fortino via Zoom.

Meeting Minutes: Review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from April 27, 2022

Motion made to approve the minutes from April 27, 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

Town Clerk Amy Schrader discussed with the Board the information regarding the Annual Town Election which will be held on June 14, 2022, from 10 am-7 pm at the Town Hall. She explained to the Board that residents have until May 25, 2022, at 8 pm to register to vote in the election. She explained that residents who need an absentee ballot or potential candidates can go to the Town of Whately's website for more info.

Scheduled Appointments:

a. (6:05 pm) Whately Board of Health to discuss its recommendation that the Selectboard vote to opt-out of the statewide mosquito spray program

Fran Fortino explained to the Board that the Board of Health has made the decision to Opt-Out of the statewide mosquito spray program due to low numbers of mosquito borne illnesses in the area. He explained that the State requires an alternative management plan from all towns that opt-out this year. The Board of Health had developed such a plan and recommends that the Selectboard vote to opt-out.

Jonathan asked the public for comments. No public comments.

Motion made to adopt Board of Health's recommendation to opt out of the statewide mosquito spray program. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

COVID19

No discussion

Old Business:

a. To discuss, review and vote to approve previously discussed Chapter 90 project requests

Highway Superintendent Keith Bardwell discussed with the Board the various Chapter 90 projects the Highway Department has planned. Keith informed the Board that he is meeting with the Conservation Commission for the Notice of Intent for the River Road culvert project and that project is moving forward. He informed the Board that the crack sealing project of various roads around the town will be approximately \$42,000. Improvements to Haydenville Road will cost \$175,000. New equipment for the excavator, grapple will be \$12,000 and the ditching bucket will be \$4,000 for a total of \$16,000. Chip sealing at the intersection of Masterson and Dickinson roads will be \$32,000, and the water detention basin reconstruction on Fairview Way will be \$10,000. Total projects cost is \$274,000. The Chapter 90 balance is currently \$522,000.

Motion made to accept Chapter 90 requests as Keith has detailed. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

b. To review, discuss and vote to approve the warrant articles for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 24, 2022

Brian discussed with the Board the proposed Warrant Articles for the Annual Town Meeting and any changes to the previous draft. Selectboard recommends no changes to Articles as presented.

Motion made to approve the Warrant as written with the Selectboard recommendations under the Articles where it says, "recommended by the Selectboard." Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

c. To discuss planning for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in various locations across the town

Hannah met with the representatives from Energysource, Hannah informed the Board that the company is requiring a \$15,000 application fee per station. Hannah will be speaking with FRCOG on Friday regarding alternative companies to Energysource. The Board agreed to table discussion to a future date until more information is gathered.

New Business

a. To discuss the possibility of providing temporary office space to the staff of the South County Senior Center

Brian discussed with the Board the state of the current facilities where the South County Senior Center offices are located. Brian informed the Board that the building is not in good shape and does not provide an adequate work environment. Any temporary location for the SCSC staff at the Deerfield Congregational Church wouldn't be ready until next year. Brian requested that the Board offer an invitation to the South County Senior Center staff to tour the Whately Town Offices at 4 Sandy Lane to see if they would like to utilize the space temporarily for their offices.

Motion made to authorize Brian and Jonathan to decide the details in offering office space to the Senior Center for a period of 6 months, with option to renew after that time period. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

b. To discuss the renewal of the employment agreement between the Town of Whately and its current Town Administrator

The Board discussed the renewal of the employment agreement between the Town and Town Administrator. The Board agreed to authorize the Selectboard Chair to negotiate the contract between the Town of Whately and the Town Administrator. The three Selectboard members will do a performance review, the Town Administrator will do a self-review after which the Board will meet in Executive Session for to discuss and for negotiations.

Motion made to authorize the Selectboard Chair to negotiate the agreement, subject to everyone completing and submitting a job review of the Town Administrator. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Fred-yes, Joyce-yes.

Town Administrator Updates:

Brian reminded the Board the Annual Town Meeting will be held May 24, 2022, at the Elementary School.

Brian discussed with the Board that the current HVAC controller at 4 Sandy Lane is no longer working properly and needs replacement. The estimated cost is approximately \$6,000 and would come out of the General Expense Account for Town Buildings.

Brian discussed with the Board the Chapter 90 funds and Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) that Keith discussed earlier.

Brian informed the Board that the septic project at the Police Station is complete with the exception of retiling of the floors.

Items Not Anticipated:

Executive Session: To enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A § 21 (a)(2) in order to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel. The Selectboard will not be returning to open session.

Executive Session tabled until all information is gathered for discussion.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:02 pm. Motion seconded. All in favor. Adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Next Meetings: May 25, 2022, and June 8, 2022

Documents

Meeting Minutes, April 27, 2022

Vendor & Payroll Warrant, WP22-23

Email from Fran Fortino to Brian Domina, RE: Mosquito Spray Opt-Out for Selectboard Agenda on May 11, May 3, 2022

Town of Whately Annual Town Meeting Articles, Draft-3

Email for Community Development to Brian Domina, FW: EV Sites Tomorrow, April 26, 2022

An Employment Agreement Between the Town of Whately and the Town Administrator, April 24, 2019

From SNE Building Systems to Brian Domina, Upgrade the Existing Obsolete AS Controller with a new AS-P Automation Software Server, March 15, 2022

Email from Paul Girard to Brian Domina, *SNE Service Call*, March 14, 2022
Letter from MassDOT to Brian Domina, April 28, 2022