

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
June 8, 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 June 8, 2022, at 6:00 pm by the Chairperson, Jonathan Edwards. Also present were Selectboard members Fred Baron and Joyce Palmer-Fortune via Zoom, Town Administrator Brian Domina, Community Development Director and Assistant Town Administrator Hannah Davis, and Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee. Also present was Verizon Representative Don Voner via Zoom and resident Maren Brady.

Meeting Minutes: Review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from May 25, 2022

Motion made to approve the minutes from May 25, 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

None

Public Hearing:

(6:05 pm) Petition for Joint or Identical Pole Location from Verizon/Eversource to install a jointly owned pole on the northeasterly side of River Road at a point approximately two-hundred twenty-five (225) feet northwesterly from the center line of Straits Road

Brian informed the Board that this petition seeks the installation of a new utility pole to replace a guy wire from its current location, which is a tree trunk, and attaching it to the new pole. Maren Brady, resident at 108 River Road, inquired if this would create an easement on her property. Verizon representative Don Voner stated that the new pole would be placed in the public right-of-way and the guy wire would be attached to it. There was discussion on whether the tree stump would be removed and by which party. Maren, the property owner, states that she does not want to incur the cost of the stump removal. The Board encouraged the resident to discuss tree removal and costs with Verizon and the Highway Department.

The discussion, led by Jonathan, then shifted to the issue of the double poles that Verizon has not removed from previous jobs and the inability of Verizon to give a clear timeline as to when that work would be completed. Town Administrator Brian Domina reached out to Verizon for a list of the double poles they have on record. Verizon's database listed 9 poles that needed removal. Brian counted fifty-six in town, forty-seven that are not in Verizon's database mostly located on Christian Lane, Long Plain Road and River Road. Fred and Joyce echoed Jonathan's concerns regarding the lack of urgency to remove the double poles. Jonathan suggests that the Board send a letter to the

appropriate state agency indicating the Town's frustration with the lack of the utilities action as the town considers them out of compliance. Brian agrees to contact Verizon about the forty-seven poles they do not have in their database. Brian also read a public comment from Dan Denehy regarding his opinion that the Town does not allow any further poles from Verizon or Eversource until the previous double poles have been removed. Brian discussed with the Board what if any action the Board wanted to take approval, denial, or no action. The Board agreed to take no action on the pole petition at this time.

COVID19

No discussion

Old Business:

No discussion

New Business

a. To review and award fuel bids for gasoline for fiscal year 2023

Brian informed the Board that FY23 Fuel bids have been received from FRCOG. The law requires the Town to accept the low bidder for rack price plus mark up (Santa Buckley @ \$0.711). Motion made to award the contract to Santa Buckley at rack price plus \$0.711. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

b. To appoint Marc Bussiere to the Tri-Town Beach Commission

Motion made to appoint Marc Bussiere to a one-year term on the Tri-Town Beach Commission. Motion seconded. All in favor. Roll Call vote: Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

Town Administrator Updates: (Items likely to be discussed) Christian Lane Culvert Replacement Project; Town Election (June 14, 2022 @ Town Hall 10 am to 7 pm); 250th Anniversary Celebrations Starting June 17, 2022; Herlihy Park Accessibility Improvement Project; Haydenville Road Reconstruction Project

Brian informed the Board that the Town has received preliminary plans that Keith Bardwell is reviewing for the culvert replacement project on Christian Lane. He also informed the Board that due to the natural makeup of the soil in that area a new design with an aluminum arch culvert has been prepared, which may decrease the cost of the project. The engineer is working to finalize the design.

Brian informed the Board that the Town is finalizing the plans for the accessibility improvement project at Herlihy Park, and the project should begin in FY23. Jonathan expressed concerns about conflicts with field usage and the timing of the project. Brian will set up a meeting with Keith, the Recreation Commission and Frontier to come up with timing that will interfere as little as possible with the use of the park.

Brian informed the Board that the Town will file for Special Legislation from the state with our Representative for the Haydenville Road project regarding the removal of land from Article 97 protection.

Brian informed the Board that there is a proposal attached to the state budget to extend remote meetings until December 2023.

The Selectboard agrees to present a gift on behalf of Virginia Allis to the Whately Congregational Church to acknowledge her passing and the work she did for the Town of Whately.

Motion made to enter executive session at 6:50 pm. The chair declares that the discussing real property transactions may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board.
Motion seconded. All in favor. Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

Selectboard ended Executive Session at 7:08 pm.

Employment Agreement: To vote on the employment agreement of the Town Administrator

Motion made to accept and approve the employment agreement of the Town Administrator as negotiated and presented in the draft document. Motion seconded. All in favor. Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:13 pm. Motion seconded. All in favor. Jonathan-yes, Joyce-yes, Fred-yes.

Next Meetings: TBD

Documents

Meeting Minutes, May 25, 2022

Warrant WP22-25

Email from Dan Denehy to Brian Domina, selectboard meeting public comment on pole hearing for Verizon/Eversource, June 7, 2022

Double Pole Report from Verizon, June 7, 2022

Email chain from Ellen Cummings and Brian Domina, RE: Whately Pole Petition, June 2, 2022-June 7, 2022

Petition for Verizon job #IA5Q2KK, May 17, 2022

Gasoline FY 2023 Bid Tabulation, FRCOG, June 6, 2022