

Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
October 25, 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 October 25, 2022, at 6:02 pm by the Chairperson, Joyce Palmer-Fortune. Also present were Selectboard members Fred Baron and Julie Waggoner. Present were Town Administrator Brian Domina, Community Development Administrator and Assistant Town Administrator Hannah Davis via Zoom, Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee, Energy Committee Members Paul Newlin and Nat Fortune via Zoom, Police Chief James Sevigne via Zoom, UMASS Clean Energy Extension representative Zara Dowling via Zoom.

1. **Meeting Minutes:** Review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from October 11, 2022

Motion made to approve the minutes from October 11, 2022. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

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

No Comments

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

No Comments

4. **Scheduled Appointments:** (6:05 pm) Zara Dowling (Umass Clean Energy Center) and Paul Newlin (Energy Committee) to discuss with the Selectboard an opportunity to partner with the Umass Clean Energy Center for the development of a Community Solar Action Plan for the town

Zara explained to the Board the role that the UMASS Clean Energy Extension could play in solar planning for the Town. She explained that students would work with the Energy Committee to provide a solar needs and assessments and identify possible locations that solar could be utilized or spaces that need to be protected. Paul and Nat from the Energy Committee agree that the Committee would better serve the UMASS program if they had more members on the Energy Committee.

A motion was made to partner with the UMASS Clean Energy Extension. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

5. COVID19:

No Comments

6. Old Business:

a. To discuss additional funding needed for a new police cruiser

Chief Sevigne provided the Board with a thorough cost savings analysis and recommended that the hybrid cruiser would be the best option. The Selectboard agreed. Chief Sevigne already put the order in for the hybrid to save a spot. The cruiser will most likely be available in October 2023. The Board discussed bringing the request for the additional funding to Special Town Meeting and that they will recommend it come out of the Vehicle Stabilization Fund.

Motion made to approve \$7869.00 for the hybrid cruiser and recommend it come from the Vehicle Stabilization Fund. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

Chief Sevigne requests Board make note to Finance Committee that gas powered cruiser may not be an available option in near future for purchase this year.

b. To review, discuss and vote to issue a Request for Proposals for the redevelopment and long- term lease of the Whately Center School

Brian discussed with the Board the decision to offer the Center School as a long-term lease which would hold the lessee responsible for renovations and improvements in exchange for a discounted rent. The Town would maintain control of building and land and any improvements or renovations would require Town approval. The RFP would be available for 90 days. A Committee is needed to review proposals. The Board agreed that representatives from the Selectboard, Finance Committee, Historical Commission, Planning Board, and an at-large member will be formed for this purpose. Fred commented that he would like the At-large member to live near the Center School.

Motion made to advertise the RFP with an available date of October 31, 2022, and proposals due 90 days from that date. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

c. To discuss the Herlihy Park restroom accessibility project bids received and determine next steps

The Town received 1 bid that was over the available project budget. Bid was rejected. Brian recommended the Board put the project out to bid again with greater outreach and advertising.

Motion made to reissue IFB for the Herlihy Park Restroom project. Motion seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes.

7. **New Business**

- a. **To discuss the Municipal Energy Technical Assistance grant program and potential applications for assistance**

Hannah presented to the Board for guidance on what the Board may be interested in applying for through this grant program. The Board agrees that the Vehicle Fleet Assessment and recommendations for transitioning to a hybrid/electric fleet should be the focus for the grant.

- b. **To discuss providing a letter of support for the submission of an Efficiency and Regionalization grant to support the South County Senior Center**

Brian discussed with the Board that the Town of Deerfield is looking to apply to the Community Compact Program for a \$200k Efficiency & Regionalization grant for funding a feasibility study to assess the suitability of the old congregational church building for a temporary senior center and to continue planning for regional senior services. The Board of Oversight hasn't made any decisions as to the next steps for the Senior Center.

The next Board of Oversight meeting is November pt, and a support letter is requested by November 7th. Brian presented the Board with a draft letter. Joyce would like language included in the letter that would request an environmental study be done as well. The Board would like to see a budget breakdown of the application.

The Board agreed to table any discussion until next meeting when more information is available.

- c. **To discuss holding a Special Town Meeting in November**

The Board agreed to schedule the Special Town Meeting on November 29, 2022, at 7:30pm. Brian will prepare the STM warrant for the next meeting.

8. **Town Administrator Updates: (Items likely to be discussed)**

water merger project - tentative operation of new pumping station (10/31/22) - The changeover from the District water to the Department is scheduled to take place on 10/31/22

Haydenville Road Reconstruction project - Keith and Brian have a meeting on Wednesday to discuss an updated schedule to make sure everything is on track for construction in federal fiscal year 2025

Town Office modular office buildout - Staff are submitting fabric and color choices - hopefully the buildout will be completed within a few months. The Town will still need to do some electrical work to put light switches in the right places and to add additional lighting if necessary

9. **Items not Anticipated:**

None

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:34 pm. Motion seconded. All in Favor.

Next Meetings: November 8, 2022, and November 29, 2022

Documents:

Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2022

Invoice Warrant Report, Warrant W23-09A, 10/17/2022

Solar Planning Opportunity for Massachusetts Communities, Umass Amherst Clean Energy Extension

Email to Brian Domina from James Sevigne, RE: Continuing Cruiser Discussion-Yand N and data(??), October 20,2022

Town of Whately, Invitation for Bids Herlihy Park Restroom Accessibility Improvements, September 21, 2022

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Department of Energy Resources, Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grants, September 2022

Draft letter from Selectboard, RE: South County Senior Services Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Application, October 25, 2022

Whately Center School RFP 2022