

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023

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 9, 2023, at 6:00 pm by Chairperson Joyce Palmer Fortune. Present were Selectboard members Fred Baron, and Julie Waggoner. Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant Amy Lavallee were also present.

1. Meeting Minutes: Review and vote to approve the meeting minutes from May 2, 2023

Fred made a motion to accept the minutes from May 2, 2023. Julie Seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes

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

No comments

3. Old Business:

a. To discuss, review, and vote to approve the warrant articles for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, including the operating budget for fiscal year 2024

Brian discussed with the Board the warrant articles on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. The following are articles that the Selectboard discussed or changed:

Article 8- Joyce discussed that she would like to see a draft of proposed water rates.

Article 23- The Board discussed the fact that the proposed funding is for a silo on private property and owned by a private entity. The Board agreed with the Historic Commission and Community Preservation Committee's assessment that the project has sufficient public benefit and has historic significance to the town to make a positive recommendation.

Article 25- The Board discussed their opinion that without map changes, changes with the language in question would be less meaningful and the Board encouraged the Planning Board to continue with delineating the district boundaries as needed.

Articles 27-28 – The Board followed the lead of the Planning Board and agreed to take no position on these two articles.

Article 29 – The Board agreed to NOT recommend the adoption of the voter petition seeking to pass a general bylaw to create a Personnel Committee as the existing Personnel Committee is sufficient.

Fred made a motion to approve the warrant with the changes and recommendations as discussed. Julie Seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes

b. To discuss, review and vote to approve the expenditure of CLFRF monies on previously discussed projects

Julie made a motion to approve the expenditure of CLFRF monies for the projects listed below.

<u>2024 Proposed CLFRF Expenditures</u>	
Whately Elementary School Flooring Replacement (2)	\$10,000.00
Library Window & Chimney Repair/Restoration	\$8,250.00
Library Electrical System & Safety Upgrades	\$13,595.00
Fire Department Replace Communication Pagers	\$15,000.00
Cataloging Town Maps/Plans	\$13,000.00
Bylaw Codification	\$11,500.00
(WES) Employee Separation Costs	\$20,000.00
SCEMS Ambulance Capital Request	<u>\$38,976.00</u>

The total amount of expenditures equals \$130,321. Fred Seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes

4. New Business

a. To discuss submitting a letter of support for Deerfield's One Stop For Growth grant application regarding the former South Deerfield Congregational Church building

Joyce made some small amendments to the template letter provided by Deerfield and shared them with the Board. Julie made a motion to accept the letter as amended by Joyce. Fred Seconded. All in Favor. Joyce-yes, Fred-yes, Julie-yes

5. Selectboard Liaison Updates: Timely updates from the Selectboard members serving on other boards and committees

Julie took a site walk this morning with a resident who voiced concern in a previous meeting about tree cutting practices on Williamsburg Road. The resident agrees to talk with Williamsburg regarding their tree cutting practices to see what differences in policy the two towns may have.

Joyce met with the Deerfield Selectboard regarding a feasibility study that needs to be done for the South County Senior Center site. She is also looking at other towns' agreements on regional senior centers for examples to draw up a new contract for the South County Senior Center.

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

Town Office Solar Project: Brian, Joyce and Paul Newlin will be meeting with the only company that submitted a proposal.

Herlihy Park Accessibility Project: Brian informed the Board that the restroom construction is on-going, and that paving will start on Wednesday

7. Items Not Anticipated

Brian shared that a candidate for the Administrative Assistant was interviewed and that he recommends them for the position. He asked the Board to think about appointing the candidate at the next meeting.

Brian shared that the Town Offices will be used as a water stop for the Will Bike for Food Road Race.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Motion Seconded. Adjourned at 7:28 pm

Next Meetings: May 30, 2023 & June 13, 2023

Documents

Meeting Minutes, May 2, 2023

Draft Final, *Annual Town Meeting Warrant* 05.04.2023

Zoning Map April 6, 2023

Letter from Planning Board to Selectboard, *Re: DMCTC Zoning Bylaw change request*. May 4, 2023

Budget Overview Tool FY24 #9

Draft Letter to One Stop for Growth Grant Review Team from Selectboard, 2023