

**Board of Selectmen
February 3, 2015
Center School Offices
7:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately was called to order on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 7:02 pm by the Chair, Joyce Palmer Fortune. Present were Selectman Jonathan Edwards and Paul Newlin, Town Administrator, Mark Pruhenski and Municipal Secretary, Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the January 13 (open and executive) and January 21, 2015 were approved.

Scheduled Appointments – Bill Smith – Water Department/District connection – Also present were Water Commissioners Georgeann Dufault, George Bucala, Jr. and Paul Fleuriel Jr. and Water District Superintendent Nicholas Jones and Neal Abraham and Rebecca Jones. Discussion occurred regarding the logistics of joining the two water systems. The Board agreed with Jonathan's request to have 3 engineering firms provide an estimate of the costs to develop plans to engineer the connection. Mark will contact the firms and work on this project in conjunction with Nicholas and Bill.

Unfinished Business

Mill River Update – Mark reported the Section 7 application has been submitted to FEMA. Jonathan questioned the continued impact on the erosion of the riverbank of all of the rain and snow we've had.

Town Office Consolidation Update – The final community forum to discuss the results of the prior sessions will be held on February 7th at the Elementary School

New Business

Town Administrator – Review/probation status – The Board discussed their evaluation of Mark which was extremely favorable. There was unequivocal support that his probation period has been a success. The Board unanimously voted to remove him from probation and start his new rate of pay based on of \$57,000/year on February 6, 2015.

DiMiao Property Resolution – The Board unanimously agreed with Mark's recommendation to start the process of getting the DiMiao property back on the tax rolls pending the outcome of Saturday's town office consolidation discussion.

Personnel – Longevity Pay – Bill Smith and Keith Bardwell were present to discuss instituting Longevity Pay for town employees. Because non-union school employees receive longevity pay, they view this as an issue of fairness for all town employees. Nat Fortune, chair of the Whately School Committee, explained later the school offers this pay as a means to stay competitive with other school districts and therefore retain quality employees. Nat suggested this issue could be discussed at the school's public budget hearing. Mark will discuss at the next meeting the budget impact of longevity pay and present a draft policy for consideration.

Chapter 61A Release for Hannum Lot # 3 Masterson Road – The Board signed the release for this property.

February 10th Special Town Meeting Draft Motions – Mark reviewed the motions with the Board. The Selectmen will move the water articles. The article discussing borrowing for the water meters will include language that the Water Enterprise Fund will pay the principle and interest for the loan.

Capital Planning Committee Update – Mark reviewed the requests approved by the Capital Planning Committee which will be forwarded to the Finance Committee. They include a new pumper fire truck, a new heating/cooling system for the library, a lawn mower and a shared bucket truck with Sunderland.

FY16 Operating Budget Update – Mark reported he is close to finalizing a first draft of the operating budget.

Amended Community Preservation funding application – Mark reported he filed an amended application with the Community Preservation Committee for \$2000 to purchase shelving and \$500 for a dehumidifier.

Full Bloom Propane Tank Application – February 10th hearing date – Mark reported the hearing date for the Full Bloom application to install four 1000 gallon propane storage tanks is scheduled for February 10th at 6:30 pm at the school. Fire Chief Hannum is recommending this application for approval.

Highway Truck Loan – Sign paperwork – The Board signed paperwork to borrow \$155,000 from Greenfield Cooperative Bank for 3 years at 1.25% to pay for the Highway Truck. Lynn Sibley was present to sign the paperwork as Town Clerk.

Appointments – School Committee Resignation (Chris Sibley) and replacement – As Chair of the Whately School Committee, Nat Fortune informed the Selectmen of the resignation of Chris Sibley for the school committee. There has been one person who has expressed interest in the position so far. There will be a joint meeting of the Selectmen and Whately School Committee on February 24th at 7 pm to appointment a replacement until the next election.

The agenda lists topics reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting. The chair of the committee reserves the right to add items to the agenda that may not be listed here; additionally, members of the committee

may have unanticipated concerns not listed here that they may bring to the committee. – Keith Bardwell discussed his goal to have an engineering plan for the Williamsburg Bridges shortly. Mass Department of Transportation will not install the temporary bridges without first having a plan in place.

Depending on how many more winter storms we get, Keith reported he might need to deficit spend his winter roads budget. He will keep Mark apprised of the situation.

The Board and Nat discussed meeting on a regular basis to consider agenda items of mutual interest. Nat will discuss this with his committee and consider trying it on a trial basis.

Nat offered the use of the school to hold Selectmen meetings over the winter.

Mark reported two of the delinquent dog owners paid prior to the court hearing. One of the complaints was dismissed.

Mark discussed formulating a snow closure policy for town buildings. Mark will bring a draft to the next meeting.

Next Meeting dates	February 10, 2015 – 7 pm (Special Town Meeting)
	February 24, 2015 – 7 pm
	March 10, 2015 – 7 pm
	March 24, 2015 – 7 pm

Motion was made, and seconded to go in to executive Session and not return to open meeting per MGL 30A Section 21, Subsection 6 to consider the purchase of real estate if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (Joyce Palmer Fortune so declared) Roll Call Vote: Paul – yes; Joyce – yes; Jonathan – yes.

There being no further business to come before this meeting it was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul K. Newlin, Clerk

Documents Used at Meeting and are on file in Selectmen's Office

2/3/15 Selectmen's Evaluation of Mark Pruhenski; 2/3/15 Mark Pruhenski Evaluation of Mark Pruhenski

Loan documentation needed to borrow money for the Highway Truck

Chapter 61A release for Lot #3 Masterson Road, Whately, MA

1/21/15 Christopher Sibley letter of resignation from the School Committee

2/3/15 letter from Nathanel Fortune regarding Christopher Sibley's resignation

Property card for 268 State Road

Draft motions for the 2/10/15 Special Town Meeting

1/27/15 email to the Selectmen regarding FY16 Capital requests

Various emails from town administrators regarding longevity pay

Amended CPC application for shelving and a dehumidifier