

**Selectboard
March 13, 2017
Town Offices
6:00 pm**

The regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on March 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm by the Chair, Paul Newlin. Present was Selectboard member Frederick Orloski, Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant, Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the February 27 and March 1 meetings were approved. Vendor and Payroll Warrants were previously signed.

Scheduled Appointments

Nexamp Solar Pilot – Also present were Chris Clark and Julie Beauchemin from Nexamp. Extensive discussion occurred regarding two solar arrays to be installed on the Hutkoski (Long Plain Solar) and Kolcut (Whately Renewables) properties. Revising the PILOT agreement for these projects was discussed. Nexamp requested a 2% increase for the PILOT rather than 2.5% which has been the standard with prior agreements. Their request was based on market realities and tightening economics of solar in Massachusetts. Nexamp is willing to have further discussions regarding Whately as an offtaker of electricity produced. Brian will work with Nexamp regarding the next steps in the process. The Energy Committee should consider these projects. Brian will provide revenue projections for the Board.

Old Business

FY18 Budget Review – Brian reviewed the remaining meeting schedule for the budget. The last day to submit warrant articles is March 15. The Board will sign the warrant on April 10.

Personnel Committee Recommendations - Vacation/Sick Policy – After further discussion by the Personnel Committee, they still recommended to award leave going forward with the accrual method. The carry over provision will be limited to 2 weeks. Those employees who have “owed” vacation will have 3 years to use it. The proposed policy addresses the inequity of new employees having to wait to take their vacation. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the vacation/sick policy as presented. Vote was unanimous.

Housing Trust – The Housing Trust was approved by the attorney general’s office subject to one change. The Board will look to the Housing Committee for recommendations of individuals to appoint as trustees.

Blue School – Brian reviewed the discussion of the school committee meeting regarding the Blue School. Joining the school and town land makes it a more prospective lot. The Town may have some liability for the tank in the ground. Frontier may possibly want to rent storage space from Whately. The Board agreed to have the Housing committee from a subcommittee to work with Brian on this issue as well as the Center School and Dimaio properties.

Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund – Motion was made, and seconded, to authorize the Chair, or if he is not able to do so the Vice-Chair, to sign the contract if the grant is awarded. Vote was unanimous.

New Business

59 River Road – waiver – This property is in receivership. The Receiver is taking steps to foreclose his lien. The Board agreed to sign a waiver for the 90 day notice requirement.

Town Administrator Updates

Bids are due on March 23rd for the construction of the vault.

The report for the regional building use study for the schools is due this coming week.

Brian reminded the viewing public about the April 3rd Town Hall information meeting at the Elementary School.

Next Meeting dates

March 27 @ 6 pm

April 10 @ 6 pm

April 24 @ 6 pm

May 8 @ 6 pm

Meeting adjourned 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List

Vendor and Payroll Warrants #17-18

Proposed Solar Projects – Revenue Projections

Fairview Farms Solar PILOT agreement

3/13/17 Comparison of Existing and Proposed Sick & Vacation Leave

3/7/17 Sick/Vacation Leave

3/6/17 Attorney General approval of Housing Trust

2/21/17 letter from Lyon & Fitzpatrick, LLP regarding 59 River Road