

**Board of Selectmen
March 31, 2015
Whately Elementary School
7:00 pm**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately was called to order on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 7:00 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 March 10, 2015 meeting were approved.

The meeting opened with Scott Jackson being presented the surprise of having the 2014 annual report dedicated to him.

Scheduled appointments – Keith Bardwell – Keith informed the Board a petition article was submitted for the annual town meeting warrant to begin longevity pay for town employees. Even though the personnel board and finance committee voted against longevity pay, Keith felt strongly it is an issue of equality between the school and the town. The Board expressed unqualified support for offering longevity pay for town employees.

Old Business

Town Office Consolidation Update – Mark reported he will be meeting with Andrea Woods from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to review the Request for Proposal.

Frontier Long Range Planning – Discussion occurred regarding the request of the Frontier Long Range Planning Committee to fund the study on how to use the school space more efficiently. There is still the possibility of the study being performed by UMass for less money. In the meantime, the town's share of the study could be \$6000.

Frontier School Budget – Discussion occurred regarding the Frontier School Budget. Joyce felt the town should support the school committee who voted to restore the 5.3 positions cut by the administration. Jonathan felt the town should support the school administration that did what they were charged with doing and presented a level funded budget. A final vote will be taken at their next meeting.

Vote on deficit spending of Winter Roads account – The Board voted unanimously to deficit spend the winter roads account.

Water meter borrowing – sign paperwork – The Board signed the required paperwork to borrow money for the new water meters.

Revised Pipeline resolution – Mark will get the final version of the resolution from Montserrat Archbald.

Water Department and District Merger Update – Mark reported the Water Department and District met with Berkshire Engineering. We are waiting on a proposal from Berkshire Engineering. We have a proposal from Tighe & Bond.

Mileage Reimbursement policy – The Board unanimously voted to approve the mileage reimbursement policy as presented. Mileage rates will be voted every January for the new calendar year.

New Business

Haydenville Road Project – Sign letter of support – Mark told the Board he met with Williamsburg Town Administrator, Charlene Nardi and Paul Guertin, an engineer who has had an interest in this project. Charlene and Mark agreed to send a letter to Rep. Kulik from their Boards expressing support for having state funds for this project released. The Board suggested this letter also be sent to Sen. Rosenberg.

Animal Control Bylaw – Mark reviewed with the Board changes to the Animal Control Bylaw.

Review of non-budgetary annual town meeting warrant articles – Mark presented the Board with a draft warrant containing non-budgetary articles. He will email the Board a final version of the warrant before their next meeting when they will vote on their recommendations.

Town Clerk Hours – The Finance Committee requested Mark discuss with the Board Lynn Sibley's request to increase the Town Clerk hours to 20-22. Once a position goes to 20 hours, the person is eligible for benefits. Discussion occurred with Lynn regarding what tasks would not get done without the increase. Discussion also occurred regarding making the town clerk an appointed rather than an elected position. The Board voted unanimously to increase the town clerk hours to 19 in FY16 with the understanding the hours would be increased to 21 in FY17. Furthermore it is understood further discussion will occur next year on making the town clerk position appointed.

Request from Snowmobile Club to meet year round at town hall – The Board unanimously agreed to allow the Greater Whately Snowmobile Club to meet year round at town hall.

Animal Inspector appointment – Rick Adamcek – The Board unanimously appointed Rick Adamcek to the position of animal inspector.

Winter Recovery Assistance Program – The Board signed the paperwork to receive approximately \$21,000 from this program. The money needs to be spent by the end of June.

Finance Committee reserve fund transfer – Mark informed the Board of a \$500 reserve fund transfer for the highway department.

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. The Board voted unanimously to place an article on the annual town meeting warrant for \$1200 to determine the cost of raising the roof of the highway garage.

The Board signed the Full Bloom license which was approved at a prior meeting.

The Board signed another liquor license for the Whately Diner. Their original license fell in a mop bucket.

Dan Denehy presented a petition article for the annual town meeting warrant to purchase the Western Mass Regional Library building. Discussion occurred regarding the amount of money (closing costs, operating costs, etc.) to include in the article. Discussion occurred regarding whether or not to hold future WMRL discussions in open session and release prior executive session minutes. As chair, Joyce opted to continue to hold future discussions in executive session.

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.

Next Meeting dates

April 14, 2015 – 7 pm
April 28, 2015 – To Be Determined
May 12, 2015 – 7 pm
May 26, 2015 – 7 pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paul K. Newlin, Clerk

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

Draft April 28, 2015 annual town meeting warrant
State Paperwork for the Winter Recovery Assistance Program
Inspector of Animals Nomination Form
Mileage Reimbursement Policy
3/12/15 Memo regarding Town Clerk request for additional hours
Longevity Petition article
3/23/15 Winter Roads Ledger Report
3/16/15 email regarding the Animal Control bylaw
3/17/15 Reserve Fund Transfer for \$500 towards Garage Maintenance
FL Roberts Wines and Malt License (to replace one lost)
Full Bloom Propane License
Petition article to purchase the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System building
3/11/15 letter regarding the Greater Whately Snowmobile Club use of town hall
3/31/15 letter to Rep. Kulik regarding the rehabilitation of Haydenville Road/ Mountain Road project