**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Town of Whately

**Special Town Meeting Minutes**

**November 28, 2023**

**7:30 PM**

Pursuant to the recorded warrant a special town meeting of the Town of Whately held at the Whately Town Offices, 4 Sandy Lane was called to order Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. by Moderator Nathanael Fortune. Town Clerk, Amy Lavallee, read the return of the warrant.18 voters were checked in.

**Article 1:**

Voted to transfer the sum of **$5,800** from FY23 Free Cash to pay unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year from Collective Copies, Inc., Cooley Dickinson Medical Group, WB Mason Company, Inc. and Amazon Capital Services.

*Moderator declared the article passed by the required 9/1Oths majority*

**Article 2:**

Voted to transfer the sum of **$26,000** from Town Buildings Stabilization Account to pay for a feasibility study and master plan for a new Highway Department facility.

Resident Neal Abraham questioned if the feasibility study included other town buildings. Resident Judy Markland questioned why a feasibility study was necessary, what was included, and if the town was only looking at only town owned properties. Fred Baron explained that it was only the highway building included in the study. He explained that a study is necessary to properly evaluate the needs of a new highway complex and what sites would be appropriate for those needs. Keith Bardwell, Highway Superintendent, explained that due to the deterioration of the current building a new one is necessary and that other town buildings are currently structurally sound so not included.

*Moderator declared the article passed by the 2/3rds majority*

**Article 3.**

Voted to transfer the sum of **$102,313** from the Water Department Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to pay the amount remaining on the loan for the construction of the pumping station installed on Chestnut Plain Road.

*Moderator declared the article passed unanimously*

**Article 4.**

Voted to transfer the sum of **$9,618.40** from FY23 Free Cash to pay for weatherization improvements at the Whately Elementary School to be reimbursed in full by a utility incentive payment.

*Moderator declared the article passed unanimously*

**Article 5.**

Voted to transfer the sum of **$4,500** from FY23 Free Cash to pay for a survey and for preparation of plans for the property located at 218 Chestnut Plain Road, Assessors' Parcel ID 39-0-17.

*Moderator declared the article passed unanimously*

**Article 6.**

Voted to transfer to the Selectboard, for the purposes of sale or other disposition, the care, custody and control of the property located at 218 Chestnut Plain Road, Assessors' Parcel ID 39-0-17, and to authorize the Selectboard to dispose of such property on such terms as the Selectboard, in its discretion, determine to be in the best interest of the Town. -

Resident Neal Abrahams questioned if demolition of the building on the property was included in the discretion of the Selectboard regarding disposition. Brian Domina, Town Administrator, explained that disposition referred to possible easements or sale of the property.

*Moderator declared the article passed by the 2/3rds vote*

**Article** 7.

Voted to amend the General Bylaws of the Town by amending Chapter 43 "Recreation Commission" by deleting the lined-out word and replacing with the word in underlined italics bold

§ 43-1. Establishment; membership

There is hereby established a Recreation Commission in the Town of Whately to consist of ~~nine~~

Seven members to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve as an advisory committee on all matters involving recreation and related activities.

Resident Neal Abraham expressed concern that the language in the bylaw quoted referred to the "Board of Selectman and requested that be changed to "Selectboard” to be more inclusive. Amy Lavallee, Town Clerk,

informed that the recodification of the bylaws was in the works and that this change is included in the proposed revisions.

*Moderator declared the article passed unanimously*

Motion to Adjourn by Joyce Palmer-Fortune at 8:00pm. Motion Seconded by Fred Baron. All in Favor. Special Town Meeting Adjourned.

A true copy,

Attest

Amy Lavallee, Town Clerk

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