

**Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
September 4, 2019  
Town Offices  
Open Session  
6:00 p.m.**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on September 4, 2019 at 6:01 p.m. by the Chair, Joyce Palmer-Fortune. Also, present were Selectboard members, Frederick Orloski, Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator Brian Domina, and Administrative Assistant Amy Schrader.

The Board voted to approve the meeting minutes from August 21, 2019.

**Review past vendor and payroll warrants:**

The Board reviewed and signed the vendor and payroll warrants dated September 2, 2019.

**Comments from the public:**

No public comment

**Public Hearing(s):**

**Petition submitted by Eversource for the placement of a utility pole and wires for a new electric service on Long Plain Road** – Nick Langone (Eversource Representative) appeared before the Selectboard to discuss the petition submitted by Eversource for the placement of a utility pole and wires for a new electric service on Long Plain Road. Nick informed the Board that the proposed single utility pole location would be in front of the applicant's property and that an additional pole is necessary to service the customer's new garage. The Board questioned why the current infrastructure can't support the potential new garage? Nick (Eversource) stated that the home's electric service may not be strong enough to support another structure and that he did speak to the property owner regarding running a private service from his home to the new garage which would leave Eversource out of it. The homeowner declined that option. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the additional pole requests in town, future of underground wiring, homeowners' responsibilities, and the proposed pole location. Nick (Eversource) informed the Board that one of the reasons they selected this location is because there is an AT&T line that runs parallel to the property and Eversource would prefer not to disturb that line. Nick (Eversource) stated that he would speak to the homeowner about trenching within the town taking to run the new service. The Board requested that Eversource provide pictures and specs for any installation other than a single pole.

After much discussion, a motion was made to continue the hearing until the next Selectboard meeting on September 25, 2019 at 6:05 p.m. and invite the property owner to have a conversation with Brian or Fred, or attend our next Selectboard hearing. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

#### **Old Business:**

**Historic Safe Restoration project** – Brian informed the Board that the Town received two bids; one from Mehlin Conservation and one from Williamstown Art Conservation center. The Historical Commission is recommending that the Selectboard award the bid to Mehlin Conservation, who submitted the lowest bid. The Board questioned if the bid was a lump sum amount? Donna Wiley (Historical Commission) clarified that the bid is a “not to exceed” price and not a lump sum amount. A motion was made to award the contract to Mehlin Conservation. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

#### **New Business:**

**Town Hall Building Policy, Sections 5.0 “User Fees” and 7.0 “Insurance”** – Brian informed the Board that the preliminary discussion on this topic was held at the last Selectboard meeting when Paul Newlin appeared before the Board to discuss the user fee for his Watermelon Wednesday Concerts. The Board (without Joyce) voted to charge a user fee just for the performance time. The Board had a brief discussion regarding the proposed language changes to the Town Hall Building Policy and the appropriate abutters notification. The Board suggested striking out the word “rehearsal” under the proposed Section 5.1 language. The proposed amendment would read “\* If a fee is charged to attend the event then the user shall pay the rate for “All Others” only for the time of the actual event, not including setup before or breakdown after the event.”. Brian informed the Board that he sent the proposed changes to the appropriate abutters. One of the abutters questioned the use of the word “user” under Section 5.1 asterisk. The abutter suggested that the word “user” is somewhat unclear and recommended the following amendment; striking out word “user” and inserting “Whately Resident, Whately Based Organization, Whately Based Non-Profit Organization, or Whately Based Business.” After a brief discussion, a motion was made to accept the recommended Town Hall Building Policy amendments. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

Brian informed the Board that Fred did some research on Section 7.0 “Insurance” requirement for umbrella liability insurance that applicants are required to obtain for Town Hall events. His research showed that the umbrella liability insurance requirement is costly for the applicant. The Board discussed Section 7.3 and agreed to reserve the right to waive or reduce any and all insurance requirements at its sole discretion. No action was taken at this time.

#### **Town Administrator Updates**

**ADA self-evaluation plan progress and public comments** – Brian informed the Board that the Town needs to complete ADA self-evaluations of its facilities and programs. Brian has been in touch with the Massachusetts Office of Disability for recommendations on how to proceed, they referred him to

the New England ADA Center. The New England ADA Center has templates that Towns can use to assist with the evaluation plan process. In regards to the evaluation of the Town's programs there were two ADA self-evaluation questionnaires sent to the chairpersons of each board, commission and committees and to the department heads. The next step is to complete an ADA self-evaluation of the Town's buildings and facilities. Brian, Keith, Jim Ross, Larry Ashman, and Don Sluter will be evaluating the Town's buildings and facilities. The information provided by the surveys and the facilities evaluation will be put into a written self-evaluation. Based on the self-evaluation, the Town will need to create a transition plan. All this is in preparation to apply for the ADA improvement grant for the lift that's being designed for the Library.

Brian informed the Board that Herlihy Field Softball Field construction has started.

Brian informed the Board that the Water Merger project has started with the installation of the pipe being installed across Chestnut Plain Road. The Engineer will start the permitting process with the Conservation Commission along with starting the permitting process with MassDEP for the connection modifications.

Brian informed the Board that the sidewalk project design work is still continuing. Keith and Brian hope that they have a preliminary design plan of the sidewalk to present at an October Selectboard's meeting. A public hearing will hopefully be scheduled for mid-October and outreach to the Whately Inn and other stakeholders will take place.

Brian informed the Board that the City of Northampton is looking to remove dead and diseased trees just past the Mountain Street Reservoir going into Whately. There have been discussions about closing the road for a couple days because it will require the use of a crane. A meeting is scheduled on Monday with Brian, Keith Bardwell, Donna LaScaleia (DPW Director of Northampton) and Jonathan Edwards (Highway Liaison) to discuss the potential road closure. The Board had a brief discussion regarding the potential road closure location.

Brian informed the Board that the Poplar Hill Road legal transaction was completed. Brian stated that the Town appreciates Smith College's \$60,000 commitment to improve Poplar Hill Road. Brian is going to discuss with Smith College about a potential press release.

Brian informed the Board that Representative Natalie Blais scheduled a Climate Action Now presentation in Williamsburg on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Brian questioned if Selectboard member, Fred Orloski heard anything from the FRCOG regarding the traffic count and turning movements conducted at the intersection of Christian Lane and 5/10. Fred stated that he has not heard anything. Brian stated that he will follow-up with FRCOG.

Brian informed the Board that the Green Communities grant applications have typically been due in January. Since the town doesn't have any current projects, its eligible to apply for the Green Communities grants. Some preliminary work will be required; cost estimates and cost savings are

required. The Board questioned what the maximum grant amount is? Brian stated that he thinks it's \$250,000.

Brian informed the Board that for the Municipal Energy Aggregation process the Town is still waiting on the DPU. The Town's consultant has responded to two requests for information. Our consultant doesn't think there should be any additional requests.

Brian informed the Board that the curtain restoration at the Town Hall will begin on September 11<sup>th</sup> and that there is an educational talk about curtain restoration scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall by Chris Hadsel.

**Items not anticipated within forty-eight (48) hours of the meeting.**

Adjourn – A motion was made to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

Next Meeting Dates: September 25, 2019 and October 9, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

**Document List on File in the Selectboard Office**

Invoice Warrant Report dated 09/02/2019 WP20-06 (payroll)

Invoice Warrant Report dated 09/02/2019 WP20-06 (vendor)

Selectboard Meeting Minutes dated 08/21/2019

Eversource Pole Petition -6A921055

Restoration of Historic Town Safe – Attachment B – Price Form from Mehlin Conservation

Restoration of Historic Town Safe – Attachment B – Price Form from Williamstown Art Conservation

Email from Donna Wiley dated 08/29/2019

Whately Town Hall Building Use Policy – Section 5.0 and Section 7.0

Letter from Sherry Morgan dated 08/29/2019