

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
October 30, 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 October 30, 2019 at 6:02 p.m. by the Chairperson, Joyce Palmer-Fortune. Also present were Selectboard Members Frederick Orloski and Jonathan Edwards and Town Administrator Brian Domina.

Review and vote on the meeting minutes of October 9, 2019

The Board voted to approve the meeting minutes of October 9, 2019.

Review past vendor and payroll warrants

The Board had no comments or questions on past vendor and payroll warrants

To discuss and vote to appoint Megan West to the S. White Dickinson Library Board of Trustees

Joyce made a motion to appoint Megan West as a Library Trustee. Jonathan seconded the motion. All in favor.

Comments from the public on items not listed on the agenda

None

Public Hearings

- a. (6:00 pm) To consider a petition submitted by Verizon/Eversource for the placement of a utility pole, metal platform, regulators and wires on River Road** – Mike Rosenberg from Eversource provided the Board with a brief overview of the proposed regulator location. The Board had previously visited the proposed location during a site visit with Eversource. Joyce stated that Eversource has told the Town that it needs to install the regulators somewhere in an approximate ¼ mile location on River Road from Straits Road running north. The Board, several abutters and Mike reviewed and discussed the proposed location as it relates to the adjacent stream, barn, future development, potential health/environmental concerns and nearby residences. Jonathan re-iterated his understanding that the proposed regulators will be installed to hug the tree line and brook in order to minimize visual impacts. Jonathan made a motion to approve the River Road location. Fred seconded the motion. All in favor.
- b. (6:05 pm) (continued) To consider a petition submitted by Verizon/Eversource for the placement of a utility pole, metal platform, regulators and wires on Long Plain Road** – Kathy Wroblewski (mother owns the adjacent land) told the Board that she is concerned about the impact of the proposed regulator on her family's property. Kathy and Mike Rosenberg had discussed the

proposed location prior to the meeting and Mike provided the Board with potential alternatives. Kathy suggested that the regulators be moved to in front of the former town landfill. Other abutters are not aware of the other alternates, but Mike wanted to discuss the alternates with the Board before re-petitioning and talking with others. Jonathan questioned whether these regulators are really necessary. Mike stated that these are necessary to provide electricity safely and within certain parameters. The Board discussed several locations including a location further south in front of the Town's former landfill and the possible impacts on abutters (visual impacts – possible impacts on future development). Kathy questioned if it was possible to screen the regulators with vegetation. Mike stated that Eversource has vegetation clearance requirements for safety reasons so its not feasible to screen these with vegetation. Joyce summarized that the petitioned option appears to be the least desirable from the abutter's point of view. The Board discussed alternate 1, alternate 1B (approximately on the boundary of the abutter's property and the Town's former landfill) and alternate 2 with Kathy and Mike. The Board asked Mike from Eversource to continue working with the abutters to find a preferred alternate location and to submit a revised petition if necessary. Joyce made a motion to continue the public hearing to December 4, 2019 at 6:00 pm at 4 Sandy Lane, Whately, MA. Jonathan seconded the motion. All in favor.

- c. **(6:15 pm) To consider a petition submitted by Verizon/Eversource for the placement of a utility pole, a single pole mounted regulator and wires on Haydenville Road –** Mike Rosenberg from Eversource provided the Board with a brief overview of the proposed location. The Board had previously viewed the proposed location during a site visit with Eversource. The Board briefly discussed the proposed location in relation to an adjacent flag lot. Fred made a motion to approve the petition as submitted. Joyce seconded the motion. All in favor.

New Business

- a. **To discuss and sign the FY 2020 Local Cultural Council Funds Agreement –** the Board signed the agreement.
- b. **To discuss and sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for the Town of Whately to continue participating in the Franklin County Emergency Communication System –** Brian provided the Board with a brief overview of the status of the current radio system operated by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the proposed changeover to the system currently used by the State Police. Whately is part of Phase I of the migration to the state system and the state has allocated \$125 million for Phase I to purchase equipment for the towns. Towns will still be responsible for the cost of installation. The Board signed the agreement.
- c. **To discuss and vote to appoint Nancy Maynard to the Council on Aging -**
Jonathan made a motion to appoint Nancy Maynard to the Council on Aging. Fred seconded the motion. All in favor.

- d. To accept the resignation of John Devine from the Community Preservation Committee (at large) and to vote to appoint Doug Coldwell to the Community Preservation Committee (at large).**

Jonathan made a motion to accept the resignation of John Devine from the CPC and to appoint Doug Coldwell to the CPC (at large). Fred seconded the motion. All in favor

- e. To discuss and vote to appoint Chester Sobieski as the Town Buildings Custodian -**

Jonathan made a motion to appoint Chester Sobieski as the Town Buildings Custodian contingent on reference checks and a CORI. Joyce seconded the motion. All in favor.

Town Administrator Updates

Brian informed the Board that when the manganese filters were turned on it created white water due to excessive amounts of dissolved air. The Water Department installed an additional control at the pumphouse to control the amount of air being put into the filter system, which should address the issue.

Brian informed the Board that the Fire Station is being re-sided now and should be completed within 1 or 2 weeks.

Brian informed the Board that the site visit with the Army Corps at the Mill River went well and that he believes the Army Corp is agreeable to closing out the permit. Brian reminded the Board that the Town still has additional monitoring obligations for freshwater mussels for another two years.

Brian informed the Board that a Center School Visioning Committee meeting and site visit is scheduled for November 5th at 6:00 pm.

Brian informed the Board of a meeting that he had with Keith Bardwell, Sara Campbell and Chip Kloc about the sidewalk reconstruction project. Brian told the Board that it appears that a solution had been found that is agreeable to all involved that would actually increase the amount of parking and allow for the sidewalks to continue safely in front of the Whately Inn.

Brian reminded the Board of the Rural Water & Sewer meeting scheduled for November 1st at the Whately Town Hall sponsored by Representative Blais and Senator Comerford.

Brian informed the Board that the South County Senior Center Board of Oversight has formed a regional working group of COA members to help the Board of Oversight with long range planning and investigating the continued viability of the current facility.

Brian informed the Board that the Planning Board is looking to hold a forum on solar energy projects either on November 19th or December 3rd. Brian will inform the Planning Board that the 19th is preferred, but December 3rd also works.

Brian provided the Board with an update on radar speed sign costs and engine brake signage.

The Board decided its next meetings will be November 20th, December 4th and December 18th.

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

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

Vendor/Payroll Warrant Reports – (10/14/19) & (10/28/19)

Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2019

Joint Verizon/Eversource Petition – River Road (09/12/2019)

Joint Verizon/Eversource Petition – Long Plain Road (03/14/2019)

GIS Map – Long Plain Road with alternate pole locations provided by Eversource

Joint Verizon/Eversource Petition – Haydenville Road (10/15/2019)

Mass Cultural Council Letter & State Contract

FRCOG Letter & Memorandum of Agreement

Email to Selectboard from Robert Smith re: Library Trustee appointment

Email to Town Administrator from Jonathan Edwards re: CPC appointment