

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 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 December 18, 2019 at 6:04 p.m. by the Chairperson, Joyce Palmer-Fortune. Also present were Selectboard Members Frederick Orloski and Jonathan Edwards. Also present was Town Administrator Brian Domina.

Review and vote on the meeting minutes of December 4, 2019

The Board voted to approve the meeting minutes of December 4, 2019. Jonathan abstained from the vote.

Review past vendor and payroll warrants

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

Comments from the public on items not listed on the agenda

None

Public Hearings:

Joint Petition from Verizon/Eversource to install utility poles and three (3) regulators on Long Plain Road (continued from December 4, 2019) – Mike Rosenberg from Eversource explained that he met with the two concerned abutters and all involved have agreed on an acceptable location that is north of the petitioned location. This will require the submission of a new petition for the new location. The Board voted to deny the petition as submitted and will wait for the new petition to be submitted.

Joint Petition from Verizon/Eversource to install utility poles and three (3) regulators on Christian Lane – Mike Rosenberg from Eversource described the proposed location and the proposed location. The Selectboard had previously visited the site with Mike Rosenberg. Jonathan questioned whether Eversource had contacted any abutters directly. Abutters have been notified by mail, but not contacted directly. Joyce stated that during the site visit she walked up the hill to see what if any visual impacts might exist and the proposed location seemed pretty well screened by trees. Brad Young (18 Christian Lane) asked to see a picture of the proposed regulator equipment and platform. Mike Rosenberg showed a picture of the proposed equipment and explained the purpose of the upgrades (to regulate voltage in the system). The Board asked Eversource to contact the direct abutter (Ann Barker) to the proposed installation. The Board

voted to continue the hearing until January 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Whately Town Offices at 4 Sandy Lane, Whately, MA.

Old Business:

To discuss the status of improvements to Club Castaways and for the Board to review the operation and establishment under the terms of the Variance granted on August 8, 2018:

Nicholas Spagnola (Club Castaways) updated the Board as to the progress made by the establishment towards constructing the masonry wall. Joyce summarized the material submitted to the Board, which included an email and stamped building plans that was submitted to the building inspector as required by the Board. The Board reviewed and discussed the building plans as submitted and discussed video cameras. Fred made a motion to extend the date of completion for the masonry wall until January 14, 2020 with final inspection by the building inspector completed on or before January 14, 2020 with the condition that no one be allowed in the rear break area until after final inspection. All in favor.

The Board discussed the operations of the establishment with Nick and Chief Sevigne. Chief Sevigne discussed two incidents that occurred at the location, but unrelated to the operation of the establishment. Jonathan asked about the interactions of the detail officers and the security staff. Chief Sevigne indicated that the relationship has been good and the interactions vary depending on the detail officer on duty. Fred asked that the establishment be aware of the height of the snow piles adjacent to State Road so that it doesn't block the line of sight of motorists at the intersection. Chief Sevigne stated that he did not have any issues with the operation of the establishment up to this point.

To discuss and vote to renew the following classes of licenses for calendar year 2020

(Alcohol, Entertainment, Automatic Amusement Device, Common Victualler, Innholder, and Class I & Class II Second Hand Motor Vehicle Sales): The Board signed licenses voted upon at the last meeting, but not printed for the Whately Inn (Innholders License) and Tom's Long Dog & Grill (Common Victuallers). Jonathan made a motion to renew the alcohol license and entertainment license. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed 2 to 0 with Joyce abstaining from the vote. Brian informed the Board that Mark Battey (One Call Does It All) has elected to not renew his second hand motor vehicle sales license.

New Business:

To discuss the proposed contract between the Town of Whately, MassDEP and WM Recycle America, LLC to participate in the recycling program at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility: Brian gave a power point presentation on the proposed recycling contract with the MRF that communities are being asked to sign. The Board discussed the state of the recycling market, the proposed increase in recycling costs, the terms of the contract and possible alternatives for recycling glass. Brian informed the Board that the Franklin County Solid Waste District is exploring other possible recycling alternatives for its member communities. Jonathan questioned what the costs would be for curbside service. Fred wondered whether residents could

use the facility in Northampton. Brian informed the Board that the contract does not need to be signed and returned to MassDEP until January 31, 2019 so there is time to consider and explore alternatives. The Board discussed possible ways to pay for the increased recycling costs (increase bag fees, annual sticker fee, recycling fee, grant funds). The Board will revisit this topic in January and hopes to have a discussion with the Solid Waste Committee.

To discuss whether to apply for a Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant to update the Whately Open Space Plan: Brian inquired whether the Board wanted to submit a grant application under the Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant program to acquire funds to update the Town's expired Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Board asked Brian to submit the grant application.

To discuss the public comments received at the Chestnut Plain Road Sidewalk Plans Open House Meeting: Brian reviewed the summary of comments received during the two-hour open house meeting and several emails that were submitted. In terms of the expanded parking, suggestions were provided that the parking be angled or straight pull-in parking and be located only in front of the library. In terms of crosswalks, comments submitted expressed concern about the safety of the most northerly crosswalk and a desire to not have constant flashing lights at the crosswalks. Comments also suggested that a sidewalk directly connect the Library and the Town Hall in the existing location of the sidewalks. Brian will work with Keith and Sara Campbell to develop a final plan for approval by the Selectboard at a meeting in January.

Town Administrator Updates

Brian provided the Board with a draft schedule of budget planning meetings to be confirmed with the Finance Committee.

Brian informed the Board that the Williamsburg Road Bridge project will be put out to bid in early January with anticipated construction next spring.

Fred provided the Board with an update on his work to update the Whately history books in time for the town's 250th Anniversary.

Brian informed the Board that he submitted CPA applications to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan and for the proposed Frontier Track improvements.

Brian informed the Board that the tax rate for fiscal year 2020 has been set at \$15.67 per \$1000 of assessed value.

Brian informed the Board that the Town received a small grant from MIIA to purchase safety cabinets for the Highway Department, Water Department and Fire Department to store flammable materials.

Brian informed the Board that he sees a need for a special town meeting in the near future.... Possibly in late January.

The meeting was adjourned 8:19 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

Meeting Minutes (11//19)

Vendor/Payroll Warrant Reports – (12/09/19)

Joint Verizon/Eversource Petition for Long Plain Road dated October 11,2019

Email from Brian Domina to Michael Rosenberg dated November 26, 2019

Eversource Petition for Christian Lane dated November 29, 2019

Email from Julius Sokol to Brian Domina dated December 17, 2019

Building Plan – stamped by BERDI Consulting for masonry wall construction

Proposed recycling contract between MassDEP, Contractor and Dual Stream Communities

Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Program Application

Summary of Comments – Chestnut Plain Road Sidewalk Reconstruction Plan Open House

CPA Application – Whately Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

CPA Application – Frontier Track Improvements