

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2020
Town Offices
Open Session
6:00 p.m.**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on January 8, 2020 at 6:03 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 18, 2019 and December 23, 2019

The Board voted to approve the meeting minutes of December 18, 2019 and December 23, 2019.

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

Fred reminded residents that the Center School Visioning Committee has prepared a survey and is seeking input from residents on what they would like to see happen with the Center School. The survey is available on the Town's website and at the Town Offices, Post Office and Library.

Public Hearings:

Joint Petition from Verizon/Eversource to install utility poles and three (3) regulators on Christian Lane – Brian informed the Board that Eversource has withdrawn the petition and will re-submit a new petition with a different proposed pole location.

Old Business:

To discuss the status of improvements to Club Castaways - The establishment submitted a written request via email asking the Selectboard to extend the date of completion of the masonry wall until January 30, 2020 and to continue to allow the establishment to operate without the wall being constructed. Fred questioned what progress has been made towards meeting the requirement. Mark DeJackome (Security Director – Club Castaways) provided the Board with an update on progress of the construction. Joyce reviewed the multiple extensions granted by the Board to Club Castaways over the last several months. Jonathan questioned if the wall is not completed by January 14, 2020 will the licensee be in violation of its licenses? Brian provided his opinion that it would be reasonable for the Board to consider the licensee in violation of their licenses only if the licensee where to open for business without having the wall constructed. Mark advocated for the Board to grant the extension. Joyce asked for a motion to extend the date of completion until January 30, 2020. No motion was made. Joyce explained to Mark that the

establishment has until January 14, 2020 to complete construction. After that date, it is the expectation of the Board that, for the establishment to operate, all conditions of the licenses must be complied with.

To review the proposed final plan for the reconstruction of sidewalks and the installation of crosswalks on Chestnut Plain Road – Brian informed the Board that the final plans are still being developed by the engineer and it would be best to table the discussion until the next meeting. Donna Wiley (Historical Commission) asked if there was any additional information about the crosswalks and any associated lighting. The information is not available at this time and will likely be available by the next meeting. The Board will continue this discussion at its next meeting.

New Business:

To discuss the reimbursement of the fiscal year 2020 Police Department budget from the Injured-on Duty insurance proceeds – Brian explained to the Board the financial situation surrounding an injured-on-duty incident and insurance claim. The Police Department spent approximately \$9,000 in salary costs to cover the shifts. The Town carries insurance for this type of event and has been reimbursed by the insurance company. The insurance proceeds by law are deposited with the General Fund and are not automatically reimbursed to the Police Department budget. Brian recommended at the next Town Meeting that an article be placed on the warrant to transfer the insurance reimbursement money to the Police Department budget.

Brian informed the Board that a local opt-in statute was adopted by the state legislature in 2016 which allows towns to create a revolving account to handle this situation more efficiently. Brian recommended that at the next Town Meeting an article be placed on the warrant for the adoption of the M.G.L. c. 41 s.111F. The Board will review this when the draft warrant for the next Special Town Meeting is prepared.

To discuss whether to apply for assistance from the Franklin Regional Council of Government's District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program – The Board reviewed and discussed the possible areas of assistance offered by FRCOG through the DLTA program. The projects favored by the Board at this point are housing planning, electric vehicle charging stations, aging and dementia friendly community planning and brownfields. The Board will continue this discussion at its next meeting.

To discuss and vote to accept the resignation of Lois Hunt from the Whately Council on Aging - Brian informed the Board that Lois Hunt has withdrawn her resignation request.

To discuss and vote to set the mileage reimbursement rate for calendar year 2020 – The Board voted to set the mileage reimbursement rate at 57.5 cents, which is equal to the IRS rate for business use.

Town Administrator Updates

Brian provided the Board with an update on the Williamsburg Road Bridge project. Brian informed the Board that the site visit is scheduled for January 23, 2020.

Brian presented the Board with the proposed joint budget meeting schedule with the Finance Committee. Jonathan indicated that he would not be able to make the March 10, 2020 joint budget meeting.

Brian reminded everyone that the Center School survey was available.

Brian informed the Board that the Town has received supplemental Chapter 90 funds in the amount of \$14,481 as part of the state's supplemental budget.

Brian informed the Board that the Town was not awarded a Municipal ADA Improvement Grant for the accessibility improvements proposed for the library.

The Board discussed possible dates for a future Special Town Meeting. The Board asked Brian to explore whether the date of February 19, 2020 would work for all folks that need to be involved.

Brian reminded everyone that a request has been made for annual reports to be submitted to Amy on or before January 28, 2020 for inclusion in the 2020 Town Annual Report.

The meeting was adjourned 7:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

Meeting Minutes (12/18/19) (12/23/19)

Vendor/Payroll Warrant Reports – (12/23/19)

Eversource Petition for Christian Lane Long Plain Road dated November 29, 2019

Email from Nicholas Spagnola to Brian Domina dated January 6, 2020

Letter from James Sevigne to Brian Domina dated December 30, 2019

Injured on Duty – Financial Analysis Spreadsheet

DLTA Letter from Linda Dunlavy dated January 6, 2020

2020 DLTA Application Form

Email from Lois Hunt to Ruth Fairman dated January 5, 2020

IRS Press Release: IRS Issues Standard Mileage Rates for 2020 dated 12/31/19

Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget Meeting Schedule

Whately Center School Public Opinion Survey
MIIA Nominating Committee Memorandum from Geoffrey Beckwith dated 12/19/19
MassDOT Notice of Chapter 90 Supplemental Funds Letter
Letter from the Massachusetts Office of Disability dated 12/31/19