

**Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 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 February 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. by the Chairperson, Joyce Palmer-Fortune. Also present were Selectboard Members Frederick Orloski and Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator Brian Domina, and Administrative Assistant Amy Schrader.

Review and vote on the meeting minutes of January 29, 2020.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the meeting minutes of January 29, 2020 on page 2, end of paragraph 1 to state: "snow removal in the winter from the sidewalks?" not solar panels. The Board voted to approve the meeting minutes with this amendment.

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

Scheduled Appointment(s)

(Lee Bourdon) To consider a Change of Manager request from NEC OPCO I, Inc. (Whately Diner) –

Brian informed the Board that the Whately Diner submitted a request for a Change of Manager for their alcohol license. Lee Bourdon appeared before the Board as the proposed new manager for the Whately Diner. The Board had a brief discussion regarding Lee's experience and changes to the establishment. Lee discussed the Diner's changes with specific attention to stricter employee rules/regulations, alcoholic beverage serving times, and a cleaner dining atmosphere. Jonathan (Selectboard) expressed concern regarding the traffic pattern restriction that was put into place as a condition of the alcohol license. Jonathan stated that trailer trucks are not adhering to the posted turning restriction. Jonathan suggested that as the new manager, Lee, could relay his concerns to the owners. A motion was made to approve Lee Bourdon as the new manager for NEC OPCO I, Inc (Whately Diner). Motion was seconded. All in favor.

Old Business:

To discuss and vote to enter into a contract with MassDEP and WM Recycle America, LLC for recycling services -
Joyce made a motion to enter into a contract with MassDEP and WM Recycle America, LLC. Motion was seconded. All in favor. The Board signed the contract.

To discuss and vote to award a contract for the Williamsburg Road Bridge project –

Brian informed the Board that he doesn't have a recommendation to award tonight but asked that the Board discuss the project with our Highway and Building Superintendent, Keith Bardwell. The town received four bids, the lowest bid was from Davenport Trucking in Greenfield for \$567,437 base bid and the alternate # 1 bid was \$84,459 for a total bid of \$650,196.00. The Town received a Small Bridge Program grant from the state for \$497,000. Brian discussed the potential expenditures that the grant funds would be used for. Brian stated that

the Board should discuss the funding shortfall of this project and discuss how they would like to proceed. Keith Bardwell (Highway and Building Superintendent) discussed different funding options with specific attention to the potential use of Chapter 90 funds. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding in-kind services, funding shortfalls, existing/future Chapter 90 funds, and potential future Chapter 90 projects. Keith informed the Board that he has been anticipating this project and that the town is carrying over \$144,000 in funds from last year. The Town could potentially use in-kind service for much of alternate #1. Fred (Selectboard) had two suggestions: first suggestion is to go back to the state and see if more money is available since this is a 2016 appropriation. Second suggestion is to inquire if the property owners, City of Northampton Water Department, would like to contribute to this project? The Board had a brief discussion as to how to proceed with this project. Brian informed the Board that the Town can't enter into a contract if the funds aren't available. Keith stated there is nothing we can take out of the bid to help reduce the cost. Harlan (resident) expressed his support for in-kind services for alternate # 1 and contacting the state for additional funds. Harlan stated that being a landowner that is affected by these bridges, it's appreciated that the Town continues to move forward with this project. After much discussion, no decision was made at this time.

To discuss the status of the sidewalk reconstruction project on Chestnut Plain Road and winter maintenance -

Brian informed the Board that he would like to keep this conversation going. Keith Bardwell (Highway and Building Superintendent) met with Sara Campbell, Engineer, to try and finalize the specifications. Sara is preparing information to present to the Whately Inn. Once the information is prepared, Keith, Brian, and Sara will sit down with the owner of the Whately Inn and report back to the Board. Keith Bardwell (Highway and Building Superintendent) discussed the crosswalk reflectors, speed hump noise, and pedestrian traffic. Keith stated that he spoke to the Northampton's DPW Director, she stated that the most of the complaints are from the abutters due to the noise. The Board questioned if the reflectors would be in the wheel path? Keith stated they would not be in the wheel path which would help reduce the noise. After much discussion, no decision was made at this time.

New Business:

To discuss and vote to send a letter in support of S.2465 and H.4275 "An Act Quantifying the SPED Gap by Comparing Actual Special Education Costs to Current Special Education Assistance." –

Brian informed the Board that this item has been tabled until another Selectboard meeting. The Board will revisit this in the next couple weeks.

To discuss and review FY 2021 administrative budgets –

Brian stated that the FY2021 Administrative budget is still being prepared.

To appoint Shelly Yagodzinski to the Recreation Commission –

A motion was made to appoint Shelly Yagodzinski to the Recreation Commission. Motion was seconded. All in favor.

Town Administrator Updates:

Center School Visioning Committee Update – Brian informed the Board that the Center School Visioning Committee invited the Board to a meeting on March 19, 2020 at 6:30pm. The Board had a brief discussion regarding the Committee's charge. The Board requested that the meeting begin at 5:00pm with a secondary option of 6:00 pm. Brian will reach out to the Center School Visioning Committee to confirm a time.

Proposed Zoning Amendments to Solar Bylaw – Brian informed the Board that the Planning Board's proposed zoning amendments public hearing is March 10, 2020 at 6:45pm. If the Board has any comments, they can be submitted to the Planning Board. The Board had a general discussion regarding the Aquifer Protection District classifications, prime farm land determinations, and proposed solar field acreage requirements. Fred stated that other towns involve their Agricultural Commission to sign-off on proposed solar projects. Fred suggested that the Agricultural Commission be involved in determining what "prime" agricultural land is. John Lukin (resident) discussed Zone 1 and Zone 2 requirements and suggested that the Town abide by MassDEP regulations to make for a smooth project process.

Covestro Meeting (tbd) – Brian informed the Board that he received a request from a Covestro representative about wanting to discuss the possibility of expanding the property. Brian suggested that Jonathan sit in on that meeting. Brian and Jonathan will schedule a meeting.

Water Merger Project Update – The Water Merger Project will be presented in front of Conservation Commission meeting tonight. Brian stated that he would have liked to see the project be presented to the Conservation Commission back in September or October. The Board requested seeing a project timeline at their next meeting.

Proposed Scenic Roads Bylaw – Brian informed the Board that this a new by-law. The statute is a local opt-in statute. The town can opt-into the statute, vote to designate the roads, and then towns are supposed to adopt a local by-law. Adopting the local by-law was never completed.

Police Chief Contract – Brian informed the Board that the Police Chief's contract is up at the end of June. Chief Sevigne has requested a salary increase and conversations have begun with the Police Liaison, Joyce, Chief Sevigne, and Brian. Brian stated it would be easier to have a budget number now or there could be a later appropriation if the budget number isn't adjusted now.

Brian informed the Board there is a note from Frontier to use their Excess and Deficiency (E&D) funds to replace a few of their deferred maintenance items. Frontier wants to use \$115,000 of its E&D money. The Board had a brief discussion regarding the use of E&D funds and inquired about Frontier's regular budget. Brian informed the Board that the letter states it must be 2/3 of the local appropriating authority.

Brian informed the Board that they received an invitation to, one of many, celebrations for the Town of Hatfield's 350th anniversary. This celebration event is scheduled for May 31, 2020.

Items not anticipated within forty-eight (48) hours of the meeting.
none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

Selectboard Meeting Minutes dated 01/29/2020

Vendor/Payroll Warrant Reports – (02/03/2020)

Copy of Contract between the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Contractor and a Dual Steam Designated Community

Williamsburg Road Bridge Project Financial Breakdown

Letter of Support for S.2465 and H.4275 (draft)

Proposed Town of Whately Zoning Changes (02/14/2020)

Proposed Whately Scenic Roads Bylaws

Letter from Darius E. Modestow, Superintendent of Schools dated 02/13/2020

FY2021 Capital Improvement Sub Committee Recommendations for E&D use and Warrant Articles to the towns.