

**Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
December 30, 2020  
Town Offices  
Open Session via Zoom  
6:00 p.m.**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on December 30, 2020 at 6:02 p.m. by the Chairperson, Fred Orloski. Also present via zoom was Selectboard Members Joyce Palmer-Fortune and Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator Brian Domina, and Administrative Assistant Amy Schrader.

**Review and vote on the meeting minutes of December 9, 2020.**

The Board voted to approve the meeting minutes of December 9, 2020.

Roll call vote: Fred– yes, Joyce – yes, and Jonathan – yes.

**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 Appointments:**

**Bob Cimini, Chris Cimini, Neal Dach (Whately RE Holdings, Inc.) to discuss and consider entering into a Host Community Agreement for a proposed marijuana cultivation establishment to be located at 23 LaSalle Drive**

Bob Cimini, Chris Cimini, and Neal Dach (Whately RE Holdings, Inc.) virtually appeared before the Board to discuss a Host Community Agreement for their proposed marijuana cultivation establishment to be located at 23 LaSalle Drive Whately, MA. At the last Selectboard meeting, the Board authorized Brian and Joyce to enter into negotiations with Whately RE Holdings, Inc. This agreement is essentially the same agreement that the Town has entered with DMCTC and the current applicants are receptive to essentially the agreement. Whately RE Holdings, has changed their corporate name to CannaSelect, LLC, but the ownership of the corporation remains the same. The Board had a brief discussion regarding the potential use of town water and abutter concerns. Neal Dach (Whately RE Holdings, Inc.) stated that the actual watering of the plants will go through wells located on the property; town water usage only applies to the house. The Planning Board and ZBA would be the appropriate boards to discuss/address abutter concerns. Brian recommended that the applicants contact the ZBA Chair and Planning Board Chair to inquire what the next steps are. A motion was made to adopt and sign the Host Community Agreement as written. Motion was seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan – yes, Fred – yes, and Joyce – yes.

**Fran Fortino (Solid Waste Committee/Board of Health) to discuss the installation of “no idling” signs at town building parking lots and to discuss the issues with scrap metal recycling**

Fran Fortino (Solid Waste Committee/Board of Health) and Becky Jones (Board of Health) virtually appeared before the Board to discuss the installation of “no idling” signs at Town building parking lots. Fran stated that the proposed signs comply with state highway regulations. Becky Jones (Board of Health) suggested that these signs also be installed at the elementary school. The Board had a brief discussion regarding the importance of reminding residents to abide by the existing law of “no idling”, other potential sign locations, monitoring parking on town properties, and the potential for a future Whately Scoop article. The law currently states “no idling” beyond 5 minutes which is punishable by a \$50.00 fine. Fran will work with Keith Bardwell (Highway and Building Superintendent) to establish sign locations and for installation. After much discussion, a motion was made to permit the Board of Health to place “no idling” signs on all town properties in the order they deem most appropriate and to include points of education as a teaching opportunity. Motion was seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Joyce – yes, Jonathan – yes, and Fred – yes.

Fran Fortino (Solid Waste Committee) virtually appeared before the Board to discuss the issues with scrap metal recycling. Fran stated that the Town can no longer accept scrap metal due to on-going issues. Fran suggested installing a surveillance system to monitor the Transfer Station since the site is not secure. Keith Bardwell (Highway and Building Superintendent) stated that he contacted a surveillance company that gave him a cost estimate for monitoring of the exterior and interior of the building. Keith discussed potential surveillance system placement, surveillance system cost estimates, staff monitoring, funding options, scrap metal dumping issues, and appropriate “no dumping” signage. Fran stated that bulky waste day is two-days a year and offers metal recycling. Any resident can bring scrap metal to Greenfield, but there is a \$5.00 entrance fee, otherwise the disposal of scrap metal is free. Joyce suggested that residents can use “Free Cycle” to dispose of their scrap metal. Fran Fortino (Solid Waste Committee) stated that the amount of scrap metal generated at the Transfer Station is not worth the amount of money for the box or roll-off rental. Jonathan suggested that the Town contact Deerfield to see if they would accept the Town’s scrap metal. Fran stated that he would contact the Town of Deerfield and will let Brian know. Fran and Keith discussed Mass DEP grant funding options and will contact Jan Ameen (FCSWD) to research this potential funding opportunity. After much discussion, Fran, Brian, Keith, and Chief Sevigne will work together to establish a more realistic plan to address this issue and will report back to the Board. No decision was made at this time.

**COVID19 State of Emergency**

**To review, discuss, and consider modifications to the following: *Directive on Town Employees Returning to Work During the COVID19 Pandemic; Order Reopening Town Buildings to the Public for Limited Hours and Appointment Only; Guidance on Holding Meetings for Town Departments, Boards, Committees, and Commissions; and the Directive on Face Coverings; or any other issues related to COVID19.***

Brian informed the Board that the CARES ACT funding deadline to expend funds has been extended an additional 12 months. The Town has around \$20,000 in CARES Act funds remaining. There is going to be a regional COVID19 vaccination clinic for first responders. Fred inquired with Fran Fortino (Aging in Place) if there was transportation assistance for seniors in town, who need to get vaccinated? Fred suggested that the Senior Center van be available to Whately residents for vaccination purposes and inquired if the Town was going to hold a local vaccination clinic? Fran stated that at this time, there is no funding set-up for these types of clinics. Jonathan stated that the outreach coordinator at the Senior Center will be working with seniors on this issue. The Board would like Fran to consider CARES ACT funding for future needs/resources for town residents and/or the Board of Health. Fran informed the Board that the Board of Health voted that the Whately Elementary school continue remote learning until January 8, 2020. The Board took no action and will revisit this on January 13, 2020

### **Old Business:**

#### **To discuss proposed cost sharing between MassDOT and the Town of Whately for the continued design/engineering of Haydenville Road**

Brian informed the Board that in the 2014 Transportation Bond Bill \$4.6 million dollars was included for the Haydenville Road/Mountain Street reconstruction project in Whately and Williamsburg. MassDOT previously committed to only funding the project through 25% design. Haydenville Road and Mountain Street are considered federal aid eligible. Currently, the Haydenville Road reconstruction project is listed for construction year 2025 on the Franklin County Transportation Improvement Plan. The Town owes a big thank you to Representative Natalie Blais, Senator Jo Comerford, and Senator Adam Hinds for their continued support on this project. The Town has a chance to pay only 17% of the design costs (\$156,230 plus right of way costs) and have MassDOT and federal highway funds pay for the remaining \$918,000 in design costs and the entire amount of the \$6.4 million in construction costs. Senator Comerford will be discussing this project with the Mayor of Northampton. This project is Chapter 90 eligible since it has to do with road design. The Town receives around \$140,000 in Chapter 90 funds each year. Keith Bardwell (Highway and Building Superintendent) discussed the importance of road maintenance, project costs, and recommended moving forward with this project. The Board discussed the importance of showing the need for this project and suggests that the ongoing effort/support continue. After much discussion, the Board requested the appropriate department heads to continue to move forward with this project.

### **New Business**

#### **To approve the proposed 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant (\$2,700) to help offset the costs of new public safety radios; 2019 EMPG (\$2,700) repurposed for the same use**

Brian informed the Board that is an annual grant that Lynn as the Emergency Management Director usually applies for. In 2020, we recommend putting the \$2,700 towards the public safety radio needs. Lynn has also been able to repurpose the FY19 grant to pay for public safety radio needs as well. The original 2019 grant was supposed to go towards an electronic message board, but since we found other grant funding for those, the 2019 grant has been repurposed. It would be around \$5,400.00 to put towards the new public radios. A motion was made to approve and submit the 2020 grant application. Motion was seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan -yes, Joyce -yes, and Fred -yes.

#### **To consider a lease purchase of a Bandit 15XP woodchipper for the Highway Department**

Brian informed the Board that the lease/purchase of a woodchipper for the Highway Department was approved at the most recent Annual Town Meeting. Keith has located a woodchipper to purchase within the appropriated funds (\$12k per year for five years). The Board had a brief discussion regarding cost estimates and potential options to purchase. Fred requested that Brian investigate if there is a pre-payment penalty. Brian stated that he will check with Lynn. A motion was made to enter into a contract with KS State Bank. Motion was seconded. All in favor. Roll call vote: Jonathan – yes, Joyce – yes, and Fred -yes.

### **Town Administrator Updates:**

Brian informed the Board that the Williamsburg Road Bridge guardrails were installed today. Keith is working on getting the appropriate signage installed. When the signs are installed, the road will be opened. The culvert/bridge nearest Dry Hill Road and Grass Hill Road is still unrated.

Brian informed the Board that the first MVP planning workshops is January 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The second workshop is January 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Jonathan suggested sending the workshop invitation to Committee, Board, and Department heads. Brian informed the Board that he did send an email out individual email addresses and will send another email to Committee Chairs to encourage attendance.

Brian informed the Board that a year ago, the Town applied for DLTA funding assistance. The Town was awarded a housing study assistance. Preliminary work will begin for an update housing needs assessment.

Brian informed the Board that DMCTC's 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Outreach Meeting will be held on (01/04/21). This meeting conflicts with the MVP workshop date/time. Holding this second meeting is a requirement of the Cannabis Control Commission because DMCTC did not apply to the CCC within 6 months of its initial Community Outreach Meeting

Green Communities Grant (Spring 2021/Fall 2021) application rounds will be in the Spring and the Fall.

Brian informed the Board that the Town applied for the Regional Microenterprise Assistance Program. One Whately business (farm) has taken advantage of this assistance program.

Brian informed the Board that MassDEP approved the connection of the Whately Water Department and Whately Water District. Brian will be meeting with Keith Bardwell (Highway and Building Superintendent), Wayne Hutkoski (Water Superintendent), and Nicholas Jones (Whately Water District) to move this project forward.

Brian informed the Board that capital improvement projects will hopefully be received by January 4, 2021.

### **Items Not Anticipated within forty-eight (48) hours of the meeting:**

None

The meeting was adjourned 7:32pm

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Next Meetings: January 13, 2021 & January 27, 2021

### **Document List Filed in the Selectboard Office**

Selectboard Meeting Minutes dated December 9, 2020

Payroll Warrant WP21-14 dated 12.21.2020

Vendor Warrant WP21-14 dated 12.21.2020

Town of Whately Host Community Agreement (DRAFT) – Canna Select Holdings, LLC.

Email from Fran Fortino dated 12.16.2020

Email from Representative Natalie Blais dated 12.11.2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Standard Contract Form – Town of Whately and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Bobcat of Greater Springfield Invoice dated 12.21.2020

KS State Bank formal proposal dated 12.28.2020

Email from DLS dated 12.23.2020

Notice of Community Outreach Meeting from DMC dated 12.16.2020