

**Selectboard
November 20, 2017
Town Offices
Open Session
6 pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on November 20, 2017 at 6 pm by the Chair, Frederick Orloski. Present was Selectboard members Jonathan Edwards, Joyce Palmer Fortune, Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant, Janet Scully. Minutes from November 8, 2017 were approved. The Board signed the Vendor and Payroll warrants.

Comments from the Public –

Dan Denehy asked for an update of the most recent SCEMS meeting. Jonathan shared the progress on the new ambulance building.

Dan Denehy inquired about a 3% tax on the sale of Marijuana to be voted upon at the upcoming special town meeting. Brian suggested that any vote on the matter be taken at the Annual Town Meeting when more residents typically attend.

Scheduled Appointments

None

Old Business

Town Hall Project Updates – A special permit application was filed with the Town Clerk. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for December 7, 2017.

Interior renovations are continuing and there is a scheduled site meeting November 21, 2017. Brian will review schedules of work.

Special Town Meeting – The Board reviewed and briefly discussed each of the articles on the warrant for the upcoming special town meeting to be held on December 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Following this, the special town meeting warrant was signed.

New Business

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans District – Municipalities are required to provide various veterans benefits to residents per MA General Law. This work has been done by the UPVVD for the past three years. It has been recommended, by Don Sluter- the town's representative, that we continue for another three years. The Board agreed with this recommendation and Fred signed the contract.

Local Cultural Council Funds – The Board agreed to sign the state contract for Whately to receive its annual allocation of local cultural council funds. Fred as chair signed the contract.

APR Co-Holder Documents – The Town of Whately will be a co-holder of the APRs (agricultural preservation restrictions) for three properties. The main entity is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and because there are federal funds involved, the town, as co-holder is required to sign onto the Agricultural Land Easement Agreements. The funds have already been appropriated by Town Meeting – CPA funds.

Town Administrator Updates

1. The ADA grant for accessibility improvements at the Whately Town Hall was submitted in the amount of \$224,425.00
2. The tax rate for the fiscal year 2018 will be decreased by 26 cents, which is a certified rate of \$15.34 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
3. The Towns priority project list was reviewed, brief discussion of some items placement as Higher, Medium or Lower Priority. Added to the list was the Nexamp PILOT agreement and the Frontier Regional School Bond.

4. There was a brief discussion of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee which at this time is not fully enrolled. The Board expressed concern that we be looking ahead to our needs not only as it relates to vehicles and equipment, but also to our facilities. The question was raised as to how we best create an inventory list of needs that are prioritized and who should be responsible for this task. Brian will report back to the Board his findings.

The agenda lists topics reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting. The chair of the board reserves the right to add items to the agenda that may not be listed here; additionally, members of the board may have unanticipated concerns not listed here that they may bring to the board.

Next Meeting Dates

December 11, 2017

January 10, 2017

January 31, 2017

Meeting adjourned 7:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

Priority Projects List

Special Town Meeting Warrant

10-19-17 UPVUSD Inter Municipal Agreement

10-30-17 Mass Cultural Council

11-9-17 MDAR Agriculture Lands Easement Agreement

11-16-17 Tax Rate Capitulation