

**Board of Selectmen
January 13, 2015
Center School Offices
7:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately was called to order on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7:07 pm by the Chair, Joyce Palmer Fortune. Present were Selectman Jonathan Edwards and Paul Newlin, Town Administrator, Mark Pruhenski and Municipal Secretary, Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the December 23, 2014 were approved. Vendor and payroll warrants 15-15 were signed.

Appointments – Water District Connection Sub-Committee – Also present were Water District Commissioner Nicholas Jones and Water District Sub-Committee member Scott Jackson. Discussion occurred regarding the interest in merging the Water District and Water Department. The District has water supply issues during the year and a lack of water pressure which presents challenges in fighting a fire. The Water District would be able to provide infrastructure and some money in a merger. The question of District members having to pay a connection fee for town water is one of the issues which will need to be negotiated. Mark and Nicholas work will work on determining the cost of an engineering study to connect the two systems. Bill Smith from the Water Department will be at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mill River Update – Joyce signed, as chair, a cover letter needed to submit the Section 7 Biological Assessment to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Discussion occurred regarding involving our federal legislators in the permitting process at this time.

Town Office Consolidation Update – Paul reported the Municipal Building Committee is preparing for the February 7th public forum when the final report will be issued by the facilitators of the community meetings. 91 online surveys were received. Residents who were not able to attend the open houses held on January 7th, can take a virtual tour at the town's website courtesy of Frontier Community Access Television. Paul strongly emphasized the plan for the Library building developed by John Wroblewski is his personal conception and has not been endorsed by the Town.

New Business

FY16 Budget process update – Mark reported the capital budget requests have been submitted. The Capital Planning committee will be meeting on January 26th. The operating budgets are due on Friday.

February Special Town Meeting – Mark reported the finance committee approved the warrant earlier in the evening. Discussion occurred regarding the various articles listed. The article regarding town office consolidation will be rewritten to allow for more flexibility depending on the outcome of the February 7th meeting. The Board will meet on January 21st at 8:30 am to sign the warrant.

Green Communities Report update – Mark said the Green Communities Report has been submitted electronically.

Complete Streets survey – Mark completed the survey online which could result in grant money for sidewalks and bike paths.

Department of Environment Protection Recycling Dividends Program – Mark reported the Town has received the \$2000 awarded under this program. The original intent was to purchase bottle/can recycling bins for town buildings. UMass has bins available they are looking to give away. Consequently, we still have the \$2000 to spend. Paul mentioned he felt the transfer station looks great and the people running it are doing a great job. He also felt the highway department is doing a great job with the roads.

250th Anniversary Celebration – Operating seed money – Mark briefly mentioned the possibility of providing seed money for the 250th anniversary celebration in 2021. This will be discussed at another meeting.

Update on 3 outstanding dog licenses – Mark went to court on December 22nd. Unfortunately none of the 3 dog owners showed up. They will be given one more chance to appear in court on January 26th.

Licenses – The Board signed Tom's Long Dog & Grill Common Victualler license. The Board also signed a letter to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission stating there is no seasonal increase in the town's population.

MIIA Board of Directors Nomination – The Board had no interest in the nominees for Board of Directors.

Full Bloom Gas Storage Hearing – The Town has still not received an application so this hearing will be held at a later date.

Letter of Support for Communities That Care grant funding – Joyce signed, as chair, a letter of support for grant funding for the Communities That Care coalition.

Town Administrator – Review/probation status – Mark discussed with the Board employee evaluations. Paul and Jonathan agreed to submit to Joyce their evaluation of Mark. She will compile all 3 reviews into one, which will be discussed with Mark at the next meeting. Mark will work with the Selectmen to review the Department heads they are each responsible for. These will be completed by the end of February. Department heads will then review employees they're responsible for by late spring.

The agenda lists topics reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting. The chair of the committee reserves the right to add items to the agenda that may not be listed here; additionally, members of the committee may have unanticipated concerns not listed here that they may bring to the committee. There will be a Future Needs Assessment for the Senior Center on January 20th at 4 pm at the Senior Center in South Deerfield.

There will be a Frontier Community Access Television open house on January 29th from 4:30 to 6 pm at 8B Elm Street, South Deerfield.

Mark reported the building inspection issue at 61 Webber Road has been resolved.

Additional Chapter 90 money has been released by Governor Baker. Whately's Chapter 90 money has been increased from \$145,545 to \$218,317.

Joyce signed paperwork, as chair, authorizing Jonathan to vote on behalf of the Town at the Mass Municipal Association's annual meeting.

Joyce signed, as chair, the Certification of the Transfer Station form from Mass Department of Environmental Protection.

Motion was made, and seconded to go in to executive Session and not return to open meeting per MGL 30A Section 21, Subsection 6 to consider the purchase of real estate if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (Joyce Palmer Fortune so declared) Roll Call Vote: Paul – yes; Joyce – yes; Jonathan – yes.

Next Meeting dates	January 27, 2015 – 7 pm
	February 10, 2015 – 7 pm (Special Town Meeting)
	February 24, 2015 – 7 pm
	March 10, 2015 – 7 pm

There being no further business to come before this meeting it was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul K. Newlin, Clerk

Documents Used at Meeting and are on file in Selectmen's Office

Vendor and payroll warrants 15-15 (filed in the Accountant's office)

Draft February 10, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant

Mass Department of Environmental Protection Certification for the Operation of Transfer Station

1/12/15 email and letter from Nick Nelson regarding the Mill River project

1/8/15 Performance Evaluation for Individuals

1/13/15 letter of support for the Communities That Care Coalition

12/22/2014 memorandum from Geoffrey Beckwith regarding Report of the Nominating Committees

Massachusetts Municipal Association Credential Vote form for January 24th 2015 Annual Meeting

November 11, 2014 Whately Water District Annual Meeting Warrant

Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission 2015 Seasonal Population letter

Tom's Long Dog & Grill Common Victualler License