

**Selectboard
February 27, 2017
Town Offices
6:00 pm**

The regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on February 27, 2017 at 6:03 pm by the Chair, Paul Newlin. Present were Selectboard members Frederick Orloski and Jonathan Edwards (arrived late), Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant, Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the February 13 and 15 meetings were approved. Vendor and Payroll Warrants were previously signed.

Public Hearing

Eversource Pole Hearing - 64 River Road – Nick Creigle from Eversource was present to discuss the pole request at this address. The Board unanimously approved the request as presented.

Old Business

Town Office Space – The vault has gone out to bid. Bids are due March 23. Bid packages are on the website. Discussion occurred regarding the town office space and renting the remaining space. Should the town employ a commercial real estate agent to develop specs? We need to determine how much space the town needs for storage so we know what is available to rent.

New Business

Town Hall Grant Applications

- **Green Communities** – Paul signed an authorization to file for this grant. The grant will be filed this Friday.
- **Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund** – If the grant is awarded, Town Meeting would need to put a preservation restriction on the building. The Town will need to say in advance it supports the restriction in order to qualify for the grant. The Board supports placing an article on the annual town meeting warrant.

Future of Blue School – The School is forming a committee to determine the disposal of the Blue School. Fred would like to see the report of the environmental consultant authorized by the school. Discussion occurred regarding the disposal of town properties. The Board does not want to acquire a liability.

Solar Projects in Town – Nexamp is considering installing two potential Solar Projects on Christian Lane. Representatives will be coming to the next meeting to discuss changes to the PILOT Agreements and the Town's interest in using electricity generated from these arrays. Brian will provide a revenue stream to the Town for these properties with and without solar and also comparing the solar agreements for the arrays at Fairview Farms and behind the Transfer Station.

Personnel Committee Recommendations

- **Updated Sick Leave Policy** – Brian reviewed the current policy and the proposed policy. After discussion, the Board asked the Personnel Committee to reconsider the draft presented.
- **Updated Vacation Leave Policy** – Brian reviewed the current policy and the proposed policy. After discussion, the Board asked the Personnel Committee to reconsider the draft presented.
- **Salary Adjustments and COLA** – Brian reviewed the recommendations of the Personnel Committee. Brian will present additional information at the joint Selectboard/Finance Committee meeting Wednesday night.

Town Administrator Updates

Highway Garage – Thayer Street Associates had a structural engineer look at the garage. Brian and Keith will meet with them in March to have a more in depth discussion on the Garage as well as the Center School.

Cell Tower – An application for a cell tower at 84 Haydenville Road will be discussed at the next ZBA meeting.

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. The Town of Deerfield is moving forward with a building for SCEMS. There has been no formal vote by the SCEMS Board of Oversight for this project. There needs to be clarity regarding the status of SCEMS in order to determine if Whately is subject to penalties if the project is found to be in violation of prevailing wage laws.

Discussion occurred regarding the proposed new Senior Center location. Deerfield would need to either ask Whately and Sunderland to share the cost of renovations of the new location or they may choose to pay the entire cost.

Next Meeting dates

March 13 @ 6 pm

March 27 @ 6 pm

April 10 @ 6 pm

Meeting adjourned 7:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List

Vendor and Payroll Warrants #17-17

Eversource Pole Hearing Request and Map

Mass Preservation Project Fund Grant Preservation Restriction Overview/Guidelines

Quitclaim Deed for 219 Christian Lane

Nexamp Solar Array Maps

2/23/17 Memorandum regarding Personnel Committee Recommendations – FY2018

2/22/17 Proposed Sick & Vacation Leave Policy