

Board of Selectmen
May 19, 2015
Whately Elementary School
7:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately was called to order on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 7:30 pm by the Chair, Joyce Palmer Fortune. Present were Selectman Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator, Mark Pruhenski and Administrative Assistant, Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the April 28, 2015 meetings were approved.

Scheduled appointments – Suzanne Bell - Dickinson Hill Road signs – Even though Suzanne Bell was not present, Mark discussed with the Board her request to place “Slow Children” signs on Dickinson Hill road. The Board was unanimous in their support of installing these signs. They did ask for clarity on what is the legal speed limit on an unposted road.

Old Business

Town Office Consolidation Update – Mark reported he has submitted 2 special permit applications for the change of use of the Western Mass Regional Library building and the Town Hall. The hearings will be held on June 4th. Any approved change of use will be contingent on the sale of the Library building. Mark attended the Library Board meeting held yesterday. They are happy with the progress the Town has made in buying the building and voted to keep it off the market until June 15th.

New Business

Whately contract with Frontier Regional School for use of Herlihy Fields – Mark presented the Board with a contract for the use of Herlihy Fields which listed the amount of money at \$3000 and is being signed by the Selectmen rather than the Rec Commission. Joyce signed, as chair, the contract.

Housing Trusts – Richard Tillberg, chair of the Housing Committee, was present for the discussion. Richard requested the Board’s approval for Richard and Mark to meet with Town Counsel to resolve some questions about setting up a housing trust. Discussion occurred regarding the logistics of setting up a trust. The Board supported this request for town counsel’s time.

Fire Truck Debt Vote – Mark discussed with the Board the missing words (“contingent on a debt exclusion vote”) in the town meeting vote for the fire truck. The Board felt it may have been difficult to get approval for the purchase of a fire truck and the library building on the same ballot. Mark will discuss this issue with the finance committee at their June meeting and update the Board at a later meeting.

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Services District Representative appointment – The Board unanimously appointed Don Sluter to be Whately’s representative to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Services District.

Chapter 90 apportionment letter – Mark reported the town’s Chapter 90 funding for Fiscal Year 16 will be \$145,800.

Bike Racks – The highway department is in the process of installing bike racks at the Library, Center School and Herlihy Park.

Wedding Ceremony Request at the Milk Bottle – The Board approved a request to hold a wedding at the Milk Bottle on June 11, 2016. The fee will be the same amount the library charges for weddings.

Support letter for Regional EMS budget cuts to be restored – The Board agreed Joyce will sign, as chair, a letter to Stan Rosenberg requesting the regional EMS budget cuts be restored. Mark will contact Joyce for her signature after making a small change to the letter.

Notice of Violation letter on Westbrook Road from the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program update – Mark reported there was a cease and desist order issued by the building inspector. Bricks on the property must be removed by June 8th.

Fuel Bids – Fuel bids for Fiscal Year 16 will be advertised this week.

School Energy Audit update – Mark reported we just received the energy audit which was part of the Green Communities funding. Because the original contract to spend the funds expires May 31st, the Board agreed Joyce should sign, as chair, the extension request asking for an additional eighteen months to spend the funds.

Chapter 61(A) Release Lot #2, Dickinson Hill Road – The Board signed the Chapter 61(A) release for Lot #2, Dickinson Hill Road.

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 Board approved Mark’s request to discuss with town counsel questions regarding the Police Chief’s contract.

Mark expects the final report from the audit back in approximately one month. The Board signed the auditors Engagement Letter.

The Board signed the warrant for the June 9th election.

Joyce signed, as chair, the estimate for Thayer Street associates to provide an estimate on the Highway roof.

Next Meeting dates

June 2, 2015 – 7 pm
June 16, 2015 – 7 pm
June 30, 2015 – 7 pm
July 14, 2015 – 7 pm

There being no further business to come before this meeting it was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Edwards, Acting Clerk

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

Vendor and Payroll Warrants #15-24 (on file in the Accountant's Office)
5/12/15 email from Suzanne Bell regarding Dickinson Hill Road Signs
Legal Notices from the ZBA regarding June 4th special permit hearings
Herlihy Field Usage Agreement
MGL Chapter 44 Section 55C
Whately Zoning Bylaws, pp 6, 39-40
9/20/14 memo regarding Housing Trusts
4/19/15 memo/Agenda regarding the Upper Pioneer Veterans District
4/9/15 letter regarding Chapter 90 certification (\$145,966)
5/12/15 email from Judy Markland regarding wedding request
5/19/15 letter to Stan Rosenberg regarding restoration of EMS Regional Council funding
5/8/15 letter from James Cerone regarding Zoning Violation
Documents contained in the FY16 Fuel Bids file
5/19/15 email from Jane Pfister regarding the energy audit extension along with a new contract
5/15/15 Energy Study for the Whately Elementary School from Bales Energy Associates
Chapter 61A request and release for Lot #2 Dickinson Hill Road
5/7/15 Audit Engagement Letter from Scanlon & Associates
June 9th election warrant
Thayer Street Associates proposal for cost estimate