

**Selectboard
October 11, 2017
Town Offices
Open Session
6 pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on October 11, 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. The Board previously signed the Vendor and Payroll warrants.

Comments from the Public – Dan Denehy asked about \$300,000 uncollected revenue for SCEMS. Board requested that this discussion wait until the scheduled appointment with SCEMS later in this meeting.

Scheduled Appointments

Continuation of Pole Hearing- Egypt Rd. – The hearing opened and was continued to October 25, 2017, 6pm., at the Town Offices, 4 Sandy Lane. The town is waiting to receive from Eversource the updated pole locations.

Zachary Smith – SCEMS Update – A detailed presentation was offered by Zachary Smith of the services provided by SCEMS during the past year. It was noted that the average response time in Whately is 7 minutes and 7 seconds, dispatch to arrival. Chief John Hannum of the Whately Fire Department expressed his concern over an incident on 10/9/17, in which there was a delayed response to a call for an ambulance. Mr. Smith relayed his understanding of the events as they unfolded that day. Discussion followed with ideas of how service might be improved.

It was noted by the Board that the incidents of delayed calls have dramatically reduced since SCEMS was established.

Zachary Smith addressed the earlier question of the uncollected revenue saying that there is a plan in place to actively seek collection.

Old Business

Town Hall Project – Brian is waiting for Massachusetts Historical Commission to sign its grant agreement with the Town to execute our contract with Westfield Construction. Work is continuing on the remaining pieces of the Municipal ADA grant due 11/17/17. A letter will go out to abutters before actual construction, with the project managers contact information for any needed communications

Blue School Request For Proposal – Brian submitted a draft of the Request For Proposals (RFP), for the Boards review. Discussion occurred as to the efficacy of issuing the RFP simultaneously with the school district. Brian will communicate with the school Superintendent and bring additional information to the next Selectboard meeting on October 25th.

Health Insurance, Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust – Brian and other town Administrators will be meeting with Joe Shea (head of the Insurance Trust) to discuss timing and next steps. More information is needed to move this forward. Next meeting October 18, 2017.

New Business

Mass DEP Paper Compactor Installation Certification – The mixed paper compactor has been installed. Certification paperwork needs to be signed that the compactor is installed and operational.

Hazardous Mitigation Planning Grant – Planning grants are available from MEMA for towns to update their plans. Having a current plan would allow the town to apply for hazard mitigation grants. Brian recommended submitting a letter of intent, to which the Board unanimously agreed.

Licensing Fees – There was a unanimous vote to keep 2018 licensing fees the same as they are for 2017.

Town Administrator Updates

Brian reported on the free cash, which is just under \$800,000.

Approximately \$200,000 is from last fiscal year and \$200,000 is from the Covestro overlay account which was released by assessors.

The Town is still negotiating with Nexamp on the Pilot for 2 solar arrays.

Brian updated the Board on the Loss Prevention Grant (MIIA). The application is due November 2, 2017

A list of grant ideas will be generated and presented at the next Board meeting for a vote.

Next Meeting Dates

October 25, 2017

November 8, 2017

November 29, 2017

December 13, 2017

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

Vendor and Payroll #18-08 (on file in the Town Accountant)

10/10/17 Petition Plan, Verizon pole location map for Egypt Rd

Whately Fire Dept. letter from Chief John Hannum

10/4/17 Letter from Jennifer Kellogg in regards to proposed changes in health insurance costs

9/29/17 completed certification form for the paper compactor

Memo from FRCOG of 20th Anniversary celebration

10/11/17 draft of RFP for Green School

10/11/17 chart of current liquor and regular license renewal fees