

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

The regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on March 27, 2017 at 6:02 pm by the Chair, Paul Newlin. Present was Selectboard members Frederick Orloski and Jonathan Edwards (arrived late), Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant, Maryellen Cranston. Minutes from the March 8 and 13, 2017 meetings were approved. Vendor and Payroll Warrants were previously signed.

Scheduled Appointments

6:05 – Ed Berman – Town’s position on illegal immigrants – Ed expressed concern about the treatment of Muslims and illegal immigrants in this country today. He wondered what kind of position the Town will take on these issues. What will the Town do regarding cooperation with Immigration and Custom officers if they begin detaining farm field workers? The Board unanimously stated if the Town does not have jurisdiction on this issue, then it should not be involved. Furthermore, the Town does not have the manpower and resources to anything outside its purview. The Board directed Chief Sevine to not assist Immigration and Custom officers unless it is a matter of public safety.

6:30 – FY18 budget review – Brian reviewed a summary of the budget and the results of the Finance Committee meeting. If increases of this size continue to come from the school, the town will need to raise taxes or cut town services. We should start having budget discussions with the school on July 1st rather than January 1st. The Board agreed the overall budgeting process needs to start earlier rather than later. The Finance Committee recommended the police department budget be decreased \$2500. The Board discussed what, if any, additional cuts could be made.

Capital Expenses – The Finance Committee recommended buying fire department turn out gear over 2 years while applying for a grant. John Hannum presented the case for fully funding the request. The Board considered delaying buying the phone system at the school one year in order to fully fund the fire department request this year. Considerable discussion occurred regarding creating a more comprehensive capital plan. What needs to be addressed for town buildings over the next 5 years? Fred strongly advocated for looking at all capital needs.

The Finance Committee recommended putting \$10,000 a year into a cruiser account. The Board liked the idea of establishing a general vehicle stabilization account. The question remains if there is enough money in the budget to set aside for future needs. The Finance Committee recommended setting aside \$5000 for maintenance of the highway garage. Keith provided a summary of the Thayer Street Associates meeting regarding the garage. While the building is not in imminent danger of collapsing, we should do some serious planning for the immediate future. More information is needed before decisions can be made.

Brian reviewed the Statement of Account balances – Discussion occurred regarding the sustainability of using one time revenue sources (like free cash) to lower the tax rate.

Public Comment

Old Business

Williamsburg Road Bridge Update – Brian reported the Town received an award from MASS DOT to replace the closed bridge on Williamsburg Road and do the abutment work for a temporary bridge on the second one.

District Local Technical Assistance – Received an award from FRCOG to assist us with economic development. – This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

New Business

Snow and Ice Emergency Declaration – Keith needs to deficit spend winter roads by approximately \$3500. The Board unanimously approved a snow and ice declaration.

Cultural Council Appointments – Adelia Bardwell and Nancy Talanian – The Board unanimously appointed Adelia Bardwell and Nancy Talanian to the Cultural Council.

Future meeting schedule – The Board agreed to meet before Town Meeting on April 25th at 6 pm. The last meeting in May will be changed to the 30th at 6 pm.

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. Discussion occurred

regarding Selectboard participation in the Conway 250th anniversary parade. The date and time of the parade will be confirmed.

Next Meeting dates

April 10 @ 6 pm

April 25 @ 6 pm

May 8 @ 6 pm

May 30 @ 6 pm

June 12 @ 6 pm

Meeting adjourned 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List

Vendor and Payroll Warrants #17-19

3/21/17 Summary of Projected Expenses

3/21/17 Summary of Projected Non-property Tax Revenue

3/21/17 Summary of Projected Tax Revenue

3/21/17 Preliminary Omnibus Budget

FY18 Capital Project Recommendations

FY18 Capital Project Recommendations Funding Scenarios

FY18 Enterprise Fund Capital Project Recommendations Funding Scenarios

3/16/17 Statement of Account Balances

3/27/17 Finance Committee Proposed Changes/Additions to the FY18 Operations and Capital Budgets

3/27/17 Memorandum from Brian Domina regarding FY2018 Budget

3/10/17 Franklin Land Trust D2R2 bike ride

3/2/17 ZBA Special Permit Decision for Beth Duryea

3/24/17 Rosenberg Report email

3/9/17 FCRHRA Block Grant Report

Meeting Notice for Western Mass Historical Commission Coalition