

**Selectboard
October 25, 2017
Town Offices
Open Session
6 pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on October 25, 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. Minutes from September 13 and 27, 2017 and October 11, 2017 were approved. The Board previously signed the Vendor and Payroll warrants.

Comments from the Public – Dan Denehy asked about the Frontier Regional school improvement bond and was informed it would be discussed later in the meeting.

Scheduled Appointments

Representative of Verizon and Eversource– Continuation of Joint Pole Hearing, Egypt Rd. – Paul Davis from Verizon presented the revised petition to install four utility poles on Egypt Road. After a lengthy discussion, Joyce expressed concerns over the accuracy of the measurements listed in the petition and on the accompanying map. The abutters in attendance expressed no concerns over the revised pole locations. The Board voted to approve the aforesaid petition, by a vote of 2 to 1. (Yes: Fred, Jonathan, No: Joyce)

Lynn Sibley – Credit Card Policy – Treasurer Lynn Sibley presented a policy to control the use of municipal credit cards. The policy was unanimously approved by the Board.

Jan Ameen (Franklin County Solid Waste District) - An update was provided on the operations of the Franklin County Solid Waste District. Ms. Ameen briefly described the services that are provided by the District to its member towns which include Administrative Assessment-Based services as well as Fee-For-Service Programs. Whately participates in the Recycling Dividends Program and based on the services offered by the town to its residents in 2017, Whately earned \$4900.00.

Old Business

Town Hall Project Update – The Massachusetts Historic Commission has signed its agreement with the Town. Both the Town and Wesfield Construction have signed the construction contract. The Town is currently reviewing the bonds and proof of insurance that Wesfield submitted. A pre-construction meeting is likely to be scheduled before the end of October.

MIIA Risk Management Grant Program Applications – A list of potential projects was presented for review and discussion. The grant program asks that up to three choices of projects are submitted, from which one is chosen. Whately will be submitting the following three choices:

1. Worksite lighting towers
2. Entry system-cameras (Town Hall and/or Town Offices)
3. Sprinkler testing

Applications are due November 2, 2017.

Health Insurance – Brian provided a brief update of the current insurance proposals followed by a discussion of the possible next steps the Town may wish to take. It was recommended that Joe Shea, Director of the Hampshire County Insurance Trust, be asked to come talk with the Board at its next meeting to provide more details and to answer any remaining questions.

New Business

Highway Department Hiring – Senior Operator/Laborer & Operator/Laborer – The Selectboard is the hiring authority for the highway department. The Town received approximately twenty (20) resumes for the two

positions it was hiring for. A committee consisting of Keith Bardwell (Highway Superintendent), Brian Domina (Town Administrator) and Jonathan Edwards (Selectboard), interviewed five candidates for the two positions. The Committee unanimously recommended that Tyler Mankowsky (current highway department operator/laborer) be offered a promotion to the Senior Operator/Laborer position and that Brian C. Belder- be offered the entry level operator/laborer position. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation.

Winter Parking Ban – The Board voted unanimously in favor of implementing a winter parking ban effective November 1, until April 1, 2018 unless lifted sooner by a vote of the Selectboard. The ban prohibits the parking of vehicles on public streets and in municipal parking lots between the hours of 12:00 (midnight) and 7:00 AM.

KP Law – Multiple Representation Disclosure – The Board unanimously agreed to sign a disclosure form that allows KP law (attorneys for both Whately and Sunderland) to provide advice to both towns related to the SCEMS intermunicipal agreement.

Shared Mower – Financing Agreement – The Board voted to approve the financing agreement with KS State Bank and to authorize the Chairperson (Fred) to sign the contract. The contract is necessary for the Town to purchase a shared tractor/mower that is to be paid for by Eversource and shared with five other communities. Under its agreement with the Town of Whately Eversource will make annual payments in the amount of \$26,000 each year for five years, which the Town will use to make the annual payments.

Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District – A letter was received from Deerfield asking whether Whately wants to consider joining a regional mosquito control district. Brian recommended getting more information before making a decision. The Board agreed to ask a representative of the company to come and present more information about this program. It was also recommended that the Board of Health be informed and invited to attend the meeting.

Mill River Bank Stabilization Fund – Cost Overrun Grant - Earlier this summer the Town submitted an application to cover its cost overruns on this project. FEMA recently approved the request and the Town will receive an additional \$40,126 to cover the cost overruns. The Board voted to accept the grant award and to authorize Fred as chairperson to sign the grant agreement

Town Administrator Updates

Frontier Regional Bond Grant – Brian updated the Board on the school improvement bond meeting. There was a discussion of other funding sources outside of a bond i.e., Green Communities.

Preservation Grant for Veterans – A letter of intent for the grant is due by November 15, 2017. There was a short discussion of ideas of how monies might be used. Brian will follow-up with the Cemetery Commissioners and local veterans on potential project ideas.

Egypt Road has been paved

Special Town Meeting – There will need to be a special town meeting to request payment for late FY17 bills, to make transfers of CPA monies and several other possible items requiring action.

Next Meeting Dates

November 8, 2017

November 29, 2017

December 13, 2017

January 10, 2017

Meeting adjourned 8:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

Vendor and Payroll #18-09 (on file in the Town Accountant)

10/10/17 Verizon Petition for Joint or Identical Pole Location and Plan

Municipal Credit Card Use Policy

7/24/17 FY'18 MIIA Risk Management Grant Program

10/23/17 Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust

10/17/17 KP Law Multiple Representation Disclosure

10/6/17 Shared Mower Financing Agreement, State Bank

10/10/17 Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District

10/23/17 Mill River Bank Stabilization project

SHRAB Preservation Grant for Veterans Collections, Monuments and Memorials

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District