

**Selectboard
January 31, 2018
Town Offices
Open Session
5 pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on January 31, 2018 at 5 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 December 10, 2017 were approved. The Board signed the Vendor and Payroll warrants earlier in the week.

Comments from the Public – No comments.

Special Topic – Employee Group Health Insurance FY19 – The Town of Whately is a member of the Hampshire County Trust for employee health insurance. In an effort to keep premium increases down for the FY19 enrollment period, the Trust has voted to increase co-pays for medical visits in addition to a lower premium increase. The other option being considered is a move to health insurance offered by MIIA. There was a discussion of how costs are derived for both programs. The Board asked to hear from employees who were in attendance at the meeting, their thoughts on both programs. Following lengthy discussion, Joyce made a motion to stay with the Trust for the coming Fiscal year and continue to look for other options. Fred seconded. All in favor.

Scheduled Appointments

Whately Firefighters Association – Proceeds of SAFE Trailer Disposition

Fire Chief John Hannum and Captain J.P. Kennedy explained to the Board that the current 2001 SAFE Trailer was purchased with grant funds. It was recently sold through Municibid and after paying accrued costs, a balance of \$2100 remained from the sale. Capt. Kennedy requested that the \$2100 balance be kept in the Fire Fighters Association fund to be used in the town.

Motion was made and seconded to allow the Fire Fighters Association to retain the funds. All in favor.

Chief James Sevigne, Police Department Update – Chief Sevigne reported to the Board the current programs offered by the Whately Police Department, to the public. He described several programs offered and conducted within the Whately Elementary School, programs specifically targeted for the senior population and others for the population at large. Residents are encouraged to check the Whately Police website for specifics. The Board asked Chief Sevigne to identify a project that will be focused on in the coming weeks and it was decided that working with the towns seniors on Identity Theft would take priority.

Old Business

Town Hall Project Updates – Fred updated the Board on the progress thus far at the Town Hall. The stair tower is constructed and the concrete floor is ready to be poured. Most of the work currently happening is in the bathrooms. Heating and electric is in as well. To date there have only been a few minor cost overruns.

Complete Streets Committee Appointment of Members – Brian presented the Board with a list of names to serve on the Complete Streets Committee. The Board appointed Joyce Palmer-Fortune, Keith Bardwell, Donna Wiley, Larry Ashman, Don Sluter and Fred Baron. There is still an opening for one more member. Motion made and seconded to accept the members as listed. All in favor.

NEXAMP Solar PILOT Agreements (Long Plain Solar, LLC and Whately Renewables, LLC) – Agreements are complete for both of these projects and were signed by Fred as Selectboard Chair.

East Whately School Lot, Request for Proposals (RFP) – The Board discussed how best to advertise this town owned lot. The Town must submit its own RFP but can simultaneously advertise with Frontier Regional stressing that these lots are best used jointly. The Town maintains its right of first refusal. The Board directed Brian to work with the school district to advertise the RFP.

Electricity Aggregation – FRCOG – Energy Committee Recommendation – Brian reported that he is still waiting to hear back from the FRCOG for more information. No action taken at this time.

New Business

FY19 Budget Planning Schedule of Joint Meetings – Brian presented the Board with a schedule of dates for joint meetings with the Finance Committee. One date had been changed from February 20th to February 27th to allow for the School Committee to present its budget.

FRCOG- District Local Technical Assistance Requests – The purpose of this project is to engage the community in creating a broadly shared vision for future economic development in Whately. This is tentatively scheduled for mid to late June. Brian will coordinate with the FRCOG.

Town Administrator Updates

1. The FRCOG Building Inspection Program voted to return excess funds to participating counties. Whately will be receiving approximately \$5000.
2. The First meeting of the Water Merger Committee was held January 30th and Brian is hopeful that a proposal that will benefit all will be created.
3. Town audit to be scheduled for the end of April-early May.

The agenda lists topics reasonably anticipated within 48 hours of the meeting. The chair of the board reserves the right to add items to the agenda that may not be listed here; additionally, members of the board may have unanticipated concerns not listed here that they may bring to the board.

Next Meeting Dates

February 14, 2018

February 28, 2018

Meeting adjourned 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

1/31/18 Complete Streets Committee

NEXAMP Solar PILOT Agreements (Long Plain Solar, LLC, Whately Renewables, LLC)

Request for Proposal (RFP) for East Whately School Lot

1/31/18 Budget Review Schedule

2018 Local Technical Request Form

1/16/18 FRCOG memo re. - Inspection Program

1/12/18 Memo Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services District

1/31/18 Health Insurance FY19