

**Selectboard
January 10, 2018
Town Offices
Open Session
6 pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on January 10, 2018 at 6 pm by the Chair, Frederick Orloski. Present was Selectboard member Joyce Palmer Fortune, Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant, Janet Scully. Minutes from December 11, 2017 were approved. The Board signed the Vendor and Payroll warrants.

Public Hearing – Nourse Farm is seeking a license for 12 1,000 gallon propane tanks to store propane for its greenhouses. Nourse Farm representative Bob Mizula informed the Board that this would allow for consolidation of nine tanks that will be in use, with the potential to increase to the full 12 as needed. The tanks are located on a substantial piece of property and set back a distance from the property lines. Concrete barriers have been installed on the north and east sides as required by Fire Chief Hannum. Joyce made a motion to grant the license to Nourse Farms for the 12 1,000 gallon propane tanks with the contingency that it includes the requirement of the concrete barriers per Fire Chief Hannum. Motion seconded. All in favor.

Comments from the Public –

Dan Denehy commended the members of the energy team on the NEXAMP solar negotiations, which resulted in increased revenue to the town.

Old Business

Town Hall Project Update and Discussion – There have been no appeals of the special permit that was filed. The stair tower foundation has been poured and framing work is continuing on the stair tower. Inside demolition work is nearly completed and interior construction is continuing as well. As of now, the project is on budget.

The correction of an unstable floor structure, which was not visible before the demo, will necessitate the redesign of the bathrooms. There is a possibility of increased costs with a redesign.

There is a scheduled site meeting tomorrow, December 11, 2017.

250th Anniversary Steering Committee – Appointment of Members – Brian asked the committee to put together a recommended purpose/charge and to also recommend a number of people to serve on an official steering committee. The role of the steering committee would be to organize all members of a larger committee. The Selectboard would be responsible for making appointments to fill empty slots in the future.

Suggested Nominations: Keith Bardwell, Fred Baron (Finance Committee Liaison), Susan Baron (Historical Commission Liaison), John Hannum, Joyce Palmer Fortune (Selectboard Liaison), and Don Sluter. Motion was made and seconded to accept the nominations. All in favor.

Water Merger Exploration Committee – The Board previously expressed a desire to form a committee to explore options for financing the water merger. Preliminary cost estimates are close to being finalized so it is Brian's recommendation that the Board appoint the following five (5) individuals to represent the Town's interests: Selectboard member- (Fred volunteered), Finance Committee member- Paul Antaya, George Bucala, Georgeann Dufault, and Paul Fleuriel. The Whately Water District has appointed three (3) representatives (Nicholas Jones, Scott Jackson, and Mary Stuart) to represent its interests. Motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendation of the five (5) individuals for the Water Merger Exploration Committee. All in Favor.

Complete Streets Committee – Brian requested that the Board lay the framework for this committee, specifically, what interests should be represented? After some discussion, the Board recommended that a representative from the Highway Department, Selectboard, Historical Commission, Planning Board and one or

two at large residents who could represent the east, west and center of town. This committee will work with the FRCOG transportation staff to complete the prioritization plan that MassDOT requires to be submitted before MassDOT will provide construction money for complete streets projects.

New Business

JAWK, Inc – Petition to Accept Streets as Public Ways – The Board has received a petition from JAWK, Inc. by its President to accept the streets in Pine Plains Estates (Grey Oak Lane, Eastwood Lane, Frances Way) as public ways. The Board needs to vote its intention to layout these streets as public ways.

Motion was made and seconded to declare its intention to layout the streets, Grey Oak Lane, Eastwood Lane, Frances Way, as public ways and to refer it to the Planning Board for comment.

Chapter 61A Conversion of Land to Ineligible Use – Whately Assessors Map 20 Lot 22 – Jeffrey R. Kocot and Shelly A. Kocot – Nexamp will construct a solar array on this property. The property is currently enrolled in Chapter 61A and a solar array is not an eligible use so the land must be removed from Chapter 61A. The conversion of the land to an ineligible use affords the town the opportunity to purchase the parcel at its full and fair market value. The Town must exercise this right within 30 days from the notice.

Motion was made and seconded to take no action on the purchase of this property. All in favor.

Inspection Report – Inspections were completed on the closed landfill and the stump dump by FCSWD. Both passed without concerns. Fred signed the report.

Approval of Mileage Reimbursement Rate – Motion was made and seconded to accept the IRS mileage rate for 2018 at 54.5cents. All in favor.

Campaign and Political Financing Report – Board members need to report any campaign financing activities. The Board signed the document stating that there were no campaign financing activities.

ABCC Reporting – The Board signed a form on seasonal population increase and license non-renewals, of which there were none.

Electricity Aggregation Letter – FRCOG is coordinating a regional effort to aggregate electricity. The Board requested input from the Energy Committee in making this decision. The Board also requested that Brian obtain more information from the FRCOG.

FY19 Budget Planning – General discussion around the benefits of joint meetings with the Finance Committee over the next few months as the FY19 Budget is being built. The Board noted that the process is more productive and things can move more quickly as discussion can happen at the moment with departments as they present their budget proposals. The Board also requested that the School budget be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the deadline so that there is adequate time for review.

Town Administrator Updates

1. **MIIA Grant** – The Town was awarded the grant for Town office key card system and entryway camera. This will likely be installed by the end of the month. The lighting tower and sprinkler testing were not selected for funding.
2. **Health Insurance** – Lynn is our representative to the Trust and at the latest meeting the Trust provided information about the rates for this coming year. Brian has also received rates from MIIA. Janet will contact all interested parties to set a date to meet with the Board (within the next couple of weeks) to discuss the options.
3. **Sunderland 300th Parade** – Some discussion of whether the Town will submit a float for the parade and who will take on that project. One suggestion was that Whatelys 250th Committee might come up with an idea or put together a float. Janet will find out if other towns are submitting floats.
4. **Poplar Hill Road** – Brian is meeting with Roger Mosier next week to discuss what role if any, Smith College is willing to assume in upgrades to that road and to help resolve the property boundary issue.

5. WES Sprinkler System – Brian will meet on Friday with school officials and the sprinkler company for a second opinion and price proposal for the next steps.
6. Nexamp PILOT Agreement is waiting on town counsel for review.
7. Mn Filtration Project – Engineers are almost done with the final specifications and are seeking permission from Mass DEP for permission to advertise putting it out to bid.
8. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Planning – Budgets need to be submitted to Brian by Tuesday, January 16th. Capitol Project items were asked to be submitted by last Friday, January 5th. The CIPC meets tomorrow, the 11th, so any forgotten submissions could be submitted to Brian by noon on Thursday the 11th.

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

January 31, 2017

February 14, 2018

February 28, 2018

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

Legal Notice, Town of Whately

Nourse Farm Application for License and Google map

1/10/18 Water Merger Committee Memorandum

Whately 259th Anniversary Committee memo

1/3/18 JAWK, Inc request for Town acceptance of streets as public ways

12/26/17 Nexamp Solar - Conversion of Use of Chapter 61A Kocot Property

2018 Standard Mileage Rates

12/26/17 Campaign & Political Finance Reporting

1/10/18 2018 Seasonal Population Increase Estimation Form

1/10/18 Renewal Certification 2018

12/11/17 FRCOG Regional Electricity Aggregation Project