

**Selectboard
February 14, 2018
Town Offices
Open Session
6 pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on February 14, 2018 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 January 31, 2018 were approved. The Board previously signed the Vendor and Payroll warrants.

Comments from the Public – None

Scheduled Appointments

Keith Bardwell: (1) Vote to Authorize Snow and Ice Deficit Spending – Keith projects that his budget will be depleted before the end of the fiscal year due to numerous ice storms. Motion was made and seconded to authorize snow and ice deficit spending. All in favor.

(2) Small Bridge Program Reimbursement Request – Keith presented the Board with a reimbursement request for work on Williamsburg Road Bridge and a reimbursement request and final report for Egypt Road. All forms were signed by all Board members.

Old Business

Group Health Insurance – The Hampshire County Trust is making plan changes for FY19. By default, the Town is making plan changes and so needs to engage in the Process to Change Health Insurance Benefits under M.G.L. Brian provided the Board with an Implementation Timeline. Discussion occurred after which Jonathan made a motion for the Town of Whately, through its Selectboard, to commence the process to change health insurance benefits under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 32B, sections 21-23. Joyce seconded. All in favor.

Jonathan made a motion to appoint the Town Administrator to serve as the Selectboard's designee for purposes of implementing the proposed plan design changes under Sections 21-23 of Chapter 32B. Fred seconded. All in favor.

Town Hall Project Update – Demo almost complete. First floor framed and structural repairs to floor finished. Hazardous materials abatement completed. The mechanicals are the next focus. The new addition is almost done. Floor slab is in, siding and windows in process.

There is some concern about post office parking. Possibility of sub-contractors parking in the Whately Inn parking lot. Janet will send a thank-you note to Kevin Kloc of the Whately Inn.

Friends of the Town Hall met their goal of donating \$150,000 for the project.

Wilcox APR – motion was made and seconded to sign the Wilcox APR (Agricultural Preservation Restriction) document. All in favor.

New Business

FY19 Capital and Operating Budget – Brian reviewed with the Board the proposed budget including, Selectboard and administrative costs, legal counsel and financial advisors, office supplies and town building operations.

The Capital Planning Improvement Report was reviewed and a discussion occurred around maintenance of town buildings and a budget for that. Fred made a motion to hire someone part time or hourly for custodial services. Motion was seconded, all in favor. Brian will look into costs for these services.

Some discussion of more time and investment by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee in looking at what the town needs. It was also recommended that the committee meet more than once a year.

Town Administrator Updates

1. Inspection of Whately Elementary School sprinkler system will be Tuesday, February 20th.
2. Keith and Brian met with Kozier in regards to legal ownership of Poplar Hill Rd.
3. The Town was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Preservation Grants for Veterans Collections, Sites and Memorials Program for the Whately Town Center Veterans Monument. The town did not receive the grant for the Whately Cemeteries Project.

Fred shared that the Library dedicated the community room to Robert Duda who recently passed away and left a \$200,000 donation to the Library.

The Board received an invitation to the Whately Grange Awards Night.

Joyce moved to go into Executive Session per M.G.L. c30A, Section 21(a), subsection 3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares. The Board will not be returning to open session.

Jonathan seconded, all in favor.

Roll Call Vote

Fred – yes

Jonathan – yes

Joyce – yes

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 28, 2018

March 14, 2018

Meeting adjourned 7:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Document List on File in the Selectboard Office

2/13/18 – Timeline for implementing health insurance plan design changes under G.L. c. 32B

2/12/18 – Town Hall Project

Location Map

FY19 Selectboard Administration Budget

Whately Grange invitation

2/9/18 Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority

2/1/18 Preservation Grant Award letters

FY19 Capital Planning Improvement Committee Report