

**Selectboard  
November 8, 2017  
Town Offices  
Open Session  
6 pm**

The open session of the Selectboard of the Town of Whately was called to order on November 8, 2017 at 6 pm by the Chair, Frederick Orloski. Present were Selectboard members Jonathan Edwards, Joyce Palmer Fortune, Town Administrator Brian Domina and Administrative Assistant, Janet Scully. Minutes from October 25, 2017 were approved. The Board signed the Vendor and Payroll warrants.

**Comments from the Public** –

Resident Dan Denehy inquired as to the possibility of using the Robocall to alert towns people of break-ins that have happened. Jonathan will talk with the Police Chief to get his thoughts on this. Lynn will also be asked what the current policy is concerning Robocalls.

**Tax Classification Hearing** – Fiscal Year 2018 (6PM)

The Board needed to vote whether to adopt a single or split tax rate among the various classes of property. In the past Whately has always adopted a single tax rate.

Brian read the legal notice as it appeared in the Greenfield Recorder.

After a brief discussion on the matter and no comments from the public the Board voted unanimously to set a single tax rate for FY18.

**Scheduled Appointments**

**Joe Shea (Hampshire County Insurance Trust) – Health Insurance –**

Joe shared with the Board a document that itemized the current Assets and Liabilities of the HC Group Insurance Trust. He shared that there was a loss of approximately \$ 9 million from 2014 to the present day due to the increased costs, mostly from Pharmaceuticals. In addition, there were increased costs from the Affordable Care Act due to higher fees and taxes. Overall, the town has saved money in recent years using the Trust plans for healthcare.

Joe reviewed the benefit changes and costs associated with the plan that was approved by the HC Group Insurance Trust for its members. With this choice of plan there will be an approximate 5.5% savings that would minimize the overall increase in premiums for the plan.

Lois Lively, a representative from the Whately Elementary School, expressed concern that members should have had more information earlier on in the process.

The Board asked that Brian get prices for comparable plans from MIIA and the state offered plan (GIC)

**Judy Markland (Planning Board) - Proposed Bylaw Amendments (marijuana) –**

Judy discussed the proposed medical marijuana zoning bylaw amendment. Discussion followed about current zoning laws and the impact of categorizing the growing of marijuana as agricultural (giving the town little control over how and where it is grown) vs commercial.

**Jim Ross (Veterans) – Preservation Grant – Town Center Veterans Memorial –**

Jim discussed a proposed project for the Preservation Grant for Veterans Collections, Monuments and Memorials. His recommendation was to update the Veterans Memorial and have 4 town Veterans on the committee to work on the grant. A letter of intent is due November 15<sup>th</sup> and the full application due January 15<sup>th</sup>. Another possibility is to restore gravestones. Brian will look into whether we can submit the grant for both projects.

Motion was made and accepted to submit a letter of intent for the Memorial and the gravestones.

**Old Business**

**A. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Steering Committee –**

There have been a number of residents who have volunteered to serve on this committee. At some point the committee may seek town funds to spend on the celebration. Brian recommended to the Board that they begin the process of establishing the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee as a formal committee of the Town. He will look into whether this process will require a town meeting vote.

#### **B. Town Hall Project Update –**

1. Authority to sign change orders -  
It is recommended that the Selectboard vote to authorize an individual (possibly Selectboard – Chair) to execute change orders. It was moved and accepted to have Fred sign Change Orders, to be followed by an email from Brian to the other Board members notifying them of the change order.
2. Special permit application -  
The Building Commissioner is requiring that the Town apply for a special permit for the proposed exterior renovations at the Town Hall. The Board voted to submit the application and Signatures were gathered for the application.
3. Project funding  
The Board discussed the funding status of the project, reviewing the to-date dollar amount in the contingency funds and the project “add-ons” – ramp, front parking lot and front site work. The question of whether to seek additional funds at this time was considered but in a 2:1 vote, it was decided to wait until February town meeting before possibly seeking additional funds. This would give time for the Town to learn whether the ADA Grant application was successful and if any additional donations will be received.
4. Municipal ADA Improvement Grant – Update ADA Grievance Procedures  
The Town needs to update its ADA Grievance Procedures for the grant to be submitted. The update concerns only contact information.  
The Board signed the document.

#### **C. Whately Elementary School Sprinklers –**

The Town has received a proposal from Rybak Engineering for additional testing of the sprinkler system at the elementary school. An analysis report will identify what repairs should be made. The Board felt more information was needed so Brian will contact Rybak. Two additional estimates will be needed before any decisions can be made.

#### **New Business**

##### **Baystate Roads Program – Use of Town Offices**

The program is seeking to use the Town Offices for trainings 2-3 times per month. The Town will be offered 2 free seats at the trainings for town employees or a financial arrangement of \$150 per training. The Board decided to accept the \$150 per training which could be used to pay for seats in training sessions when needed.

##### **Special Town Meeting – Set Date and Discuss Possible Articles**

The Special Town Meeting date was set for December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Selectboard Meeting will be held at 6PM and the Special Town Meeting at 7PM.

#### **Town Administrator Updates**

1. Brian read the anticipated articles for the December 11<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting. The Finance Committee will meet on November 14<sup>th</sup> to review the Articles.

2. Water Merger – preliminary cost estimates came in and Brian will work with the Water Department to put these into a more understandable form.
3. Shared Mower from Eversource has been delivered. We are waiting for certificate of origin to register the mower and start using.
4. MIIA grants have been submitted.
5. All work has been completed on Egypt Rd. except for painting.
6. MA DEP manganese filtration system has been approved. We are waiting for final plan modifications to be sent from the engineer to MA DEP and for MA DEP to issue its permission for the Town to advertise the project.

**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.**

Meeting adjourned 8:37pm

**Next Meeting Dates**

November 20, 2017

December 11, 2017

January 10, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian Domina, Town Administrator

**Document List on File in the Selectboard Office**

11/7/17 Classification Tax Allocation

10/23/17 Memorandum – Health Insurance/ Comparison Chart

Recommended Changes to Whately Zoning Bylaws for Marijuana

SHRAB Preservation Grant Letter, Letter of Intent

Civil War Preservation Grants FY2014

Zoning Board of Appeals – Application for Variance, Special Permit, or Appeal

11/8/17 Memorandum – Town Hall Update

11/8/17 Town of Whately Americans With Disabilities Act Grievance Procedure

11/1/17 Rybak Engineering, Inc. Fire Sprinkler System Analysis and Evaluation Quote

11/8/17 Memorandum – Special Town Meeting – December 2017

Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust – Statement of Net Assets