



SELECTBOARD
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON
TOWN HALL
1 SOUTH ROAD
WESTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01027

March 7, 2016

The meeting convened at 6:30PM.

Present were Art Pichette, Jim Huston, and Phil Dowling. Also present were Cheryl Provost, Aniko Giordano and Joe Pipczynski.

Warrants were signed for: Payroll: \$52,488.09
 Vendor: \$66,001.98

Accepted minutes from February 22, 2016.

- Highway Superintendent update:
Cheryl reported that David was at the Hazard Mitigation meeting so could not attend the Selectboard meeting. The Highway Department repaired the cold water line to the sink in the handicap bathroom.
- Reservoir Road speed limit sign update:
Dave White, Chief of Police, reported that he agreed with the recommendation from David Blakesley to submit the speed limit request for Northwest Road at 30mph. However, he added that whatever speed is posted the department will have an easier time enforcing it by allowing them to refer to signage. Art, Jim, and Phil had traveled the road to determine if that was a reasonable speed. Discussion ensued regarding the traffic strip reports, noting that the average speeds were between 42-49 mph. Jim believed that setting the limit at 30 was unreasonable and he was opposed to setting drivers up to break the law. Phil and Art were not opposed to increasing the request to 35mph and Dave was also comfortable with that.
Approved by roll vote of 2-1 to submit a request to the state to authorize posting speed limit signs of 35mph along sections of Kings Highway and Reservoir Road, not including the school speed zone area. Cheryl and David will work together to submit the request.
- Inspector of Animals appointment:
Cheryl reported that the Inspector of Animals appointment expires on April 30, per state law. The nomination for Inspector of Animals form is due to the state by April 1. Teresa Donovan is the current Inspector and she sent notice to the Selectboard she will accept the nomination if chosen.
Voted 3-0 to nominate Teresa Donovan as Inspector of Animals.

- Cultural Council appointments:
Cheryl reported that the Cultural Council terms are limited by the state to two-three year terms. Julie Held, John Zimmerman, and Jackie Brodeur's terms expired. Alison Smith, Brian Mulvehill, and Lara Ramsey submitted their names for appointment to the Council.
Voted 3-0 to appoint Alison Smith, Brian Mulvehill, and Lara Ramsey to the Cultural Council.
- Community Compact Program:
Cheryl reported that Kim Florek, Hampshire Regional High School IT Director, submitted the joint grant application for the Hampshire Regional High School and member towns. The grant will cover IT infrastructure and equipment upgrades. Some of the items Westhampton included in the application were to connect the Annex and Town Hall with cable, IT equipment upgrades, adopting and applying a back-up plan. Westhampton also joins the other Hampshire Regional School District towns in a regional cooperation/shared services to support regional shared services, assess MassBroadband network utilization, and infrastructure to support regional services. Michael Hamel, Director of the Office of Municipal and School Technology has been designated as our contact to work on the program.
- EMS and Fire Department FY17 budget proposal:
Cheryl requested clarification of the status of the accounts being combined on the FY17 budget for the worksheet. Art replied that it was determined they will remain as two separate budgets for FY17.
- The Selectboard Voted by roll call 3-0 to waive their first refusal option to purchase agricultural land located on North Road (between houses 160 and 180), owned by Leo and Anita Aloisi.
- North Road study:
Art reported that Barbara Pelissier researched the Hampshire County records at UMass where she discovered a description of the layout of North Road from 1827 going to Southampton Road. Reference points are recognizable until it gets to the center, where the layout has changed. Most important, it comes back to a current layout with North Road heading northeast to Southampton Road. A surveyor volunteered to do a preliminary study.
- Town Flag:
Cheryl reported she received the flag design from Mary Montague. Cheryl also researched flag and banner vendors for printing, but before continuing needs clarification if the flag will be a nylon print, the Board confirmed it will. Cheryl will contact Representative Kocot's office for size requirements and continue working on it.
- Reviewed correspondence:
-Ginny Curtis' thank you letter to the Westhampton Fire Dept. for funding the Master Lock Boxes for the County wide program sponsored by Hampshire County Sheriff's Department: The Safe Entry Program for senior citizens' homes.
-reviewed a letter signed by six residents of Lyman Road, reporting that the number of unregistered vehicles at 46 Lyman Road exceeds the limit set by town bylaws. They were seeking action to be taken. Voted 3-0 to direct the Zoning Enforcement Officer to take appropriate action.
-Hampshire Council of Governments-County Selectboard Association is holding a workshop "conducting a successful Town Meeting" on March 17 at the South Hadley Town Hall at 6:30. Cheryl will attend.

-Holyoke Water Works well-Brian Cooper copied the Selectboard in emails to the Holyoke Water Works regarding an open well. The well is not on Westhampton property but Mr. Cooper had concerns of it since local residents walk/hike in that area. Holyoke Water Works officials responded and replied that it was covered.

-Mass. Emergency Mgmt. and Dept. of Conservation and Recreation 2016 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program through Federal Emergency Mgmt. Agency. Cheryl reported that the meetings being held by the Emergency Management Director to revise Westhampton's Hazard Plan are to allow Westhampton to be eligible to apply for funds through this program.

- Administrative Assistant, Cheryl Provost reported:
 - Terry Donovan, Animal Control Officer took the lead in organizing a rabies clinic.
 - The department website training was from held 10a.m.-noon today, Cheryl's administrative training will be later this week. The website will go live Thursday. There will be some ongoing page development in the early stages. Cheryl inquired what the role of the Website Committee is now that design is complete. Art suggested that the Committee meet one last time after going live to review it.
- Voted to hold the next Selectboard meetings on March 21 and April 11.
- The Selectboard voted by roll call, 3-0 to enter into Executive Session at 8:20PM as the Chair declared that discussion in a public meeting may have detrimental effect on the towns' litigating position. The public meeting will reconvene at the end of the Executive Session.
- Closed the Executive Session and resumed Public Session at 8:30.PM.

Adjourned meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Approve: _____
Arthur Pichette, Chairman

James Huston, Clerk

Philip Dowling