



The Selectboard
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON
TOWN HALL
1 SOUTH ROAD
WESTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01027

MINUTES of the MEETING

Monday, May 22, 2023, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, 1 South Road, and via video-conference.¹

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Phil Dowling

Present: Scott Johndrow, Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey;

Also Present:

Doug Finn

*By video conference: Katch Bachelor (Board of Health), Marilyn Witherell,
Mary Lou Burgess;*

Municipal Aggregation

The board took up and reviewed the draft contract relative to the Municipal Aggregation proposal as submitted by Colonial Power. After brief discussion, it was MOVED by Dempsey, SECONDED by Johndrow

To approve the contract and to sign.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:06) PM

Department And Committee Updates

Health (7:00 PM)

Ms. Bachelor noted that the Board of Health had adopted the state recommendations in regard to masking.

Ms. Bachelor also noted that the FHD had received approval for the PHA grant, which will help to keep costs low, and keep the Town's assessment moderated.

The FHD will be hiring a new staff as a 'public health nurse', but will be training the new staff person as an inspector as well.

There should be more information relative to the opioid grant next month.

Public Safety Construction

Mr. Jablonski was not present. Mr. Finn noted that the highway department was conducting 'business as usual'.

Municipal Vulnerability (7:07 PM)

Mr. Finn noted that the Master Plan had been adopted by a vote of the Planning Board, and

¹ Pursuant to Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2021, the meeting was conducted as a "hybrid" (in-person / remote) meeting. Members of the public could access the meeting in person, or connect via "zoom" teleconferencing via internet – Meeting ID#: 870 4390 0582.

submitted to the proper state agencies for review. Further, he noted that the Planning Board had begun to consider the process of implementation of the plan. There was some discussion relative to the formation of an "implementation" committee, and which town entity would be best positioned to oversee that work.

New Business

May include items not anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting time.

Administrative

Appointment: Cultural Council

The board took up a request from Ruth Tracy to be appointed to the cultural council. After brief discussion, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dowling

To appoint Ruth Tracy to the Westhampton Cultural Council, appointment effective May 8, 2023.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Appointment: Treasurer-collector, Assistant Treasurer-Collector

Mr. Finn recommended continuing this agenda item to an Executive Session.

Review Correspondence

Mr. Finn noted no new correspondence.

Review and Sign: Payroll and A/P Warrants: W23-24, WP23-24

After review, it was MOVED by Dempsey, SECONDED by Johndrow

To approve the Payroll and A/P Warrants as presented, and to sign.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:15 PM)

Review and Sign: Minutes

April 24, 2023

After review, it was MOVED by Dempsey, SECONDED by Johndrow

To approve the minutes of April 24, 2024, as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:18)

May 8, 2023

After review, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dowling

To approve the minutes of May 8, 2023, as presented.

VOTED: 2, 0, 1(DEMPSEY)(7:19 PM)

Set date for next meetings –

Monday, June 5, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 2023 – Regular Meeting

(June 19 is "Juneteenth", a Massachusetts Holiday)

Mr. Dowling noted that he "is not going anywhere", and will be available as a resource; he also recommended that the Selectboard consider entering into executive session to bring new members up to speed relative to past and ongoing legal issues.

Executive Session

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Johndrow

To into Executive Session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual. The board agreed not to leave executive session except to adjourn.

VOTED: Johndrow: Yes; Dempsey: Yes; Dowling: Yes. (7:25 PM)

Adjourn

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Johndrow

To Exit Executive Session, and to Adjourn.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:45 PM)

The Board stood adjourned at 7:45 PM.


Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Finn

Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on June 5, 2023.

Phil Dowling


Maureen Dempsey


Scott Johndrow