



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

January 23, 2017

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Phil Dowling, Jim Huston, and Art Pichette. Also present were Cheryl Provost, David Blakesley, Steve Holt, and Ginny Curtis.

Warrants were signed for: Payroll: \$73,926.70
 Vendor: \$142,154.64

The minutes from January 4 & 9, 2017 were accepted.

- Highway Superintendent, David Blakesley reported:
 - been busy with small storms, snow removal budget is ok.
 - cutting trees marked by Eversource
 - submitted the FY18 Highway Department and transfer station budget request to the Finance Committee
 - Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative approved their FY18 budget at \$49,951.00; the assessment for Westhampton is \$5,488.00. David requested the HRMC line be removed from the budget and placed under the transfer station account for easier record keeping. There were no objections to the request and it will be discussed with the Accountant.
 - presented a grant contract from the Dept. of Environmental Protection for Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative which needs to be accepted and signed by the town. On a motion, voted 3-0 to accept the grant contract from the Dept. of Environmental Protection and to designate Philip Dowling and Kathleen Casey as authorized signatories.
 - Mass. Dept. of Transportation will be out to look at the bridge on King's Highway on February first. Art agreed to be there.
 - Phil reported he received a request for a speed sign on Montague Road. Discussion ensued on procedures and the location.
- Ron Rancourt was not present to discuss blasting; no discussion.
- Marijuana Law:

Reviewed a draft warrant article to place a temporary moratorium on approval of applications for the establishment of marijuana dispensaries within the town border. Discussion was held as to the benefit of allowing the state to develop legislation for the regulation of dispensaries before the town adopts bylaws. Another option is to seek town meeting approval to ban them from town. The Selectboard approved further research on how to proceed and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

- John Zimmerman, unregistered vehicle update:
Mr. Zimmerman reported that he has been cleaning up his yard and removed a couple cars, has out ads for a couple others, and is in sale negotiations for two others. He is working on moving more and will report back at the next meeting.
- Outlook Farm Winery and Brewery Pour permit:
Brad Morse was present for discussion. On January 4, Governor Baker signed special legislation authorizing the Town of Westhampton to grant a license for the sale of wine and malt beverages to be consumed on the premises. The Act authorizes the Selectboard to issue a farm winery/brewery pour license to Bradford K. Morse and Jeffrey D. Morse, owners of Outlook Farm located at 136 Main Street. Discussion ensued with Mr. Morse as to what he is seeking to have authorized with a license. Mr. Morse will prepare a plan and submit it to the board for review. On a motion, the board voted to schedule a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 27 to hear the concerns and ideas of town residents as to the conditions of the license.
- The pole hearing was postponed to a later date. The revised plans were not received from Eversource.
- FY18 preliminary budget:
-Cheryl requested guidance on how to set up salaries for review at the next meeting on February 13. After limited discussion the board requested to calculate salary increases of 2.5%.
- Zip Code:
Ginny Curtis reported that her research found that the best way to pursue establishment of a separate town zip code is through local petition. She offered to draft one and will provide an update at a future meeting.
- Charles Horn, 27 Main Road, submitted a written request to fill the vacancy on the Council On Aging. He has completed the State Ethics Training. On a motion, the board voted 3-0 to appoint Charles Horn to the Council on Aging.
- Correspondence reviewed:
-Hampshire Regional School District updates
- Administrative Assistant, Cheryl Provost, reported:
-submitted work report for January 1 through January 23 and the schedule for January 24 through February 6.
-Attended the Mass. Municipal Association Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Boston on Friday and Saturday.
- Signed the grant contract from the Dept. of Environmental Protection.
- Signed the signature Authorization form for the DEP grant.
- The Selectboard voted by roll call, 3-0 to enter into Executive Session at 8:01p.m., 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 8:03p.m.

Adjourned meeting at 8:04p.m.

Approve: _____
Philip Dowling, Chair

James Huston

Arthur Pichette