



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

February 13, 2017

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

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

The minutes from January 23 were accepted. The minutes from February 6 were accepted, with one abstention.

- Highway Superintendent, David Blakesley has been busy with storm cleanup and will not be in.  
-The grant contract from the Dept. of Environmental Protection for Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative that was signed on January 23 was revised from a six year term to a five year term as state law does not allow a municipality to enter into a contract for over five years. On a motion, voted to approve the revised grant contract from the Dept. of Environmental Protection.  
-Art reported that the King's Highway Bridge review was held Wednesday, February 8. David Blakesley, Mass DOT, District 2, and Mass DOT from the Boston office were present.
- Ron Rancort visited to discuss the blasting from Hathaway's Construction. He reported that the blasts caused his foundation and ceiling to crack and submitted pictures in support. In response, Mr. Rancort was told of a fund available to pay for damages from blasting; although the procedures will require inquiries as to how to submit for payment. There were questions as to proof the cracks are a direct result of the blasting; such as previous pictures or video recordings. Mr. Rancort believes the cracks are caused by the blasting. The reports and procedures from Fire Chief, Chris Norris will be requested for review at the next meeting.
- John Zimmerman, unregistered vehicle update:  
Mr. Zimmerman reported that he has eleven cars on his property. Four of them are wanted by other people and he will work to get them out of the snow and removed as soon as possible. Two of them will have to be removed and scrapped in the spring. He wants to keep two to work on. Mr. Zimmerman is interested in putting up a fence and was put on notice not to accumulate vehicles behind the fence. The board requested occasional updates through the Administrative Assistant.
- Outlook Farm hearing:  
Peter Cleary visited to discuss the hearing. Cheryl reported she mistakenly placed it on the agenda when the hearing will not be held until the next meeting on February 27. Peter inquired

about notice to abutters regarding the hearing. Discussion ensued regarding the procedures for the hearing. Brad Morse had submitted by email topics for discussion at the hearing, copies were provided. Abutters will be notified.

- **Procedures for disposal of surplus supplies:**  
The procedures for the disposal of surplus supplies were reviewed. On a motion, and by a unanimous vote, approved to adopt the written procedures for disposal of surplus supplies. Disposal of surplus supplies valued at ten thousand dollars or greater will be conducted in compliance with state law. Disposal of surplus supplies valued less than ten thousand dollars will be conducted in compliance with the written procedures for the Town of Westhampton.
- **Marijuana law:**  
Art reported that the town was awarded a grant for Technical Assistance by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The grant will assist the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee with recommendations for revisions and additions to the town's zoning bylaws. It is expected that any bylaws in relation to the new recreational marijuana law will be a portion of the work. Voted to delegate recommendations for marijuana bylaws to the committee and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
- **Request For Proposals-Public Safety Complex Review Committee:**  
Steve Holt submitted the final version of the RFP and inquired of posting dates. The RFP is posted to the website and will be posted as legally required in a local newspaper (Gazette) and the Central Register.
- **Selectboard Annual Report:**  
Discussion was held as to the documents required for outlining the 2016 Selectboard Annual Report. Phil will compile the report and bring it to a future meeting for approval by the board.
- **The Town Hall roof is leaking into the North side of the building from the backup of ice and snow on the roof. The interior of the wall will be inspected to determine where entry is occurring and what should be done. Art will be in contact with the roofer.**
- **Fiscal Year 18 salaries:**
  - Discussed the diversity of hourly rates and the appearance of disproportionate pay for some positions. Some positions mentioned were police officers, Council on Aging Coordinator, and election workers. David Blakesley requested the remaining \$750 removed from the Board of Health salaries in Fiscal Year 2015 be allocated to the Highway Superintendent Salary as the position now oversees the operations of the transfer station (\$750 was allocated in Fiscal Year 2017).
  - the board inquired of the status of the Foothills Health District. Patty Cotton, Town Clerk, replied that she believes Valerie Bird is completing paperwork on Saturdays and Ron Lauren is conducting the site inspections; she will seek confirmation.
  - Building Inspector, Chuck Miller, submitted a request for an increase to the salary of the Building Inspector for Fiscal Year 18. He plans to not seek re-appointment and believes an increase is necessary to receive qualified candidates for the position.
  - requested Cheryl to submit by email and identify areas for discussion and make recommendations for the next meeting.

- Correspondence reviewed:
  - Virtual Towns & Schools recap of 2016 activities
  - Hampshire Regional School District updates
  - Representative Peter V. Kocot will hold office hours from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Westhampton Town Hall on Tuesdays, March 7, April 4, May 2, and June 6.
  - Mass Municipal Association announced its Spring Legislative Breakfast Meetings on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at various locations on February 24, March 3 (Greenfield), and March 10 (Lenox).
- Administrative Assistant, Cheryl Provost, reported:
  - submitted by email schedule for February 14 through February 27. Attending the Annual Mass. Commission Against Discrimination training, Train the Trainer Course, in Boston Tuesday, February 14 through Thursday, February 16.
  - submitted the updated report for January 10 through January 23, and will email the report for January 24 through February 13.
  - the snow removal account will be in deficit after the next warrant is processed.
- Signed the grant contract from the Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Adjourned meeting at 8:05p.m.

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_  
Philip Dowling, Chair

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James Huston

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Arthur Pichette