



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

March 6, 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: \$71,861.43
 Vendor: \$54,647.93

Approval of the minutes from February 27, 2017 was postponed until further review of hearing recording.

- Highway Superintendent, David Blakesley reported:
 - the review of the bridge on King's Highway; aka, "skinny bridge", was completed in February by Mass Dept. of Transportation. Because the bridge qualifies for federal funding the new bridge must meet certain regulations; which will be handled by the state. The town will be responsible for acquiring easements.
 - Mass Dept. of Transportation, District 2 requested financial documents from the Northwest Road Culvert Relining Project completed last year. They will be reviewed to verify the amount of excess proceeds to be returned by the town to the state.
 - all four highway department personnel attended a safety training on February 28. The training was a free refresher course covering responding to emergencies involving utilities (gas and electric).
 - storing play equipment for the Westhampton Elementary PTO that will be installed later this year.
 - patching gravel roads and pot holes.
 - snow deficit is around \$25,000.00 to date.
 - will be attending a Hilltown Resource Management Coop meeting on March 20.
 - Thursday evening, during the wind storm, responded to the high school after receiving a report from the library of low water pressure; the school custodian was also there. Dan Henshaw responded to assist and found tripped circuit breakers. Discussion ensued regarding the school generator and if it's connected to the town pump. Agreed to look into it.

- Unregistered vehicle violations:
 - Discussed the activities being conducted at 35 Main Road where operations of used car sales is apparent. An order to cease and desist similar activity was sent to 70 Main Road from the Zoning Enforcement Officer in February. A connection between the two locations is evident and the operation is in violation of town bylaws. The past case involving the Marchand's, "Jaws", and

“Westhampton Auto” was discussed. The Selectboard voted to direct Zoning Enforcement Officer, Chuck Miller, to send an order to cease and desist operations to all interested parties of 35 and 39 Main Road.

-Mark Wright, 33 Southampton Road, visited to discuss a notice he received from the board of violation of unregistered vehicles on his property. Mr. Wright explained his situation and requested additional time to clear his property. The Selectboard requested that Mr. Wright provide the number of vehicles presently on his property and a plan to remove them and report this to them at the next meeting.

- **FY18 budget:**
The Selectboard budget proposals were presented to the Finance Committee on February 28. Annual Meeting financial articles will need to be submitted to the committee for deliberations. The committee will hear the proposals of the schools on March 7 and deliberations will commence at following meetings.
- **IT assessment:**
Northeast IT will have the final assessment available later in the week. A meeting to review the assessment is recommended. Voted to meet with Northeast IT at 7:00 p.m. on March 20.
- **Open positions:**
A job description for Building Inspector, Animal Control Officer, and Inspector of Animals was not found on file. Cheryl will develop descriptions so the positions can be posted. On a motion, voted to authorize Phil to approve the job descriptions and advertisements for the positions.
- **Annual report:**
Discussed options for the cover photo and dedication; no decision made.
- **Safety Complex RFQ:**
The Request for Qualifications for the Public Safety Feasibility Study was posted to the Central Registrar on March 1, the Gazette on the 28th, and in the Town Hall, Annex, and town website. The opening is at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, March 16, at which time they will be read and recorded. Phil will attend.
- **Outlook Farm Winery and Brewery Pour permit:**
Strategy was discussed regarding moving forward on the Outlook Farm pouring permit. Questions from the hearing, with any other concerns brought forth among the board or residents, will be discussed during their meetings on March 20th and April 3rd. The Selectboard will provide information at the hearing continuation. On a motion, the board voted to schedule continuation of the Outlook Farm pouring license public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6 at the Town Hall.
- **Campground:**
Discussion continued from the previous meeting regarding posted quiet hours on the campsite’s website. The Selectboard will send a letter to the Kelsey’s reminding them of the town bylaw noise limit hours of 10:00p.m-8:00a.m.

- Commercial kennels:
Reviewed discussion previously held on February 27 regarding dog kennel licensing. Ms. Curtis recommended that the business licensing of kennels be added to the town bylaws.
- Zip Code:
Ginny Curtis reported that the Easthampton Postmaster will work with her in securing a separate postal code. Ms. Curtis plans to meet with Representative Kocot during his hours at the town hall on March 7.
- Town Hall roof snow shields:
Art reported he was quoted “up to \$300.00” from Robert’s Roofing to install snow guards on the porch roof of the Town Hall. The roofers are scheduled to install them in coming days.
- Correspondence reviewed:
 - Dept. of Environmental Protection announced a new Municipal Assistant Coordinator for Western Mass.
 - Comcast, change of programming
 - Mary Cleary, inquiries of Outlook Farm licensing
- Administrative Assistant, Cheryl Provost, reported:
 - postponed the review of the Administrative Assistant
 - submitted work report for February 28 through March 6
- The Selectboard voted by roll call, 3-0 to enter into Executive Session at 8:30p.m., as the Chair declared that discussion in a public meeting may have detrimental effect on the towns’ litigating position with respect to:
 1. Cotton Tree Service, Inc., et al. v. Planning Board of the Town of Westhampton, et al., Hampshire Superior Court, C.A. No. 1580 CV 00112
 2. Samuel Ducharme vs. Westhampton Police Dept. Northampton District Court, docket number 1745CV000043

The public meeting will reconvene at the end of the Executive Session.
- Closed the Executive Session and resumed Public Session at 9:10 p.m.
- Discussion was held regarding the schedule of the Selectboard and vacations.

Adjourned meeting at 9:15p.m.

Approve: _____

Philip Dowling, Chair

James Huston

Arthur Pichette