



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

MINUTES of the MEETING
Monday, September 26, 2022, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, September 26, 2022, 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 7:04 PM by Maureen Dempsey, chair pro temp.

PRESENT: Maureen Dempsey, Scott Johndrow

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief David White; Police Sergeant Jeff Fish; Mr. Jason Graham; Fire Chief David Antosz; Highway Superintendent Bill Jablonski; Carolyn Whipple; Douglas Finn.

PRESENT BY REMOTE CONFERENCING: Phil Dowling; Lynn Fournier; Mary Lou Burgess.

APPOINTMENT – Police Department

Chief White introduced Mr. Jason Graham as a candidate for part time police officer. Mr. Graham is a lieutenant at the Hampshire County Jail, has been through the Bridge Academy, and is a resident of Town. Chief White recommended appointment of Mr. Jason Graham to Westhampton Police Department as a part-time officer, with a standard 6-month probation period.

The board engaged Mr. Graham in a brief interview, after which it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dowling

To appoint Mr. Jason Graham as an officer with the Westhampton Police Department for a six month probationary period, followed by full appointment to July 1, 2022.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:07 PM)

Chief White also noted that a grant has been received to purchase a second speed monitoring trailer, with messaging capability. Chief white requested permission to sign all necessary documents and contracts.

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dowling

To empower Chief White to act as designated signatory for this purpose.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:09 PM)

¹ Pursuant to Chapter 20 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.

CONTRACT RENEWAL – Ambulance Services

Fire Chief Antosz was present to speak about the proposed renewal of contracted services with the Town of Easthampton for ambulance services. Chief Antosz noted that Chief Norris (Easthampton sent two proposals for a contract that would commence July 1, 2023, and have a three year duration. Chief Antosz noted his opinion that the contract has worked out exceptionally well so far; he also noted an increase in the cost for the contract going forward: Year 1: \$35,000; Year 2: \$37,500; Year 3: \$40,000. Some of the details of the contract (included contracted backup services as needed) were noted. Chief Antosz noted that ambulance services were becoming more precarious, with some private services dealing with some tough times, and other services seeing increased strain.

The caveat on the contract: Easthampton would take control of Westhampton's Physio Control Heart Monitor, which the town received through a grant; as the town is no longer running its own ambulance, the unit is not in active use, and could be transferred to Easthampton for permanent use without injury to the town. Chief Antosz recommended the transfer of equipment.

Chief Antosz noted that the department's leadership had met to discuss the options, and agreed with the proposed transfer of equipment.

Chief Antosz handed copies of the contract to the board for review, noting that the cost per capita was on the low end of cost, compared to similar levels of services purchased by other area towns.

There was some discussion relative to the costs incurred by Easthampton when an ambulance is dispatched to Westhampton.

Mr. Dowling: So, we've been getting a great deal for the past several years? Chief Antosz: Yes.

Chief Antosz noted that Williamsburg's annual assessment to their ambulance service provider is \$138,000, and that it does not provide 24/7 Paramedic level ambulance service.

There was some discussion related to the Town's experience with Pioneer Valley ambulance. Chief Antosz noted that private entities tended toward transports, and would only provide 9-1-1 services as a second level of service.

Chief Antosz noted that the relationship with Easthampton has been very beneficial to both towns, and hoped it could continue.

The board agreed to take the contract under advisement, and to discuss at a later meeting.

Halloween Planning

Ms. Lynn Fournier and Ms. Carolyn Whipple were present to discuss plans for the Town Hallowe'en event, which as proposed would include:

- Trick-or-treating on the 31st from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM;
- Residents would hand out candy outside;
- Indoor activity at the Town Hall would not be a part of the events this year;
- Auto travel would not be permitted on the sections of the road that would be part of the events;
- Ms. Fournier would check with the high school regarding scheduled events;

- Ms. Fournier and Ms. Whipple would coordinate with Chiefs Antosz and White to determine road closing times, and etc.

The board took no formal action but expressed support for the proposed event.

Department and Committee Updates

Highway (Bill Jablonski)

Mr. Jablonski noted that roadside mowing had continued; all road equipment had been inspected and restickered; east lawns at the public safety complex have been graded and seeded; the sidewalks at the public safety complex were in order; Chapter 90 funding reimbursement is proceeding.

Styrofoam

Mr. Jablonski noted that, due to rising costs (\$400 for 23 bags of Styrofoam to be trucked), Styrofoam collection and recycling would no longer be done.

Mr. Dowling noted an annual cost of about \$1,600 per year.

Ms. Armenti asked if Mr. Jablonski could speak to the board of Health about the matter. Mr. Jablonski explained that he felt that operations of the transfer station were entire his responsibility, and that it was his call to make.

There was some discussion related to the entity responsible for operation, management and reporting of the Transfer Station, including recycling and solid waste management.

Mr. Dowling suggested a separate meeting to discuss the scope of responsibility for the waste management and recycling operations. However, Mr. Dowling suggested that if the HRMC suggests ending the Styrofoam recycling program, and Mr. Jablonski recommends ending the practice that he would support that.

Ms. Dempsey noted that, from her perspective, Mr. Jablonski was communicating a decision to the board, and not necessarily asking for approval.

Mr. Jablonski noted that both he and Sylvia Montague were on the HRMC board.

Mattresses

Mr. Jablonski noted that as of November 1, regulations regarding recycling or disposal of mattresses will change. Therefore, effective immediately, mattresses will not be accepted at the Westhampton Transfer Station. Used mattresses can be brought to Williamsburg transfer station. This information will be promoted on the Town's website.

Sidewalk Clearing Services

Mr. Jablonski noted that the town should advertise for sidewalk snow removal services. Mr. Finn will work with Mr. Jablonski to find an adequate replacement.

Health (Robby Armenti)

Ms. Armenti noted that Katch Batchelor had been appointed chair of the Board of Health through the end of FY2023, with Ms. Armenti serving as clerk.

The clinic remains open at the library on Monday and Wednesdays; business is slow, but steady.

Re/ Opioid Settlement Funds: Some of the funding might be able to be used for Narcan supplies and distribution for some of the departments in town.

Chief White noted that distribution of Narcan throughout various town departments and vehicles.

The means of how the settlement funds could be disbursed.

There was some discussion related to who, and how, Narcan kits would be purchased.

The board generally agreed to a single lump-sum payment.

Covid Test Kits

Ms. Armenti reported receipt of 1,000 masks and 270 test kits; kits would be assembled for disbursement at the transfer station and at the fall festival.

Public Safety Building (Phil Dowling)

Phil Dowling noted that subcontractor work is proceeding; the town's side (landscaping, sidewalks, and paving) was proceeding; some details regarding elevator ventilation are yet to be worked out; however, the work is proceeding, with at least partial occupancy of the building anticipated by end of October.

MVP (Teri Anderson)

A written report was reviewed (attached to these minutes for reference).

New Business (may include items not reasonably anticipated at time of posting)

Information / Correspondence

A request from the assessors for a Classification Hearing was noted, with a recommended hearing date of October 11, 2022.

ACO

Ms. Dempsey noted that a resident had recently been bitten, and the issue was made worse due to the fact that the Town doesn't have an ACO appointed.

Mr. Dowling suggested that Chief White be consulted on the matter, but that a nuisance dog hearing should be scheduled. Mr. Finn will consult with Chief White to determine how best to proceed.

Review of Payroll and A/P Warrants

Payroll WP23-07 was reviewed:

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dowling

To approve and sign as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (8:03 PM)

A/P Warrant W23-07

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dowling

To approve and sign as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (8:03 PM)

Review / Approve Minutes

The minutes of September 12, 2022 were reviewed.

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dowling

To approve the minutes as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (8:05 PM)

The minutes of September 19, 2022 were reviewed.

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dowling

To approve the minutes as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. 8:05 PM

Set date for next meeting(s)

Mr. Finn noted that due to the October holiday, the next meeting would regularly fall on TUESDAY, October 11, 2022. He further noted that the Assessors had requested to schedule the annual Tax Classification Hearing.

Mr. Finn also noted the next meeting would be Monday, October 24, 2022.

Adjourn

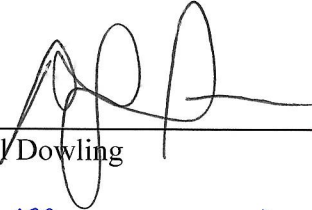
There being no further business, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dempsey


To adjourn.

NO OBJECTION. (8:07 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn

Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on 10/11/, 2022.



Phil Dowling

Maureen Dempsey

Scott Johndrow