



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

Minutes of April 2, 2018

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Jim Huston, Phil Dowling and Art Pichette. Also present were Shirl Morrigan, David Blakesley, Steve Holt, John Zimmerman, Ginny Curtis, Wade Clement. Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Warrants were signed for:      Payroll: \$71,779.34  
   Vendor: \$171,424.24

Minutes were approved for March 19.

Ms. Curtis commented that the minutes of March 6, page 3, and regarding reduced fines to Zimmerman by the court for unregistered vehicle violations was he "was not held responsible in absence of town representation".

It was explained to Ms. Curtis that the Westhampton Police Sergeant was present and the minutes of March 6 reflect what had been reported at that time.

- Highway Dept. updates, Superintendent David Blakesley reported:
  - cleaning brush from roadsides
  - fixing plow digs in gravel roads
  - repairing street signs damaged from plows, trees, storms
  - removed the wing plow from the grader
  - the resident sand pile is down
  - ran cable and fax wire in the Annex for network connection to the new copier/printer/fax/scanner

David reported for the Board of Health that the annual campground inspection is scheduled for April 18, prior to the opening April 20. The pool will be inspected July 1.

The board scheduled an Executive Session with David on April 16 to discuss the following litigation: GEORGE AND LOUANNE ATHANASIOU V. TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON AND TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON SELECTBOARD; Supreme Judicial Court 15-P-0894

- Annual Town Report dedication:

Phil made a motion to dedicate the 2017 Annual Town Report to Jerome Ostrowski, retired highway dept. crew member. Art opened discussion regarding dedication to Mary Holt, noting her contributions to the Fire Department. David recalled previous report dedications of deceased were in the respective year. Phil made no objections to naming either recommendation. Jim approved either recommendation. John Zimmerman commented that he would like to see acknowledgement of Representative Peter Kocot in the report, Bill Tracy concurred. Phil

withdrew his motion, then made a motion to dedicate the 2017 Annual Town Report to Mary Holt. Discussion ensued regarding Representative Kocot. The board moved to acknowledge him in the Selectboard report.

- Health Agent work space, Cheryl reported:

The Foothills Health District Agent, Valerie Bird, has limited workspace in Williamsburg. The office may be allowed to move to another member town. Hatfield has available space, but it's not centrally located. Valerie inquired about space in the Annex, where she currently has a desk and files for Westhampton. An allowance is provided to the host town, the figure is not known. Currently the COA Coordinator has workspace in the Annex and COA "rental" items are stored there. Some of the larger items could be moved to the storage closet in the Town Hall. Cheryl suggested that those items be moved to the closet for easier access without stairs, regardless of the Health Agent outcome. If the Selectboard chose to allow further study into the space Cheryl will proceed with contacting the COA and Health Agent to discuss options. The move would likely not happen until July, if approved. The Selectboard moved to investigate further.

- Sound system:

Bill Tracy made a point that previous discussions were held regarding the need for a sound system at town meeting. He requested authority to bring in sound system professionals to go through the one in the basement and determine if it works. The board spoke in favor of the idea and inquired of cost and who might look at it. John Zimmerman reported he knows people that set up sound systems for festivals that would volunteer to look it over. They're from out of state so timing could be a problem. Bill said the people who did the church were good. The anticipated cost is up to \$250.00. John was asked to give the name of his people to Bill to follow up and Bill was put in charge of the project. On a motion and second, voted to allocate \$250.00 towards costs for setting up a sound system in the Town Hall for town meeting. It was noted that there will be a learning curve for meeting procedures if a system is used.

- Town Meeting articles:

The draft town meeting warrant and articles to be proposed to the Finance Committee for recommendations were presented to the board. Two articles (20 & 21) were drafted for the Public Safety Complex. Art reported that the Public Safety Complex Review Committee is not prepared to make recommendation of an article for the project at Annual Town Meeting. Furthermore, during the feasibility study it was concluded that the fuel storage tanks still in place from the highway department need to be removed and new ones installed at the highway garage regardless of the outcome of the safety complex. The tanks were not a portion of the Highway Garage project. A separate article for the storage tanks was recommended by the committee. Art recommended article 20 be changed to the storage tanks and article 21 removed. The article recommendations to the Finance Committee were briefly reviewed, and moved to discussion for April 16.

- Nomination of Inspector of Animals:

Chery reported that the appointment ends April 30 and Cara Pease had confirmed she'll accept the nomination for appointment. On a motion and second, voted 3-0 to nominate Cara Pease for appointment of Inspector of Animals.

- Reserve Fund:
  - A request for a Reserve Fund Transfer for Counsel Fees in the amount of \$3,152.35 was reviewed. The March invoice exceeds the balance in the account and the transfer will cover it. If approved, invoices of April, May, and June may be paid by appropriation transfers.
  - A request for a Reserve Fund Transfer for Veterans Expenses in the amount of \$3,200.00 was reviewed. The funds are to pay benefits to an added qualified veteran.
 Moved to submit both requests to the Finance Committee.
- Zoning Bylaw Review Committee updates:
 

The committee will have a proposed solar bylaw completed to be presented as an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.
- Public Safety Complex Committee updates, Steve Holt reported:
 

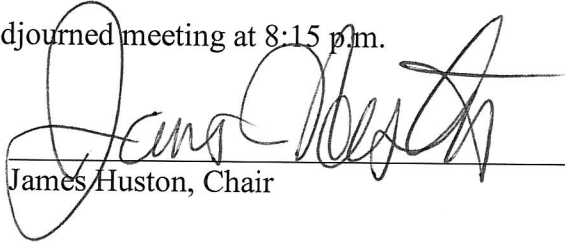
The committee will call for a Special Town Meeting to present articles for the safety complex. He will give an oral report at Annual Town Meeting following review of the written Annual Town Report.
- Response to Catherine Hondorp:
 

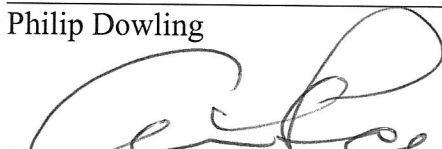
Art and Phil are working on a response.
- David Blakesley reported that the Board of Health is meeting Thursday and is seeking guidance on the matter of the junkyard at 0 Main Road. In the past, the Selectboard compiled violation notices from departments and sent them with a notice of compliance. David asked if that's still the protocol. The Selectboard directed the Board of Health to do whatever needs to be done regarding their jurisdiction. Cheryl will provide the proper addresses of the owners.
- Annual Report:
 

Most departments have submitted their reports. The report of the Selectboard will need to be approved at the next meeting. The final version should go to printers before the end of April.
- Administrative Assistant updates:
  - will work on annual report during vacation time from April 3 through April 10.
  - finalizing town meeting warrant
  - working on budget revisions
  - waiting on IT upgrade quote
- The next Selectboard meetings will be 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 16 and 30. Town Caucus is at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 9.
- Documents submitted:
  - Draft Town Meeting warrant
  - Article Recommendations to the Finance Committee
  - Reserve Fund Transfer Request
- Documents signed:
  - Nomination of Inspector of Animals

Adjourned meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Approve:

  
James Huston, Chair

  
Philip Dowling

  
Arthur Pichette