



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

Minutes of April 17, 2018

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Phil Dowling and Art Pichette. Also present were David Blakesley, Judy Madzunovic, Barbara Pelissier, Mary Powers. Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Voted to have Phil Dowling serve as acting Chair.

Warrants were signed for: Payroll: \$74,225.44
 Vendor: \$84,651.59

The Selectboard voted by roll call, 2 yeas, 0 opposed, to enter into Executive Session at 7:02p.m., as the Acting Chair declared that discussion in a public meeting may have detrimental effect on the town's litigating position with respect to the following litigation:

GEORGE AND LOUANNE ATHANASIOU V. TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON AND
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON SELECTBOARD; Supreme Judicial Court 15-P-0894

Returned to open session at 7:10 p.m.

- Highway Dept. updates, Superintendent David Blakesley reported:
 - some grading was done but had to plow again; sanders still in trucks
 - cutting brush along roadsides
 - the 4WD went to the dealer for a recall involving a computer update and check engine light. It was discovered that a module setting was off; created no issue.
 - the department is attending an Eversource Energy Meeting on May1. Safety around electricity will be reviewed.
 - land on Spruce Hill, at the end of Tob Hill Road was recently sold by Hull Forestry to a Canadian company. They have plans to begin logging and offered to fix the road to handle a tri-axle truck. The skidder will bring lumber down to that site. David spoke to the logger and contractor hired by the owner and has no objections to the plans.

Phil asked who will oversee the project. David replied a forester oversees the cutting in compliance with an approved cutting plan. He and the Selectboard oversee road conditions. Phil inquired about wetlands and David replied the State Forester approves the cutting plan which is strict and conforms to conservation and wetlands. Discussion ensued regarding whether the Assessors have a forestry plan on file; to be discovered.

- Barbara Pelissier visited to discuss photos of the town on the town website. She emphasized the opportunity available to showcase the town's priorities on the site. Ms. Pelissier had sent in photos by email some time ago and will resend if necessary. Discussion ensued regarding the

procedure to post photographs on the site and where they should be posted. A slide show on the home page will display several photos and can be easily revised. The Selectboard approved adding additional photos to the town website.

Ms. Pelissier also spoke of concerns regarding accurate records of meetings; recalling meetings that occurred last year and confusion over what happened at them. She suggested that the Selectboard consider a policy to use video equipment for board meetings and offered pricing she found researching the idea. Discussion ensued regarding cost, time, storage, and management of such recordings. Further discussion as an alternative was using audio recordings. Art requested that Ms. Pelissier bring her information to the Selectboard for review. All considerations will require available funding and a vote of the board. Recommendation taken under consideration.

The topic of recordings moved to a sound system in the hall for town meetings and public hearings. A system is in the basement and its condition is unknown. John Zimmerman and Phil agreed to work together with some professionals to see if they can get it working in time for town meeting.

The topic of the town website was re-opened by Mary Powers as to postings of agendas and links. She submitted a written inquiry to an agenda posting for the Finance Committee. Additional reports were made that links have returned a "page not found" error message. Others reported difficulty opening documents. Cheryl explained that a "subscriber notice" button must be selected for subscribers to receive updates. If a page or document is revised the link will not work. There have been occasions where revisions are required to a posting after it's completed. The pages and documents will work from the website but the revisions will cause old links to fail. She added that on rare occasions the website has been down briefly. Cheryl recommended refreshing their web browser and installing any updates to their systems.

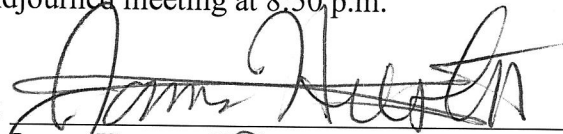
- Town meeting warrant articles:
The articles for the Annual Town Meeting were reviewed and approved as drafted. The solar bylaw is not finalized and will be prepared before the signing of the warrant. An article submitted by petition closes out the warrant.
- Finance Committee:
The financial articles for the Annual Town Meeting were approved for submittal to the Finance Committee for their recommendations. A request for a Reserve Fund transfer into Counsel Fees had been made at a previous Finance Committee meeting. The committee did not approve it for additional information. Cheryl will attend their next meeting to present the materials and encouraged members of the Selectboard to attend if possible.
- Zoning Bylaw Review Committee:
The committee met simultaneously with the Selectboard. Following the close of their meeting John Shaw reported some revisions will be made to the solar bylaw and he will submit them to Cheryl when completed.
- Public Safety Complex Review Committee updates, Cheryl reported:
Steve Holt had inquired on procedures for the committee to make a report at Annual Town Meeting. She advised him to provide his oral report under Article 1 following acceptance of the

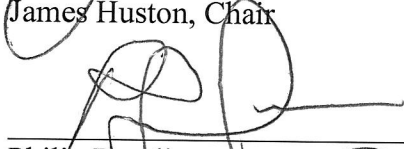
annual written report. The board agreed.

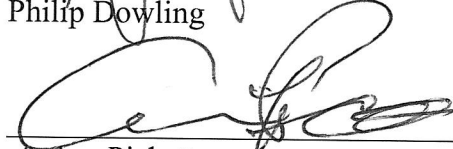
- Capital Planning Committee, Phil reported:
He met with Financial Advisor Clark Rowell and the Town Accountant to review the capital planning debt schedule. Mr. Rowell is working on a proposal for payment schedule. Interest rate calculations are an estimate on future debt.
- Campground updates:
The annual inspection is scheduled for April 18. Art reported he is waiting for the Electrical Inspector to provide inventory of electrical services at the campground facilities so the site plan can be completed. Phil asked that it be finalized soon. Art agreed to work on it and anticipates something for the next meeting.
- Annual Town Report:
Cheryl reported that she completed a lot of work on the report while on vacation. A couple more reports need to be added and the final draft needs to be proofed. She presented a copy of the first draft to be reviewed for editing. In the past week the Selectboard reviewed the draft 2017 Selectboard report; Art and Phil have minor revisions. Cheryl requested they be submitted ASAP as the report needs to get to the printers by the end of the following week.
- Correspondence was reviewed:
 - email from Chris Norris, Fire Chief to explain expenses for attending the Fire Rescue International Conference. So Noted.
 - Hampshire Council of Governments report of funding County Retirement liabilities.
 - Dept. of Environmental Protection announcement of the annual Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Municipal Grant application. Application deadline is June 13. The grant application is handled by Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative.
 - Comcast programming change effective May 10.
 - warrant article by petition; names certified by Board of Registrars
 - KPLaw: (cc; without enclosure) transcript of deposition to Robert Dragon; Hampshire Superior Court C.A. No. 1780CV00105 Timothy R. Fondakowski v. Planning Board of the Town of Westhampton, et al.
 - KPLaw: Brief of Defendants & Motion of Defendants; Appeals Court No. 2017-P-1177 Cotton Tree Services, Inc., et al. vs. Town of Westhampton Planning Board, et al.
- Administrative Assistant updates:
Busy with town meeting preparations, budget revisions, and annual report
- The next Selectboard meetings will be 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 30 and May 14. Town Meeting is 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 12.
- Documents submitted:
Draft Annual Town Report 2017
- Documents signed:
Article submittals to the Finance Committee

Adjourned meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Approve:


James Huston, Chair


Philip Dowling


Arthur Pichette