



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

Minutes of August 2, 2021
Meeting held via ZOOM

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling (Chair), Maureen Dempsey, and Teri Anderson. Others present were Carla Trosino-Laramy (Eversource), Richard (Bill) Tracy, Bill Jablonski (Highway Superintendent), Patty Cotton (Tax Collector/Treasurer), Susan Bronstein (Covid Coordinator & Planning Board), Susan O'Rourke, Shelby Macri (Country Journal), Ryan Feyre (Recorder). Cheryl Provost took minutes.

- **PUBLIC HEARING** opened at 7:00 p.m. for petition from **NSTAR Electric Company doing business as Eversource and Verizon New England, Inc. "Install one jointly owned midspan pole on South Road"**

Hearing opened to discussion.

Teri asked for clarification of project and description of voltage regulators. Carla explained Eversource looks to install one new pole, and install three voltage regulators for enhanced reliability. Discussion ensued regarding size of voltage regulators.

Bill Tracy asked about two existing poles in project area that are leaning. Carla explained they will straighten one to support the regulators. Discussion ensued regarding location. Bill has plans to lower berm in easement in same location in the future.

Made mention of trouble of operating farm equipment around poles and guy wires.

Bill Jablonski made note that lowering the berm may affect the depth of the pole. Further discussion ensued regarding location. Bill Jablonski has no issue with location.

Phil motioned to adopt form of standard Conditions on Utility Grants of Location as submitted by Teri.

Reviewed language of Order For Joint Identical Pole Locations submitted by Eversource. Discussed process for authorization by highway department to dig in right of way. Discussed language related to number of wires attached to poles. Phil called for a second to motion.

Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:

Teri-yes

Maureen-yes

Phil-yes

A copy of the form will be sent to Carla for review. Phil suggested further discussion should occur between Bill Tracy and Carla regarding the leaning poles and berm before making a decision. Also, to get clarification in order for number of wires. Public discussion closed and the public hearing was continued to 7:00 p.m. August 16, 2021.

- Department updates

- Highway Department, Superintendent Bill Jablonski reported:
 - Transfer Station Assistant; Edward Challet did not return call for interview. Bill received an application from Andrew Nichols. He provided a brief bio of Andrew and made a recommendation to hire him. Phil motioned to approve Bill's recommendation to hire Andrew Nichols as transfer station assistant. Pay is minimum hourly wage and paid from CARES funds through December 31. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote.

Teri-yes

Maureen-yes

Phil-yes

-submitted Chapter 90 Project Requests for review.

Phil motioned to approve Chapter 90 Project Requests for chip & seal of various roads for a total 2.3 miles, cost estimate \$53,460.00 and Loudville Road mill & pave 7/10 miles, cost estimate \$62,732.35. Second by Teri. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

-fixing roads and keeping culverts clear from all the rainstorms in July

-some equipment breakdowns

- ❖ 2009 pickup fuel system failing. Repairs estimate at \$16,000.00. Recommendation by dealership is to not repair, their experience is after doing two the motors blow. That leaves the 1999 pickup. Putting multiple parts into that.
- ❖ replaced a blown steering line in the 2009 pickup
- ❖ replaced a starter in one dump truck
- ❖ loader was down for a week, sent to CAT for repairs

-fixed light pole at Annex, old one fell over

-working with lighting company in town center

-patching roads

-learning MaPIT program for Chapter 90 submittals

-Hilltown Resource Management Coop assisted with Sustainable Materials Recovery Program reimbursable grant for \$3,000.00 for a light bulb shed for the transfer station. Grant awarded. Phil motioned to accept the \$3,000.00 Dept. of Environmental Protection Sustainable Materials Program Grant. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:

Teri-yes

Maureen-yes

Phil-yes

-update of new 2021 pickup truck delivery date. Received notice of safety recall that requires completion before placed in service.

- Kathleen Casey, Hilltown Resource Management, Coop., conducted a walk-through inspection of the transfer station to check for compliance with OSHA regulations signage. She reported Westhampton has an outstanding transfer station, stating “What a model transfer station!” and noted Bill and Don for their hard work and effort.
- landfill monitoring completed in March by Stantec. Report shows no gas leaking.
- Public Safety Complex Committee, Phil reported
 - footers are installed
 - working on foundation walls
 - running into some water digging holes for tanks, working that out
 - working on delivery date
 - committee meeting Wednesday night to approve invoices
- Town Property & Energy Committee, Phil reported on behalf of committee that they’re searching for another member.
- Administrative Assistant Search Committee, Cheryl reported on behalf of committee that two applications came in, she will forward to committee members. No municipal experience.
- Treasurer Notice of Appointment was reviewed. Phil motioned to accept Notice of Appointment with terms of hire as written. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:
 - Teri-yes
 - Maureen-yes
 - Phil-yes
- Reviewed a petition from Eversource for a pole placement under provisions of Chapter 166 of Mass. General Laws. Phil motioned to schedule a public hearing as petitioned by Eversource for 6:30 p.m., August 16, 2021. Second by Teri. So moved by roll call vote:
 - Teri-yes
 - Maureen-yes
 - Phil-yes
- American Recovery Act, Phil reported the town received \$85,671.21 in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) under the Act. The amount reflects 50% of the municipal allocation (total \$171,342.00). An additional county reallocation of \$317,968.00 is available for a total of \$489,310.00. Susan Bronstein explained the rules and regulations to use funds is a 151-page document. She provided an outline of eligible uses. Discussion ensued regarding categories and potential projects, such as completion of the second floor of the new safety complex; highway garage breakroom; chemical fire suppression system in the second floor of the library. Teri requested Susan submit the revised summary to department heads for suggestions. So noted. Phil will ask Digiorgio for a quote for the design of completion of second floor of safety complex. Teri reported she participated in a “future of Public Meetings” webinar, hosted by Mass. Municipal Assoc. The Town of Stow speaker presented use of IT and audio/visual equipment for hybrid public meetings. Teri suggested purchasing a large screen monitor or projector and screen. Also, two Owl cameras to use in hybrid in-person/virtual public

meetings. She noted that Stow used CARES funds to purchase the equipment.

- Correspondence reviewed was:
Dept. of Public Utilities
 - Notice of Filing, Public Hearing
 - Procedural Conference
 - Request For Comments; Petition of NSTAR Electric Company doing business as Eversource Energy for approval of Deferral of Major Storm Threshold Amounts for 2020 Storms. No comment from board. Individual board members to respond if so choose to.

Reviewed minutes of:

July 6, 2021. Phil motioned to approve minutes of July 13, 2021 as written. Second by Teri. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

July 21, 2021. Phil moved to approve minutes of July 21, 2021 as written. Second by Teri. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

July 23, 2021. Phil moved to approve minutes of July 23, 2021 as written. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:

Teri-yes

Maureen-yes

Phil-yes

Warrants were reviewed and approved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Payroll: \$79,448.26

Vendor: \$464,763.30 & FY21 \$950.00

Next meeting: 6:30 p.m., August 16, 2021

Adjourned meeting at 8:22p.m.

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held August 16, 2021.

Phil Dowling

Maureen Dempsey

Teri Anderson