



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

Minutes of August 16, 2021
Meeting held via ZOOM

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling (Chair), Maureen Dempsey, and Teri Anderson. Others present were Bill Jablonski (Highway Superintendent), Jesse Martin (Eversource), Jonathan Kahane (resident), Jeff Brooks (Scouts), Patty Cotton (Tax Collector/Treasurer). Minutes recorded by Cheryl Provost.

- **PUBLIC HEARING** opened at 6:30 p.m. for petition from **Eversource “Install one solely owned pole on Main Road”**
Jesse Martin from Eversource explained the petition is to install one new pole to provide service to a new home at 349 Main Road. Questions and comments opened to the public. Jonathan Kahane (abutter) asked if the installation will cause an interruption of service. J Martin replied no. No questions or comments came from the Selectboard. Phil made a motion to approve the proposed pole installation at 349 Main Road as described in the petition submitted by Eversource. Second by Maureen. Teri proposed the use of the Standard Conditions with approval to edits made by Eversource; she requested the Standard Conditions be adopted and attached to the petition approval. Phil explained the form proposed is to protect the rights of the town to reserve space on the pole for town use, such as police or fire. He is unsure if it applies to this pole. Teri asked if the pole is in the public right of way. Jesse confirmed it is. Further discussed Standard of Conditions and town use. Maureen questioned if it was necessary to reserve space with the use of wireless communications. She also questioned if police and fire departments have commented on this. Bill explained in cities the wires were for call boxes used by police and fire departments for communications with 911, adding that is not in use anywhere in town. Teri suggested reserving the space in the event the town chooses to install an inter-municipal communication system. The language used by Eversource in the Order For Pole Location is outdated, it refers to telegraph, not modern day communications. Reviewed the wording. J Martin explained where many times a new cable provider or internet provider or fiber optics have come to lease space on the pole. He does not foresee a problem. Teri requested Phil amend his motion to include the Standard Conditions be attached to the order. Discussion ensued regarding the intent of the Standard Conditions. Phil made a second to amend his motion to include the Standard Conditions. So moved by roll call vote:
Maureen-yes
Teri-yes
Phil-yes
Call to vote on motion as amended. So moved by roll call vote:
Maureen-yes
Teri-yes
Phil-yes

Hearing closed at 6:43 p.m.

Business meeting proceeded.

- Department updates

- Highway Department, Superintendent Bill Jablonski reported:
 - working on shimming roads that will be chip sealed
 - roadside mowing
 - repair on a couple trucks
 - attended Franklin Regional Council of Governments meeting last week. They're looking to revise bid process
 - last Friday spent the day hauling fill from safety complex
 - application received for highway crew position
- Public Safety Complex Committee, Phil reported
 - installed fire-suppression reservoir tank in ground today. Bill reported the highway department is filling it tomorrow using the fire department tanker.
- Town Property & Energy Committee, Phil reported on behalf of committee; another round of Green Communities Funding is open. We're still making plans for funds from first round. Phil provided an update on inquiries of heating & cooling systems for elementary school. He will complete the MEI reporting coming due.

Bill reported he sent his guys to pick up the new highway pickup truck last Wednesday.

- Jeff Brooks was present to request use of Town Hall for Scouts meetings. Phil explained the town hall is under some renovations. Spoke of the new Covid variant. Maureen asked if the committee discussed what steps would be taken to protect against the virus. Jeff responded they follow the requirements of the Boy Scouts of America; the committee is working on full details. They plan to hold as many events outdoors as possible. The committee is afraid if another year goes by similar to last year they will lose many scouts. Teri asked what size the group is. Jeff replied 5 boys, 1 girl, with 2-3 leaders. Phil suggested he return September 13, on agenda, with a plan.
- PUBLIC HEARING opened at 7:04 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"
Cheryl reported that Carla Trosino-Laramy from Eversource is making changes to the work order and is not prepared to continue the hearing tonight. Phil motioned to continue hearing at 7:00 p.m. August 30. So moved by roll call vote:
Teri-yes
Maureen-yes
Phil-yes
Hearing adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Business meeting continued with updates:

- Administrative Assistant Search Committee, Teri reported the committee will interview two candidates. The ad will be reposted on Mass Municipal Association website.
- Administrative Assistant requests
 - vacation time approved for August 26th and September 13th-20th
 - executive session scheduled for 7:00 p.m., August 23rd to conduct contract negotiations
- Patty Cotton inquired on behalf of a resident if the Selectboard will be holding hybrid or in-person meetings. Discussed method of access to meetings. Individuals that call in may request to speak during the meeting. Any individual with a specific item should request a spot on the agenda for discussion.
- Phil motioned to appoint Howard Davis Goddard to the Council On Aging for a term expiring June 30, 2024. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:
 - Teri-yes
 - Maureen-yes
 - Phil-yes
- Reviewed then approved a letter of thank you to Hampshire County Sheriff's Office for eliminating municipal assessments for use of regional lockup facility.
- Reviewed draft policies for Remote Work & Telecommuting and Electronic Communications. Teri offered to send out different versions of the policies for the board to review. So noted.
- American Recovery Act, Phil reported an inquiry was submitted to ask if finishing the second floor office space of the public safety complex qualifies for funding under the Act. Seeking concepts and ideas for use of the funds.
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Cheryl reported she received no feedback from departments and recommended Todd Alexander come to another meeting to review the Plan. Phil requested Todd join the meeting August 30.
- Correspondence reviewed was:
 - Pole petition-
 - Mass Dept. of Environmental Protection; Air Sensor Grant
 - Mass Municipal Assoc.; State House News Subscriptions
 - Mass. Interlocal Insurance Assoc.; FY22 Risk Management Grant
 - Division of Local Services FY22 Community Compact Cabinet Grant Program
 - Dave White, Chief of Police, notice of leave time
 - Eric Weiss, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Human Resources regional grant meetings
- Teri reported Eric Weiss, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, was scheduling a meeting with the towns interested in Regional Human Resources. Cheryl will attend the first meeting on August 23rd. Teri will attend if she can, may need a substitute. Phil and Maureen may be

available. Need to follow up with the Division of Local Services assessment of offices.

-Cheryl reported a new petition for a pole hearing came in from Eversource/Verizon for poles on Mine Road. A hearing is required. Phil suggested moving the continuation hearing to 6:30 p.m. and schedule the new one at 7:00 p.m. So moved.

Reviewed minutes of:

August 2, 2021. Maureen noted the date was incorrect, as August 8. Teri motioned to approve minutes as written, with date change of August 2, 2021. 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: \$77,192.63

Vendor: \$277,699.74

Teri inquired if the town has a standard form of contract. Discussed various contracts used for different purposes. Sample contract to be sent to board for review.

Teri inquired if a town-wide mask mandate in public indoor areas should be considered. Discussed the businesses it would include, what other towns are doing, and the status of cases. Combined interest in hearing from Board of Health on this matter. Request they join the next meeting to discuss.

Phil shared aerial photos of public safety complex and provided additional updates of the construction project.

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

Adjourned meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held August 30, 2021.

Phil Dowling

Maureen Dempsey

Teri Anderson