



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

Minutes of the Meeting - Westhampton Selectboard

January 3, 2022, 7 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 7 PM.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, attendance was by remote access only. Members of the public attended the meeting via "Zoom" conferencing. Meeting ID Code: 8704 390 0582. There was no in-person attendance by the public. The meeting was audio/video recorded for purposes of minutes only.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey, Teri Anderson

Also Present: Douglas Finn, Bill Jablonski, Robbie Armenti, Barbara Pelesier

Scheduled Business

Used Car Sales (Class II / Class III) License renewals (if any)

Mr. Finn noted that two requests for renewal had been received from Bob Dunn, Dunn's Auto Sales, and Mr. Wayne Buzzee, Country Automotive. After brief deliberation it was MOVED by Dowling SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve both licenses as requested.

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:02 PM)

Conservation Commission Appointment: Kurt Heidinger

A request was received from Mr. Kurt Heidinger to be appointed to the Conservation Commission. After some deliberation, the request was deferred to a meeting after the next Conservation Commission Meeting, at which, Mr. Heidinger's request would be vetted by the Commission, and a recommendation received. (7:04 PM)

ACO Applicant / Interview

Ms. Dempsey reported that Mr. Duma had withdrawn his application as ACO. The board agreed to continue to search for a qualified applicant.

Department and Committee Updates

Highway Department

Mr. Jablonski updated the board on recent activities, noting that poor weather on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day required street clearing. Annual service on equipment is nearly complete. Annual Work on fire apparatus will proceed shortly.

Board of Health

Ms. Armenti noted requests for information regarding the availability of Covid-19 home test kits. It was noted that Westhampton did not receive any allocation of test kits through

the state's DPH, and that the Town's option was to purchase kits at its own expense. There was discussion related to the need for tests for distribution in Town, the possibility of a bulk purchase of kits through the Foothills Health District, the number of kits that would be purchased; and the short-term need to get test kits for town emergency responders, town staff, town seniors, and other vulnerable populations.

The recommendations regarding test use were discussed. The board considered methods of distribution of tests to the general public. Locations for storage, and distribution of the tests were considered; some locations include the public library, the COA, the schools, fire / police station, and the Town Hall.

Ms. Armenti would continue to coordinate with the Foothills Health District, to determine the feasibility of a joint bulk purchase of kits for distribution to town residents (proportionally paid by each member towns) and report back.

Ms. Armenti noted that there were currently 11 cases in town, a mix of vaccinated and non-vaccinated, a mix of elderly and children, with no serious symptoms, and no hospitalizations. Oldest person is 90 years, youngest is under one.

At Mr. Dowling's request, and after deliberation, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey,

To authorize Phil Dowling and Doug Finn to pursue the best means and price for accessing tests through and with the Foothills Health District.

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:24 PM)

Ms. Armenti noted that the board of health would be taking up the question of an indoor mask mandate at their next meeting on Saturday morning at 9 AM.

Ms. Anderson also reiterated the question about the use of public spaces for the next several weeks, given at least two requests for use, and opined that a moratorium remain in place at this time.

Ms. Dempsey generally concurred, suggesting no expansion of use, noting the Covid surge in the "omicron" variant. Mr. Dowling agreed that there should be no expansion of use, and that additional requests should be tabled to a later date.

Ms. Anderson noted that the current use (Pickleball) is not a town-sponsored event, and the COA request for yoga classes should be given equal weight.

A request to change the established weekdays for the pickleball use was considered, and deferred to a later date.

There was further discussion related to the COA request.

It was MOVED by Anderson, SECONDED by Dempsey

To permit the COA to use the Town Hall Space for use for Yoga Classes.

There was a friendly amendment made by DOWLING, and accepted by Anderson

That approval shall not begin prior to February 1, and is dependent on favorable 'conditions on the ground' and a favorable recommendation by the Board of Health in regard to use of public spaces.

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:39 PM)

Town Property & Energy Assessment

No report. Mr. Finn noted that he would be removing the listing from future agendas.

Other Boards / Committees / Project Updates

Public Safety Complex:

Mr. Dowling noted the first delivery of components for the building itself.

Mr. Dowling also updated the board on his efforts to secure funding for the buildout of the second floor of the PSC, and receipt of various letters of support as received from regional leaders and public safety partners.

Mr. Finn provided a brief update related to the CARES funding.

Review Correspondence

Correspondence received:

- A letter from Comcast regarding a channel lineup change
- A letter from MIIA, noting that they are now providing auto glass coverage
- A letter from Mark Bushee, regarding Covid-19 Testing kits.
- A letter from Dale Kasal, regarding a request for a change in Pickleball days
- A letter from the Westhampton Congregational Church Outreach Committee, regarding the need for funding to continue the Westhampton Food Bank.

There was some discussion related to the food bank funding request; the board generally agreed that more data should be requested to comprehensively understand the need.

Ms. Anderson asked Mr. Finn to keep track of ARPA funding requests, and maintain a detailed list of same, including description, scope of need, and total funds requested.

Review / Approve minutes of December 6, December 20

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Anderson,

To approve the minutes of December 6 as presented.

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:46 PM)

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Anderson,

To approve the minutes of December 6 as presented.

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:47 PM)

Review of Warrants

Payroll and A/P warrants were reviewed.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Anderson,

To approve the warrants as presented.

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:48 PM)

Other items not reasonably anticipated at time of posting

Mr. Finn reminded the members that the Finance Committee would be holding their first meeting on Monday, January 10, 2021. The meeting would be exclusively via Zoom.

Ms. Anderson asked Mr. Dowling to help with coordination of Town Employee scheduling for the MVP inclusion training.

Set next regular meeting date / time

Mr. Dowling noted that the next meeting would be on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 7 PM.

Adjourn

There being no further business, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey
To Adjourn.

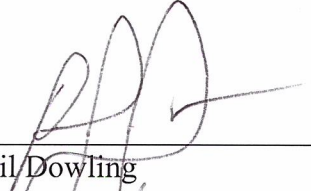
WITHOUT OBJECTION

Adjourned at 7:51 PM.

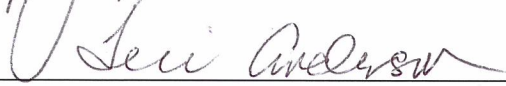
Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Finn.

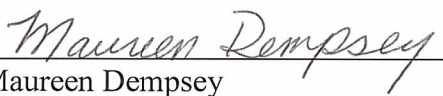
APPROVED by a vote of the Westhampton Selectboard, on January 18, 2022.



Phil Dowling



Teri Anderson



Maureen Dempsey