



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

## Minutes of the Meeting - Westhampton Selectboard

Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7 PM

*The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7 PM. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, the meeting was held as a "hybrid" (in person and remote access) meeting. Some members of the board and the public attended the meeting via "Zoom" conferencing. Meeting ID Code: 8704 390 0582. In-person attendance by the public was permitted. The meeting was audio/video recorded for purposes of minutes only.*

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

#### **Present:**

*In person: Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey, Bill Jablonski.*

*By Remote Conferencing: Teri Anderson.*

*Also Present: Doug Finn (Town of Westhampton), Mary Lou Burgess.*

### **Highway (Bill Jablonski)**

Mr. Jablonski noted the work of the department (including several snow-storms, ice storms requiring road treatment, basin treatment, etc.

Mr. Jablonski noted that the bridge on Northwest Road and Reservoir Road had been limited to one lane, in accordance with directive from MassDOT. Mr. Jablonski also noted that he had a bid for engineering services to repair the bridge, and requested approval to move forward, using Ch. 90 funds.

A review of proposed work from Gill engineering was reviewed.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To approve the proposal as presented, with final authorization pending funding.*

VOTED:

ANDERSON – YES; DEMPSEY – YES; DOWLING – YES.

(3, 0, 0. 7:19 PM)

A preliminary proposal for design services was reviewed. Mr. Jablonski noted that the scope of work for engineering services had not yet been approved by MassDOT, but that he would keep the board apprised on the project.

### **Highway Truck**

Mr. Dowling noted that two bids had been received. Mr. Dowling noted that one was deemed non-responsive, due to not including a specific delivery date or general delivery estimate.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To use \$74,995 of ARPA monies to fund the purchase of a highway truck.*

VOTED:

ANDERSON – YES; DEMPSEY – YES; DOWLING – YES.

(3, 0, 0. 7:24 PM)

Ms. Anderson requested that a warrant article be drafted to consider covering this purchase using Free Cash. Mr. Finn noted that the warrant article was already in the draft warrant. Further, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To award the bid to Marcotte Ford, being the most responsive and responsible bidder with the lowest price.*

VOTED:  
ANDERSON – YES; DEMPSEY – YES; DOWLING – YES.  
(3, 0, 0. 7:25 PM)

Mr. Jablonski brought up the necessary purchase of the transfer station compactor. After Mr. Dowling asked that the bid estimates be made available to the Administrative assistant, to be reviewed by the Selectboard. Mr. Dowling noted that the proposed purchase would be reviewed by the Capital Planning Committee and the Finance Committee prior to Town Meeting.

### **Health (Robby Armenti)**

Ms. Armenti was not present.

#### **Revisit Town Building Policy re/ mandatory mask use.**

Mr. Dowling noted several queries in regard to the Mandatory Masking policy for town buildings, and asked if members wished to comment.

Ms. Anderson suggested it was a bit premature, and would like to continue it for some time to come, perhaps revisiting the policy in another month.

Ms. Dempsey asked whether there were new cases in town. Mr. Jablonski noted only three cases in two weeks reported through the schools.

It was noted that the board could take up the matter at its next meeting.

### **Public Safety Building (Phil Dowling)**

Mr. Dowling provided some updates:

Construction continues, but is moving slowly (only three workers on site daily). A meeting on 3/15 will address that matter. Soffits around the perimeter are being worked on, and will allow for completion of the work. It's hoped that better weather will help to advance the project.

Mr. Dowling noted that the budget continues to be reviewed; contingency funding is nearly spent; nearly a dozen change-orders due to various issues have increased costs some, but the larger increases come from architectural plan changes necessitated by building code, and increases to prices for raw materials. Mr. Dowling noted that there would be some conversations with the Architect, and General Contractor, in the near future in regard to the project's timeline and cost.

Overall the project is moving forward, with an anticipated completion date sometime in June. An updated construction schedule will be reviewed this week.

### **MVP (Teri Anderson)**

Ms. Anderson noted a preliminary training schedule for the Diversity training for staff; one afternoon session and one evening session is expected.

The Open Space Plan survey deadline has passed; Laurie Sanders will be reviewing the results, and determining whether an extension is warranted;

The Master Plan Community Survey is due to be released on April 1.



The Open Space Plan Public meetings will take place in May and June.

## **Old Business**

### **Ongoing discussion / deliberation on possible ARPA funded projects**

Mr. Dowling reviewed the approved and outstanding expenses. There was some discussion related to efforts to restore some of the “CARES” funding, which would reduce the use of ARPA funding. Mr. Dowling noted that he would be continuing the effort.

## **New Business**

### **First Draft: Town Meeting Warrant**

Mr. Finn presented a first draft version of the Town Meeting warrant for review. The organization of some of the financial articles were discussed, and specific groupings were suggested for clarity.

Mr. Finn noted that he would continue to work on the document, and would present updates at the next regular meeting.

### **First Draft: Town Report**

Mr. Finn presented a first-draft of the Town Report. Ms. Anderson suggested changes to the Annual Report as drafted; Mr. Finn noted that he would incorporate changes as they came in. Mr. Dowling noted that he would continue to revise, and present a second draft at the next meeting.

### **Review and Sign Election Warrant**

Mr. Finn noted that the warrant to be reviewed and approved was for the Caucus, not the Election.

The board reviewed the proposed Warrant.

Mr. Dowling noted that there had been some discussion related to reducing the Finance Committee membership; how that would be implemented was briefly discussed.

It was MOVED by Anderson, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To approve the warrant for the Caucus as presented.*

VOTED:

DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES

(3, 0, 0, 8:10 PM)

It was noted that the location of the Caucus would remain at Town Hall for the time being.

## **News / Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from the State of Massachusetts re/ Licensure of Marek; Mr. Finn reported the concern was being properly addressed

Correspondence was received from Mina Kim – re/ resignation of Gorman from LCC. The board noted the resignation, and encouraged interested residents to apply for appointment.

Correspondence was received from Alexis Walls, requesting lobbying support for Regional Transit Authority. There was some discussion relative to the request.

It was MOVED by Anderson, SECONDED by Dempsey

*That Mr. Finn be directed to draft a letter for the board's signature, to be sent to state representatives and senators, to support the proposed regional transit advancement bill, and to increase FY2023 budget amount for RTAs to \$103M.*

VOTED: DEMPSEY – YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES (3, 0, 0, 8:24 PM)

Mr. Correspondence was received from Heidinger, requesting appointment to Conservation Commission; Board reviewed the request; Ms. Anderson noted that the Conservation Commission only recommended an appointment, and did not approve. Mr. Finn noted that there are no open seats; after review, no action was taken on the request.

#### **Other items not reasonably anticipated at time of posting**

Mr. Finn noted that the Attorney General had announced that Massachusetts municipalities that signed onto statewide opioid settlements with opioid distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson, opioid-maker Johnson & Johnson, and future statewide opioid settlements, could receive 40% of the abatement funds the state recovers, up from the 15% default allocation provided by the settlements.

The AG's Office is asking municipalities to return a signed State-Subdivision Agreement to MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov by March 31, which memorialize the increased allocation and set forth the permitted uses and reporting requirements for the abatement funds. The agreements must be submitted even if the municipality already submitted its Participation Forms as proposed by the Attorney General of the Commonwealth, was reviewed. After brief discussion, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Anderson

*To authorize Mr. Dowling to endorse the State-Subdivision Agreement on behalf of the Town.*

VOTED:

DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES  
(3, 0, 0, 8:27 PM)

#### **Review of Payroll and A/P Warrants**

The board reviewed the Payroll and A/P warrants for W22-19.

After review, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To approve the payroll warrant as presented.*

VOTED:

DEMPSEY: ABSTAIN; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES  
(2, 0, 1, 8:27 PM)

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To approve the expense warrant as presented.*

VOTED:

DEMPSEY – YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES  
(2, 0, 1, 8:27 PM)

#### **Review / Approve Minutes - February 28, 2022**

The minutes from February 28, 2022 were reviewed.

After review, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To approve the minutes as presented.*

VOTED:

DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES  
(2, 0, 1, 8:36 PM)

#### **Other business**

There was informal discussion relative to the location of the Town Meeting; possible locations included the Town Hall, the Westhampton Elementary School, the Hampshire

Regional School, or an outdoor location under a tent. Mr. Finn noted that he would check to determine if the HRS Auditorium is available for that day.

**Next meeting**

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 7 PM

**Adjourn**

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

WITHOUT OBJECTION

Adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Douglas C. Finn.

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**Approved** by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on March 28, 2022.

  
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Phil Dowling

  
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Maureen Dempsey

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teri Anderson