



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

MINUTES of the MEETING

Monday, August 1, 2022, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, August 1, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, 1 South Road, and via video-conference.¹

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM.

PRESENT: Maureen Dempsey.

ALSO PRESENT: Douglas Finn, John Shaw.

PRESENT BY REMOTE CONFERENCING: Phil Dowling, Scott Johndrow, Robby Armenti, Charles and Mary Lou Burgess

Department and Committee Updates

Tentative: John Shaw - Zoning Bylaw Review Committee

Mr. Shaw made a brief presentation in regard to the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee, the past history of the ZBRC, and the expected process related to the ZBRC's report, which the Committee proposes to submit to the Planning Board. Mr. Shaw proposed –

- A First draft document to be presented to Town residents via the Town website
- One or more public information sessions to review and discuss the proposal
- Submission a final draft of the new Zoning Bylaw to the Planning Board as a formal proposal.
- The Planning Board will conduct its process in accordance with the General Law.

A fall special town meeting may be in the mix.

Mr. Shaw noted that the committee does not expect there to be much controversy as a result of the revised zoning bylaw.

Mr. Shaw also noted that a member of the ZBRC will likely meet with the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals to discuss the proposed changes in general terms within the next week or two.

Mr. Shaw also noted that the new zoning bylaw proposes a clear line of delineation between the roles of the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, the Building Commissioner and administrative staff.

Mr. Shaw commended the dedication and tenacity of the members of the ZBRC, and thanked them for their years of hard work.

¹ Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, the meeting was conducted as a "hybrid" (in-person / remote) meeting. Members of the public could access the meeting in person, or connect via "zoom" teleconferencing via internet – Meeting ID#: 870 4390 0582.

Mr. Dowling: when will public hearings begin? Mr. Shaw: likely soon after the first draft document is made available to the public. Two informational meetings are expected – one in the evening, and one during the daytime (possibly a Saturday meeting) to provide as much public exposure as possible.

Mr. Shaw noted that the Town Moderator had expressed support for the new zoning bylaw to be presented as a single-article special town meeting.

Highway (Bill Jablonski)

Mr. Jablonski was not present. Mr. Finn noted that the Northwest Road bridge repairs were nearly done.

Health (Robby Armenti)

Ms. Armenti noted that the Board of Health agreed to schedule their meetings on the third Thursday of the month, at 7 PM.

The Board of Health met with Morley Cleary and Chris Brooks regarding permitting requirements for food permits for the fall festival; proposed plans appear to be satisfactory.

Ms. Armenti noted that the Covid-19 test kits would be distributed at the Transfer Station, Library, Westhampton Woods, and Town Hall. Kits would be available on a first-come first-served basis.

Ms. Armenti also noted that their next meetings would be dedicated to reviewing past work, Tom Martin's anticipated work and goals, and come up with a 'game plan'.

Ms. Armenti noted that Bri Eichenstadt was a positive addition to the board.

Public Safety Building (Phil Dowling)

Mr. Dowling noted that construction continues. Some minor glitches have slowed work to some extent, including issues raised by the Building Inspector's office.

Mr. Johndrow asked about the anticipated delay presented by the issues. There was some discussion related to the overall delays. Mr. Dowling noted that, despite the delays, work continues.

There was some discussion about the need to design and install fire stops in the exterior walls; and how that need came about.

Mr. Dowling noted a meeting to be held on site on Tuesday, August 2, at about 1:30 PM.

Mr. Johndrow expressed frustration at the delays and ongoing issues with the project. Mr. Dowling concurred.

MVP (Teri Anderson)

Ms. Anderson was not present to provide a report.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

New Business (may include items not reasonably anticipated at time of posting)

Mr. Finn presented a warrant for the primary election, to be held on September 6, 2022, from 7 AM to 8 PM, for review and approval.

It was MOVED by Johndrow SECONDED by Dowling

To approve the election warrant to be held on September 6, 2022, and to sign.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. 7:35 PM

Mr. Dowling spoke briefly about the new heating system to be installed at the Elementary School, and provided an update on the progress. The contractor is ready to do the installation and is standing by; Mr. Dowling noted that when complete, the upgrades would provide some savings to the town.

There was some discussion related to how the “Green Communities” funding would be used. Mr. Dowling noted that the Town needed to commit to the work no later than September, or lose the grant funding.

Review and take action on legislation / correspondence (if any)

Mr. Finn noted some recent correspondence, but nothing needing action by the board.

Review / Approve Minutes

After review, it was MOVED by Dempsey, SECONED by Dowling
To approve the minutes of July 18, 2022 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:40 PM).

Review of Payroll and A/P Warrants

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Johndrow
To approve the payroll and A/P warrants as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:39 PM).

Set date for next meeting

Ms. Dempsey noted the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2022, 7 PM.
Mr. Finn requested to take time off between August 18 and August 24. The board noted no objection.

There was some discussion related to traffic issues related to uncovered loads, excessive auto speeds, and possible issues to be relayed to the board of health.

Adjourn

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Johndrow
To adjourn.

NO OBJECTION. (7:46 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn.

Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on August 15, 2022.



Phil Dowling



Maureen Dempsey



Scott Johndrow