



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

MINUTES of the MEETING
Monday, December 5, 2022, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, December 5, 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 by Phil Dowling, Chair.

PRESENT: Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey, Scott Johndrow

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Bill Jablonski (Highway Superintendent); Mr. Douglas Finn;

SECOND READING - Snow and Ice Policy – DRAFT

The board took up the Snow and Ice Policy for a second reading. Mr. Jablonski noted that he would be attending a regional seminar later in the week, with topics to be discussed including snow and ice policies; he recommended no action on the policy at this time.

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Highway (Bill Jablonski)

Mr. Jablonski noted department work had included

- large tree removal;
- placing "whips" (snowplow guides) at the roadside;
- hauling gravel, patching dirt roads, and grading;
- additional roadside cleaning, including catch basins;
- removal of fallen limbs after wind storms

and other regular and usual work.

There was some discussion relative to types and costs of materials used in road maintenance.

Mr. Johndrow asked about the beavers north of northwest road, and whether they posed a danger to the road. Mr. Jablonski spoke in general terms about ongoing efforts to mitigate beaver dam problems.

Health (Robby Armenti)

Ms. Armenti noted in a letter to the Board no new news, and that their next meeting would be on the 15th of December.

Public Safety Building (Phil Dowling)

Mr. Dowling noted that the work proceeds apace; much volunteer time was spent this past weekend prepping the crew room floor, and painting. It's hoped that the fire trucks can be

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.

relocated to the PSC within a week or two. A brief report was given on the status of ongoing aspects of the project.

Mr. Johndrow asked about the countertop installation at various locations in the facility; Mr. Dowling noted that the counters would be removed from the contractor's scope of work (a credit would be issued) and the town would complete that work.

MVP (Teri Anderson)

No report.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS (may include items not reasonably anticipated at time of posting)

No new business was presented for review.

BOARD MEMBER INFORMATION or UPDATES (if any)

There was some discussion relative to the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee's work, the timing of their final report, and an interest in recognizing the hard work accomplished by the Committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Update on Municipal Energy Aggregation

Mr. Finn provided an update on Municipal Energy Aggregation, including an outline of the basic process, the potential of 'opting in' to the current purchase group consisting of some towns in Franklin County, and detailed letters from Bob Dean (FRCOG) and Bob Armstrong (Conway Selectboard).

State / Federal Grants

Mr. Finn noted that the Town has been awarded a \$39,340 grant through the Community Compact Cabinet's (CCC) Information Technology grant program for the purpose of a community-drive redesign of the Town's website. The grant includes the assignment of an ad hoc committee to oversee the process, to solicit public opinion on the existing and new site, and to provide time and funding for department head training in the use of the new website.

Mr. Finn noted that the grant requests in this cycle exceeded the program's available budget, reiterating the value of the program. Our application was chosen, according to the award letter, because it "met the overarching goal of driving innovation and transformation at the local level via investments in technology."

Review Correspondence

11/17/2023 – Letter from Comcast, regarding Rate Increases.

Mr. Finn noted some ongoing work in regard to the Cable contract, and pursuing information about the extents of the Comcast cable "plant" in Westhampton. The effort was being conducted at the request of a local resident, who lives on a road not currently served by cable. The intent is to determine if there are any 'last miles' in Westhampton that remain unserved by high-speed broadband services, and then to determine how best to meet that need.

11/23/2022 – Letter from CVE – citing Green Initiative Guidelines

CVE is requesting a recommendation from the Town for one or two non-profit organizations that would have the best impact on local communities around Westhampton, and to which CVE might make a charitable donation. The materials were reviewed.

By consensus, the board agreed to recommend the Westhampton Firefighters Association,

and the Friends of the Westhampton Library.

11/30/2022 – Invitation from the MMA

An invitation to the MMA Conference in January was reviewed. After some discussion, the board generally concurred that at least one member, and Mr. Finn, should attend.

12/02/2022 – Letter from Robert Armstrong speaking about municipal aggregation.

(see notes, above)

Review Payroll and A/P Warrants: W23-12, WP23-12

The Accounts Payable Warrant, WP23-12, and the Payroll Warrant, W23-12, were reviewed. After brief deliberation, it was MOVED by Dowling SECONDED by Johndrow
To approve Accounts Payable Warrant WP23-12 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:27 PM)

Review / Approve Minutes - November 21, 2022

The minutes from November 21, 2022, were reviewed. After review, with some amendments, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve the minutes as presented and amended.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:35 PM)

Set date for next meeting(s) - December 19, January 3, 2023

A meeting was scheduled for December 19, 2022. Mr. Finn noted that, due to the observance of the New Year holiday, the first meeting in January would be on Tuesday, January 3, 2022.

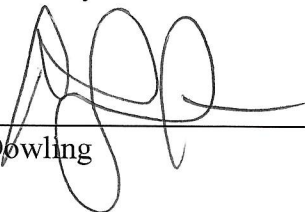
Adjourn

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn


Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on DEC. 19, 2022.



Phil Dowling



Maureen Dempsey



Scott Johndrow