



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

Minutes of February 19, 2019

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Art Pichette, and Maureen Dempsey.  
Others present were David Blakesley, Chris Norris, Dave White, Steve Holt, Ginny Curtis, Mary Powers, Shirl Morrigan.  
Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

The Selectboard voted by roll call, 3 yeas, 0 opposed, to enter into Executive Session at 6:30p.m., as the Chair declared in pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1), to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member. The open session will resume at the close of executive session.

Returned to Open Session at 6:50 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Art Pichette, and Maureen Dempsey.  
Others present were David Blakesley, Dave White, Steve Holt, Ginny Curtis, Mary Powers, Shirl Morrigan, Wayne Parks.  
Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Warrants were signed for: Payroll: \$79,008.85 (Maureen Dempsey abstained)  
Vendor: \$108,971.42

Minutes of February 4, 2019 were approved.

- Highway Department updates, David Blakesley reported:
  - busy keeping up with all the small storms. The Snow Removal Account balance is \$14,609.00 and there are outstanding invoices. Request to deficit spend the Snow Removal Account. Phil motioned to authorize deficit spending of the Snow Removal Account. Second by Maureen. Motion approved by roll vote of 3-yea's, 0-nay's.
  - equipment is holding up. One truck was down; repairs were done on the center bearing on the drive shaft. Truck is in operation again.
  - received notice from MassDOT the weight limit is lowered for the North Road Bridge, aka "Egypt Bridge". MassDOT is providing new signs, the highway department will install them.
  - working on estimates for county bids, routine estimates. Want to talk to Deane Bates, Principle of the elementary school, regarding the parking lot off Hathaway Road. It's not all paved and the back portion gets muddy. Estimating cost to finish paving it if D. Bates expects ongoing use.
  - the Recycling Facility Program expires in June 2020. A Request For Response has been released and bid responses are due May 9, 2019. Selection is expected to be in June, 2019 and interested communities will need to execute a Community Agreement by December, 2019. It will be a 10

agreement with an additional 5-year option. Recycling process fees per ton is expected to increase with only minor changes to the acceptable list of recyclables. A town meeting vote is required to enter into the ten year agreement. David made a recommendation to present the article at the next Annual Town Meeting. A copy of the warrant article was submitted for review. Funding for the contract could be approved at the following Annual Town Meeting in 2020. The article will be included in the draft Annual Town Meeting warrant.

-The gas pump at the safety complex could be replaced. However, a new gas tank will be installed at the highway garage and the one at the safety complex can then be decommissioned. The installation can be paid from surplus funds in the Machinery Fuel Account. An interdepartmental transfer into a new account after May 1 will require Selectboard and Finance Committee approval.

Dave White reported that problems with the pump have been worked out with D. Blakesley, minimizing the odor.

-questioned the Selectboard if they would be in favor of promoting from within the department when he (David) retires next year, specifically speaking of Bill Jablonski. Discussion ensued regarding training, qualifications, and hiring policies. The Selectboard recommended training to prepare Bill for the position and to gain experience. No commitment was offered.

-attended the Public Safety Complex Committee meeting. They plan to move forward with the design bid. David questioned how it will be funded. He is not in favor of using Free Cash. The past 40 years all capital expenditures have gone through a debt exclusion ballot question process and he believes if it's not done that way it will exclude some people and have a negative effect on acceptance of the project. Discussion ensued regarding funding options. David's opinion taken under advisement.

- Zoning Bylaw Review Committee updates, John Shaw reported:  
The committee moved forward on 4 zoning bylaw articles, 1 general bylaw article, and a ballot question to propose a ban on adult marijuana establishments in Westhampton. The committee recommends a joint public hearing with the Planning Board in April. At town meeting the committee will speak to the articles if the Selectboard prefers, so agreed. John requested the Selectboard consider moving the articles up in order of the warrant; request was duly noted. Discussion ensued regarding whether one or two ballot questions will be required. On a motion and second, voted to accept the recommendations of the committee and forward the articles and ballot question(s) to counsel for review and recommendations with final ballot questions to be submitted to the Town Clerk, and final proposed bylaws submitted to the Planning Board.
- Police Department, Chief Dave White:
  - work space improvements; the annex had been evaluated by Art and Phil to discover what options are available to improve the temporary work space for the police department public hours. The doorway to the back room is large enough to accommodate installation of a door to provide privacy in the back room. A glass door could provide visibility, a solid door would provide additional privacy. Dave asked if the assessors have been brought into the discussion. Dolores has and had previously suggested installation of a glass door for security and for busy Wednesday night meetings when it can get loud in the front rooms. Funds may be available in the Town Offices Account or the Police Department Account in order to move the project. Voted to get a price on both a solid and glass door and prepare specs to seek quotes.
  - bike race; the town was solicited by Scott Smith from "The Riders Club" about holding a cycling race in Westhampton to promote healthier living and showcase what pro cycling is about. Discussion ensued regarding road closures and route. Phil explained it would be a small closed

loop, similar to the road race held during the Fall Festival. He is in favor of the event. Typically, these are completed on live roads. Discussed the possibility of closing Stage Road for spectators. Dave reported the event has been run in Southampton. With no objections, details for the event will be organized with the police department, Selectboard, and S. Smith.

-tractor parade; Dave was brought up to date on the meeting held February 4 with Richard Jeske from the Hampshire County Farm Bureau. The Selectboard is interested in working with the bureau to facilitate the parade. Art reported they're looking to come up with a route and suggested police presence at the expense of the bureau. The use of Reservoir Road will not be considered. If there will be tractors without plates a sign-off will be required. Road blocks are being considered. More planning and conversations will be held to progress with plans.

-Public Safety Complex Committee; Dave recommended he be switched with Laurie Sanders as an alternate committee member. He has had the opportunity to participate throughout the feasibility and conceptual design phase and feels it's time to allow others to step in now that it's moving to the funding and potentially bid stage; adding that at this stage it seems appropriate the members be from town, unlike himself. He offered to continue to take minutes. Phil motioned to appoint Laurie Sanders as a member and Dave White as associate member of the Public Safety Complex Committee. Second by Art. So voted by 3-yea's, 0- nay's.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. to attend the meeting of the Finance Committee. The Selectboard will reconvene after meeting with the Finance Committee.

The meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Art Pichette, and Maureen Dempsey.

Others present were Ginny Curtis, Mary Powers, Shirl Morigan, Wayne Parks.

Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

- Public Safety Complex Review Committee and Capital Improvement Planning Committee had reported to the Finance Committee.
- Green Communities:  
Art reported he and Cheryl spoke to Ben Toby from Prism Energy to clarify some of the items in the energy audit and energy efficiency measures chart, particularly the Annex furnace and elementary school boilers. B. Toby had needed time to gather some of the information. He replied to Art by email before this meeting, Art did not have time to review the information. Information gained was funding is not available to projects with a greater than 25 year pay back. The annex furnace is projected at a 24+ year pay back so may not be a good item for this. Awards have been given for solar installations, however, only in the initial designation round. Also, it doesn't count towards energy reduction. A better option may be the SMART Program. Phil has contacted UMass Clean Energy Extension to see if they can help produce a clearer study. Discussions to continue at next meeting.
- Authorization of bills:  
Phil moved that Maureen Dempsey be designated to approve all bills, drafts, orders, and payrolls not otherwise presented for approval at a posted meeting to the full board; provided, however, that if such bills, drafts, orders, and payrolls are approved by Maureen Dempsey, she shall make available to the board, at their first meeting following such action, a record of such actions, and further, to ask the Administrative Assistant to include on the notice for each meeting of the board

an item for such purposes. Second by Art. Motion approved by roll vote of 3-yea's, 0-nay's.

- Solar PILOT agreement; no updates.
- Correspondence was reviewed:
  - Bob Miller; CPR class being held February 26 at the Library with focus on employees of the Town Hall, Library, and Outlook Farm.
  - KPLaw; Superior Court denied Athanasiou's request to open judgement, amend the findings of fact and make new findings.
- Administrative Assistant updates, Cheryl Provost reported:
  - attending the Hampshire Municipal Advisory Committee meeting at Westhampton Town hall February 20.
- Next meeting: 7:00 p.m. March 18, 2019.
- Documents submitted:
  - Expense Report through 02/07/2019
  - draft warrant articles for marijuana bylaw and zoning bylaws
  - draft ballot question for marijuana prohibition
  - draft warrant article for 10 year contract for recycling processing through MassDEP competitive bid process
- Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Approve: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Philip Dowling, Chair

  
Arthur Pichette

  
Maureen Dempsey