



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

Minutes of March 18, 2019

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Art Pichette, and Maureen Dempsey. Others present were Steve Holt, Ginny Curtis, Bill Jablonski, Julia Lennen, Louise Jasionkowski, John Kelsey, Sally Kelsey, Michael Kelsey, Pat Coffey, Dale Kasal, Alan Kasal, Barbara Cook, and unidentified pickle ball supporters.

Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Warrants were signed for: Payroll: \$77,464.21 (Maureen Dempsey abstained)  
Vendor: \$207,466.75  
Town Caucus April 8, 2019

Minutes of February 19, 2019 were approved.

- Maureen reported that on March 4 she signed payroll warrant in the amount of \$78,494.81 and disclosed that her name was on the payroll. Also signed was the vendor warrant in the amount of \$94,242.50. Copies of warrants were reviewed.
- Wickles Trucking: the Municipal Solid Waste and Bulky Waste Hauling and Disposal Contract extension with Wickles Trucking with the FY20 modification to add Bulky Waste Hauling and Disposal; Single Stream Recycling (to Automated); and Bulky Rigid Plastics Recycling (to USA) was reviewed. This is the last of a one year extension allowed by the contract. Art motioned to accept and sign the modified extension contract. Second by Maureen. Motion passed 3-years, 0-nays.
- The Buy Recycled Policy and annual reminder memo was reviewed. Art motioned to continue the policy and to approve and sign the memo to departments. Second by Maureen. Motion passed 3-years, 0-nays.
- The Revised MassDEP contract warrant article was reviewed. The revision adds an option to extend for five years. Phil motioned to approve the article for town meeting as revised. Second by Maureen. Motion passed 3-years, 0-nays.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between Town of Westhampton and USA Hauling and Recycling for the recycling of bulky rigid plastics was reviewed. Effective April 1 the transfer station will accept certain bulky rigid plastics. Notice has been posted to the town website. Maureen motioned to accept and enter into the Memorandum of Understanding between Town of Westhampton and USA Hauling and Recycling. Second by Art. Motion passed 3-years, 0-nays.

- Dale Kasal provided updates on pickle ball participation. Funds were received from the National Pickle Ball Assoc. for equipment. Stories have been published in the Hampshire Gazette and Country Journal. The Council On Aging is sharing a poster local Council's On Aging announcing the activity. D Kasal created a digital roster for players to sign up and there are 43 regular players. Regular days are Mon-Wed-Fri-Sat a.m. and Thursday p.m. D Kasal and supporters concurred that playing pickle ball is fun and engaging and is a friendly community activity. Barbara Cook made inquiries for available funds for curtains and refinishing the floor. Estimates for curtains are \$60.00 per window and shades are \$90.00 per window. The cost of the floor is estimated to be \$6,000.00. Discussion ensued regarding funds available from other sources such as state and donations. D Kasal inquired if a Recreation Committee could be re-established and funded. No town funds are available at this time. Funding for items to be discussed another time.
- Steve Holt requested the status of the removal of gas and diesel storage tanks at the safety complex. An estimate for the installation of both tanks at the highway garage had been submitted by David Blakesley, Highway Superintendent. The estimate also provided alternative cost for installing the gasoline tank only, with set up for the diesel tank to be installed at a later date in the amount of \$20,265.88. Installation of the second tank at a later date would be an additional \$14,506.82; the total estimate less alternate. D Blakesley had proposed to use funds from the Machinery Fuel Account to pay for the installation of the fuel tank at the highway garage this spring and decommission the existing fuel tank at the safety complex. The current balance in that account is \$20,086.00 and D Blakesley expects an excess balance between \$10-\$15 thousand dollars. Bill Jablonski, Highway Foreman, explained D Blakesley proposed to use funds already appropriated so to not seek additional funds from taxpayers. Options for the balance can be from other sources such as the Reserve Fund, year-end appropriation transfers, or town meeting approval from Free Cash or Stabilization. Steve Holt is concerned that if the construction plans for the safety complex is on schedule and ground breaks in April (2020) both the tanks will still be there, with only one de-commissioned. Phil is in favor of moving forward with installation of the gasoline tank at the highway garage this spring and deferring the installation of the diesel tank to a later date. Discussion ensued regarding estimate and timing of installation. Art motioned to get three written quotes for the installation of a gasoline tank and diesel tank at the highway garage with an alternate for the installation of the gas tank and set up only for the diesel tank. Second by Phil. Motion passed.
- Police Department surplus cruiser: The status of the police department Crown Vic. was questioned. The department purchased a 2018 Ford Explorer that was scheduled to replace the Crown Vic. and not be an addition to the fleet. The decals and lights will have to be removed before from the cruiser at an estimate of \$300-\$500 before it can be sold to the public. Value of the cruiser is uncertain. Maureen motioned to sell the Police Department 2008 Ford Crown Victoria as surplus. Second by Art. Motion passed.
- Public Safety Complex Review Committee, Steve Holt reported an event will be held behind the Westhampton Public Library at 6:30 on May 3. There will be demos from the Fire Dept. and EMS. Phil reported that the Selectboard met with Senator Adam Hinds and Representative Lindsay Sabadosa at a public forum at the library prior to the Selectboard meeting. They discussed funding for the construction of safety complexes. No funding specific to that is

available, there may be funds added to a bond bill which would be dispersed throughout the duration of the bond. Potential for funding through a regional program such as Community Compact Cabinet to support the regional school facility will be researched.

- Capital Improvement Planning Committee-no update.
- Zoning Bylaw Review Committee updates; Ginny Curtis reported a public Hearing of the committee and Planning Board is scheduled for April 10 for the proposed bylaws to prohibit adult use marijuana in Westhampton. Steve Gagne will make a presentation. Discussions have begun with Eric Weiss from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission regarding the solar bylaw procedures. Cheryl reported notice of the hearing was posted in the Town Hall and 4 other locations March 8, posted to the town website and required notifications mailed March 11; will be published in the Hampshire Gazette March 23 & 30.
- Green Communities grant application needs to be submitted to get the town into the system. Larger projects such as boiler replacement require a study before the application will be accepted. Art suggested applying for funds for an engineering study of the elementary school boilers. Phil reported more information is needed than what the energy audit completed for the initial designation application provided. He is seeking assistance from UMass through MassEnergy for a more refined audit. Smaller projects listed in the Energy Reduction Plan may be submitted without further study. Maureen motioned to submit an application for funds through the Green Communities Program for weather stripping and a WiFi thermostat for the highway garage. Second by Art. Motion passed 3-yeas, 0-nays.
- Chapter 32B, section 21-22 of Mass. General Laws requires towns with unions to adopt the sections. The chapter governs group health insurance and the sections govern changing of insurance policies. Adoption of section 21 by the Selectboard enacts the right to consider changes to the policy and section 22 enacts the procedures to propose changes. The Selectboard vote to accept sections 21-22 will allow notification of changes occurring in benefits offered through Hampshire Health. Phil requested more time to review the information and additional information from the Treasurer.
- FY20 budget:
  - Council On Aging FY20 budget request submitted to the Finance Committee includes an increase to the salary of the coordinator for additional hours, copies of request provided. Julia Lennen explained the request and grant cycle and reported that she regularly works up to 12 hours weekly and is paid for approximately half. Cheryl concurred that this has been the case for years, noting that Pat Miller had reported similar figures while she served as coordinator.
  - The police department FY20 request submitted to the Finance Committee includes the addition of two officers, increasing total hours.
  - The Hampshire Regional School District FY20 budget proposal is reduced from their first draft. The overall increase is 3.96%, with an increase for Westhampton of 3.15%; copies provided. The elementary school proposal is not final.

The Finance Committee is prepared to meet with the Selectboard for a joint meeting April 1 to discuss raises and other FY20 budget items to close the warrant articles.


- Solar PILOT agreement; Alexander Fox sent an email to report a willingness to negotiate. Phil recommended Roy Bishop Consultant handle negotiations and make recommendations to the Selectboard. So moved.
- The Assessors Assistant search brought forth two potential candidates. Neither have experience as an Assessor, one has little experience in completing field surveys and compiling data. The application period remains open. The Assessors work closely with the assistant and know what qualifications are most needed. On a motion and second, voted to move review and interviews to the Board of Assessors to make their recommendation to the Selectboard.
- Council On Aging search brought forth 5 candidates. The last search for a coordinator was screened by a committee. On a motion and second, voted to establish a Search Committee for a Council On Aging Coordinator consisting of Julia Lennen, Louise Jasionkowski, Cheryl Provost, and Maureen Dempsey to review applications and make recommendations for interviews to the Selectboard.
- Correspondence was reviewed:
  - Board of Assessors request to Planning Board for confirmation of status of a lot for consideration of abatement. Pat Coffey, Planning Board, explained the discrepancy is the continuous 250 feet frontage x 50 feet set-back zoning bylaw and whether the lot qualifies as pre-existing, non-conforming. P Coffey had met with Dolores Thornhill, Assessors Assistant, to review it and has since completed more research. The Assessors research supports it is a building lot. At this time P Coffey is not prepared to give a conclusive response and has more research to do. He is unsure what happens if the Planning Board disagrees with the Assessors. D Thornhill had reviewed this with Phil earlier this day and is confident in their position. D Thornhill declined review by town counsel. Phil asked P Coffey if it will be helpful to have counsel review it. P Coffey wasn't sure that was necessary, unless the Planning Board and Assessors disagree.
  - Pioneer Valley Planning Commission awarded the Town of Westhampton for FY2019 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) in the amount of \$20,000.00 for assistance with understanding the impacts of large scale solar development along with other towns.
  - Ginny Curtis letter to DEP regarding campground septic failure
  - Attorney General's Office approved the Genarl Bylaw to adopt the "Stretch Code" voted at town meeting on October 29, 2018.
  - MassDOT approved FY20 Chapter 90 funds in the amount of \$185,859.00
  - Planning Board will hold a public hearing for the Hathaway large scale solar facility application on at 6:30 on April 2.
  - Mass. Municipal Interlocal Insurance Assoc.
    - 1)Dividend credit of \$582.00
    - 2)Participation credits earned \$4,122.00
    - 3)Worker's Compensation audit adjustment credit \$1,793.00
    - 4)endorsement changes invoice (add: fire dept. Jeep Liberty; highway dept. Western Star dump truck and CAT loader/remove: highway dept. Sterling dump truck and John Deere loader) \$1,167.00
    - 5)FY20 increase no more than 2%
- Administrative Assistant updates, Cheryl Provost reported:
  - attended the Hampshire Municipal Advisory Committee meeting at Westhampton Town Hall

February 20

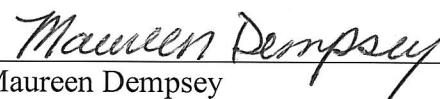
- attended CPR class held by Robert Miller at the Westhampton Public Library on February 26 and practiced with a defibrillator similar to the one located at the Town Hall
- been compiling and responding to applicants for COA Coordinator and Assessors Assistant
- providing support to Finance Committee for FY20 budget process
- working on town meeting articles
- assisting David Blakesley with Kings Highway Bridge project preparation
- most annual reports have been submitted by departments; working on town report
- Town Caucus April 8; notice posted to website March 7 and posted warrant will be added to notice
- away March 25-30

- Ginny Curtis spoke on behalf of TRIAD and requested a notice for “Drug Take Back Day” be posted to the website. So moved. TRIAD is working with the Westhampton Fire Department on the “Safe Entry Lock Program” installing lock boxes for seniors.
- Michael Kelsey
- Pat Coffey revisited the assessor letter. He will do more research and speak again to D Thornhill. There is a five year exemption he wants to clarify. Discussion ensued regarding counsel opinion. Art motioned to authorize the Board of Assessors or Planning Board to seek opinion from Town Counsel on an abatement and five year exemption of 200 feet frontage with 50 feet setback. Second by Maureen. Motion passed.
- The Selectboard voted by roll call, 3 yeas, 0 opposed, to enter into Executive Session at 8:53 p.m., as the Chair declared in Pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(7), to comply with the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §22(f): review and potential approval of executive session minutes of the Selectboard meeting of February 19, 2019. The open session will resume at the close of executive session.
- Returned to Open Session at 9:07 p.m.
- Next meeting: 7:00 p.m. April 1, 2019
- Documents submitted:
  - Expense Report through 03/07/2019
  - draft revised warrant article for 10 year contract for recycling processing through MassDEP competitive bid process
- Documents signed:
  - Buy Recycled memo
  - Memorandum of Understanding between Town of Westhampton and USA Hauling and Recycling for the recycling of bulky rigid plastics.
  - Municipal Solid Waste and Bulky Waste Hauling and Disposal Contract Modifications between the Town of Westhampton and Wickles Trucking.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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

  
Philip Dowling, Chair

  
Arthur Pichette

  
Maureen Dempsey