



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

Minutes of April 29, 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, Julia Lennen, Shirl Morrigan, and Barbara Cook

Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Warrants were signed for: Payroll: \$77,220.01
 Vendor: \$387,156.37 & \$1,549.25
 Annual Town Meeting/Annual Town Election

Minutes of April 8, 2019 were approved. Minutes of April 17 were approved, Phil abstained.

- Highway Dept., layout of King's Highway:
 - gravel roads in good shape, graded
 - pot holes have been patched with hot mix
 - street sweeper in town and will continue throughout the week and finish in May
 - plans for King's Highway Bridge on file with the Town Clerk. Abutters are not seeking compensation at this time. If that changes funds may be used from Chapter 90.
 - Tom Martin will speak to Article 31 of the Annual Town Meeting; David away.
 - started replacing the columns in the basement of the Town Hall during rainy days. It will be completed well before town meeting.
 - transplanted a tree from Cemetery Road to the center (across from Town Hall)
 - approximately a year ago residents from Laurel Hill Road had requested signs be installed as notice of horses/riders in the area. Signs were purchased by residents by David's recommendations for the department to install; five were installed. One sign was pulled up the next day.
- Election polling hours:

Town Clerk, Susan Bronstein recommended extending polling hours of the Annual Town Election to be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hours have been 8:00 a.m. to noon. Discussion ensued regarding cost vs. convenience for voters. Art motioned to set the polling hours of the 2019 Annual Town Election from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Second by Maureen. Motion passed by vote of 3-yay's, 0-nay's. Voted to approve and sign the warrant of the Annual Town Meeting/Election, as amended (polling hours).
- Council On Aging Coordinator search:

Current Coordinator, Julia Lennen, reported that the COA recommends to offer the position to Amy Landau. Maureen provided an update to Phil of the interview with Elizabeth Perkins held April 17. Maureen and Art agreed with the recommendation of the COA. On a motion and

second, voted to offer the position of COA Coordinator to Amy Landau.

- Barbara Cook requested a review of the Town Hall Use Policy to consider charging a rental fee. The board agreed to take up the consideration at the next meeting.
- Adjourned to Public hearing at 7:26 p.m.
- Returned to open session at 7:55 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Art Pichette, and Maureen Dempsey. Others present were Steve Holt, Ginny Curtis, and Shirl Morrigan.

- The motions for articles of the Annual Town Meeting were reviewed. Discussion ensued regarding a meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss final budget recommendations. The committee's final deliberations are April 30. It was agreed that the meeting should be held the week prior to town meeting and not the morning of. A meeting will be scheduled around availability of committee and board members.
- Public Safety Complex Review Committee updates:
Steve Holt reported the informational session was held April 22 at the Town Hall and approximately 40 people attended. A bon fire is scheduled for May 4 behind the library. Discussed presenting a condensed version of the power point of the safety complex proposal at town meeting. The power point can be posted to the town website.

Phil made a recommendation to purchase a projector. Discussion ensued regarding former discussion of purchasing a new screen. There may be funds in the budget for a projector, a screen is more expensive. Phil will get prices.

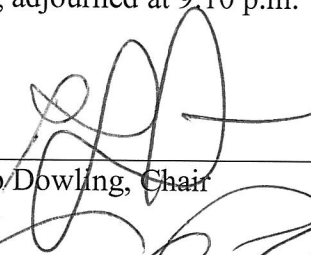
- Capital Planning:
Reviewed the schedule of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee set to print in the Annual Town Report. Phil developed a pie chart and graphs to compare capital expenditures with operation expenditures. Capital is approximately 5% of the budget.
- Zoning Bylaw Review Committee:
Art reported the committee is focused on marijuana bylaws being presented at town meeting. Also working on other revisions.
- Green Communities Celebration:
A "celebration" to welcome new Green Designation Communities of Worthington, Sandisfield, Wilbraham, and Westhampton will be held here on May 2. Jim Barry, Regional Coordinator of the Dept. of Energy Resources will be there with the Commissioner. Art will attend.
- HMAc update:
A Hampshire Regional Advisory Committee Meeting was held in Southampton on April 23. Maureen Dempsey, Cheryl Provost, Peter Montague (Finance Committee), and Peter Cleary (School Committee) attended. Topics discussed included regional school budget, local budgets and impacts, and regional services. Several teachers and supporters of the Hampshire Regional School District were there to speak in favor of the school budget. HRHS Asst. Business Admin.,

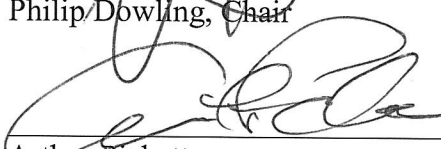
Bobbie Jones provided information. Each town described how the regional school budget effects their town and impacts funding of other services. Discussion was held regarding regional services. Southampton inquired if Westhampton has considered shared services for building inspections; more discussions to be held on that topic. Also discussed was regional health inspections. Westhampton, Williamsburg, Goshen, and Whatley are members of Foothills Health District. There was interest from other towns in the possibility of expansion of the district to add other towns. Additional staff would be required. Other regional services discussed were financial, emergency dispatch, fire, police. Lightly touched on shared administration of emergency/public safety. Goshen offered to host a meeting in the summer.

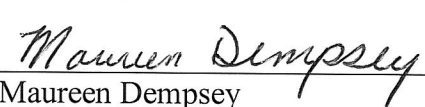
- Solar PILOT agreement:
Reviewed the recommendations from Roy Bishop on how to calculate the value of the land where the pending solar facility will be located. Reviewed the offer from CVE at \$12,500/Mw. Phil motioned to propose \$13,000/Mw to CVE, second by Maureen. Motion passed by vote of 3-yay's, 0-nay's. The proposal is to be sent to Roy Bishop to communicate with CVE.
- Notice of Intent:
Reviewed Notice of Intent to convert Chapter 61A Land owned by Kurt A. Meehan. The lot is the location of the proposed solar facility on Montague Road. Roll-back taxes will be calculated for payment and future taxes will be calculated at the full tax rate. Phil motioned to decline to exercise the option to purchase converted land owned by Kurt Meehan located at Montague Road as described in Assessor's Map 16, Lot 36. Second by Maureen. Motion passed by roll vote 3-yay's, 0-nay's.
- Assessors Assistant search update:
The Board of Assessors conducted an interview April 17. They voted to offer the position to David Zagorski and requested direction from the Selectboard as to which board will make the selection and hire. Voted that the Selectboard will accept recommendations from the Board of Assessors and take over the hiring process.
- Correspondence was reviewed:
-Hampshire Council of Governments has been seeking a solution to the unsustainable financial burden posed by the retirement and health care liabilities of former county employees. Its financial structure has not worked as originally envisioned and the organization has struggled to find sustainable revenue for most of its life. Working towards a solution they have created a plan and are working to achieve it:
(1) HCG's major assets include several energy-related businesses and some real estate. They are currently in discussions with appropriate partners regarding all these assets.
(2) they are seeking partners to take on HCG's successful public programs and the HCG employees who run them. These include the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP of the Pioneer Valley), the Hampshire-Franklin Tobacco Free Community Partnership and the Regional Purchasing Co-op.
(3) they plan to ultimately cease operations. This will include transferring responsibility for several former County roles. Most important is transferring Trusteeship of the Hampshire Group Insurance Trust (GIT) to the Trust's Insurance Advisory Committee.

- Administrative Assistant updates, Cheryl Provost reported:
 - town Report sent to printers. Proof will be reviewed Wednesday (May 1) and if all is well will be set to print.
 - the installation of the interior door at the Annex is complete. The invoice is included in the warrant.
 - David Blakesley had notified Art that the roof of the Annex had leaked during a rainstorm a couple weeks ago. Art had it repaired by Roberts Roofing for \$300.00.
- Discussion was held regarding a feasibility study of town offices completed around 1995. Phil and Art requested a copy of the report be located. Discussion ensued regarding spring cleaning in the office of the town hall.
- The Selectboard voted by roll call, 3 yeas, 0 opposed, to enter into Executive Session at 8:57 p.m., as the Chair declared that discussion in a public meeting may have detrimental effect on the town's litigating position with respect to Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(3): discussion of ongoing litigation, Cotton Tree v. Planning Board of Westhampton Appeals Court No. 17-P-1177. The board will return to open session following executive session.
- Adjourned Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 9:05 p.m.
- Discussion returned to the solar PILOT. Voted to send the terms and draft agreement to town counsel for review.
- Next meeting: 7:00 p.m. May 13, 2019. Town Meeting May 11.
- Documents submitted:
 - Expense Report through 04/18/2019
- Documents signed:
 - contract Signatory Authorization Form for Fire Chief Christopher Norris
- Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Approve: _____


Philip Dowling, Chair


Arthur Pichette


Maureen Dempsey