

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

Minutes of May 13, 2019

The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

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

Others present were Steve Holt, Walter Morley and Sarah Mulvehill from Board of Assessors, Dale & Alan Kasal, Barbara Cook, and Peter Stotz from the Country Journal.

Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Warrants were signed for:     Payroll: \$77,278.90  
   Vendor: \$65,760.89

Minutes of April 29, 2019 were approved.

- Council On Aging Coordinator search:  
Scheduled to meet with Amy Landau at 7:30 p.m., May 28 to conduct contract negotiations for the position of Council On Aging Coordinator.
- Dale Kasal reported she will be submitting a petition to seek funding to refinish the floor of the Town Hall. Discussion ensued regarding procedures for articles by petition. The article will be placed on the warrant of the next Special Town Meeting if a qualifying number of registered voters signed it. The Town Clerk will submit the certified petition to the Selectboard when completed. Additional discussion was held regarding a repair schedule of town buildings.
- The Selectboard voted by roll call, 3 yeas, 0 opposed, to enter into Executive Session at 6:37 p.m, in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and to conduct contract negotiations with David Zagorski, candidate for Assessors Assistant. The board will return to open session after the close of executive session.
- Adjourned Executive Session and returned to Open Session at 6:48 p.m.

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

Others present were Steve Holt, Bill Jablonski, Ginny Curtis, Wally Marek, and Peter Stotz from the Country Journal.

- Solar PILOT agreement:  
Reviewed the terms for a tax agreement between the Town of Westhampton and CVE North America for the proposed solar energy facility to be located on Montague. Annual payments will be \$ \$13,000/Mw of rate capacity (DC). Phil motioned to accept and sign the terms, second by Art. Motion passed by vote of 3-yea's, 0-nay's.

- Peter Cleary-Hampshire Regional School District updates:  
Peter provided updates on the state of the services provided by the school district and the teacher's negotiations. He has concerns that the five town representative, John Martin from Southampton, is negotiating for that town and may not be representing all the district towns. P Cleary came to seek support for the teachers from the Selectboard in the form of a letter to John Martin and copied to Carl Schlerman, Hampshire Regional School Committee. The negotiations can last until June but may end sooner. Phil supported P Cleary's request. Discussion ensued regarding timelines and context of letter. On a motion and second, voted to authorize Phil to review a letter to John Martin and cc'd to Carl Schlerman drafted by P Cleary, then send final version from the Selectboard.
- Revisions to Town Hall Use Policy:  
Maureen reported she reviewed the policy and it clearly states that any pre-existing authorized use will not be effected by the policy adopted in 2014. The self-defense class was established prior to adoption of the letter. Will take up considerations for revisions to the policy at another time.
- Board of Health appointment:  
Robbie Armenti submitted written interest in appointment to the Board of Health, at the recommendation of Tom Martin. Art motioned to appoint Robbie Armenti to the Board of Health to fill the vacancy for a term to end June 30, 2021. Second by Maureen. Motion passed 3-0.
- A written resignation from Joe Pipczynski was reviewed. He resigned from the Finance Committee, Public Safety Complex Committee, and Capital Planning Committee effective immediately. The board noted that they appreciate the time and effort Joe gave for his work on the committees.
- A written resignation from Chris Norris was reviewed. He resigned as Fire & EMS Chief, Fire Warden, and Emergency Management Director effective August 3, 2019. He cited his need for more time for personal endeavors and family as his reason for leaving.
- A Special Town Meeting will be needed to close FY19 business. Articles to be considered will be for the snow removal deficit, funding for installation of the fuel tank(s), and an article to seek funds to refinish the floor of the town hall (upon certification of petition). The meeting will be held at 7:15 p.m. prior to the reconvene of Annual Meeting on June 24.
- Public Safety Complex Review Committee updates:  
Steve Holt reported the committee will meet soon to regroup and prepare for election campaign.
- Capital Planning, no updates.
- Zoning Bylaw Review Committee:  
Art reported the committee has a meeting May 15.

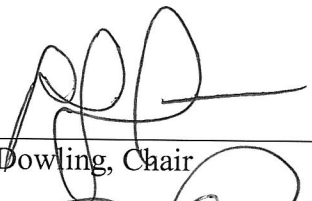
- Memorial Day:  
Maureen Dempsey will MC the ceremony May 27. Secured John Pardis as guest speaker, the elementary school provided details of their participation, and Bob Miller will provide music. A search for someone to hold the prayer and benediction is in process and will be confirmed by the end of the week. Steve Holt confirmed Boy Scout Troop 209 will participate.
- Town Meeting review:  
The Annual Town Meeting will reconvene June 24 at 7:30 p.m. Items still to be voted on are Inspectors Expenses, ambulance funding, and funding from Free Cash.
- Mark Wamsley, Kestrel Land Trust submitted and reviewed a proposal for a Conservation Restriction on land located west of Southampton Road in Westhampton, Massachusetts containing the entirety of one 5-acre parcel of land ("Premises"), which Premises is more particularly described as Parcel 3 on a plan recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 238, Plan 2. The Premises offers a dedicated, public access point and parking area for an existing network of recreational trails on an abutting 65-acre property owned by the Kestrel Land Trust, that have the potential to create connections into the wider community, including to Hampshire Regional High School, local farms, and several nearby equestrian facilities. Existing uses include hiking, trail running, horseback riding, Nordic skiing, and bird watching.

Art motioned to approve the foregoing Conservation Restriction from Valley Land Fund, Incorporated to the Town of Westhampton acting by and through its Conservation Commission in the public pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the General Laws of Massachusetts. Second by Maureen. Motion passed by roll vote 3-yay's, 0-nay's.

- Payroll update:  
The payroll of May 16 was the first one completed by Harper's Payroll Services. No reports of any problems.
- Ginny Curtis submitted her name for the position of Associate member to the Planning Board, so noted.
- Correspondence was reviewed:
  - Hampshire Council of Governments-seeking partners to continue services provided by Hampshire Power and Hampshire Purchasing
  - KPLaw update of new FCC rules regarding small wireless facilities (5G technology)
  - Small Bridge Working Group Input from Senator Hinds to be forwarded to Highway Superintendent David Blakesley
- Administrative Assistant updates, Cheryl Provost reported:
  - requested May 24 as a vacation day. So approved.
  - hosted the "celebration" to welcome new Green Designation Communities of Worthington, Sandisfield, Wilbraham, and Westhampton was held on May 2. Jim Barry, Regional Coordinator and Commissioner Judith Judson of the Dept. of Energy Resources were there. Art Pichette and Susan Bronstein also attended
  - working on appointment list over next couple of weeks

- Next meeting: 7:00 p.m. May 28, 2019. Annual Town Election, June 1, 2019.
- Documents submitted:
  - Expense Report through 05/02/2019
- Documents signed:
  - Terms of Solar PILOT agreement between the Town of Westhampton and CVE for the Kurt Meehan solar facility on Montague Road.
  - Conservation Restriction from Valley Land Fund, Incorporated
- Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Approve:

  
Philip Dowling, Chair  
Arthur Pichette  
Maureen Dempsey