



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

Minutes of August 19, 2019

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling and Maureen Dempsey.

Others present were Bill Jablonski, Dave White, Steve Holt, John Zimmerman, Dave Antosz, Ginny Curtis, Barbara Pellisier, Chris Brooks, Marilyn Witherell, Peter Spotts (Country Journal).

Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Warrant was approved by vote and signed for:

Payroll: \$76,772.45

Vendor: \$82,170.81

- Heating Fuel quotes for the winter 2019-2020 were reviewed, results were:

Fuel Services Fixed Price \$2.248 per gal. /Over Rack \$0.25per gal. Service \$99.00 per regular business hours/\$148.50 per hour after regular hours, weekends, and holidays.

Mirabito Fixed Price \$2.34 per gal. /Over Rack \$0.30 per gal. Service \$95.00 per hour during regular hours and \$130.00 per after hours.

Whiting Fuels Fixed Price \$2.39 per gal. /Over Rack (no offer), with a service rate of \$95.00 per hour during regular hours and \$135.00 per hour for after hours, plus materials.

O'Connell Oil Associates Fixed Price \$2.449 per gal. /Over Rack \$0.37 per gal. Service contract starting at \$249.95/ heating service \$90.00 per hr. /plumbing service \$110.00 per regular business hour/time and one half additional per hour for after business hours, weekends, and holidays.

Last year locked in price \$2.58 per gal.

Phil motioned to award Fuel Services with the heating fuel contract effective October 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020 at fixed price of \$2.248 per gallon. Second by Maureen. Motion passed by vote 2-yay, 0-nay.

- Highway Dept. updates with Foreman Bill Jablonski:
 - Phil reported that the Chapter 90 request for the elementary school parking lot was denied by the state. Similar projects had been funded in the past, however the state told David Blakesley there has been a change in projects that qualify for the funding. The project is estimated to cost \$15,000.00. David Blakesley recommends paying half the invoice from highway funds and to ask Principal Dean Bates if the other half can be paid from the school budget. Phil cautioned that it's early in the fiscal year to charge the project to accounts that don't include it. A Special Town

Meeting is scheduled for September 30 and an article could be included to seek funding for the project. Phil asked Bill what the deadline is for paving. Bill replied the plants close in November and it starts to get cold. The discussion is to be continued at the next meeting.

-Bill reported sections of roads (Kings Highway, Reservoir Road, and Chesterfield Road) were chip sealed last week.

-The Taplin invoice for the water pump that was replaced was reviewed. The invoice was divided five ways and letters drafted to the library, fire dept., church, and high school. Bill pointed out that the invoice should be divided four ways; the high school should not be included in the cost. Phil motioned to split the invoice four ways and to approve the notices with the recalculated amount. Second by Maureen. So voted.

- Fire Chief Search:

Dave White reported that the background check was completed and no disqualifying items were found. Cheryl reported a Cori was also completed with same result. Phil spoke of small town volunteerism and the importance of continuing the service of the volunteer fire dept. and having individuals step up to take the position of chief. Phil motioned to appoint David Antosz as Fire Chief effective immediately at \$13,100.00 annually, pro-rated. Second by Maureen. So voted 2-yay, 0-nay.

Phil asked D Antosz if he's interested in managing Emergency Services and taking the position of Emergency Management Director; they were not included as responsibilities of the Fire Chief position. D Antosz replied he is not interested in the positions at this time as he believes it's important he concentrate on learning the Fire Chief's job. He also made recommendation to keep the Emergency Management Director separate to oversee all emergency departments, then during emergencies the Fire Chief can focus on that department only leaving the Director to coordinate all emergency departments. He also noted that the salaries for the positions do not reflect the responsibilities of the jobs and in order to have qualified people step into the position the salaries should be reviewed. Steve Holt reported during his tenure as interim Fire Chief he has been researching the structure of emergency services and agrees with D Antosz. Phil stated an interim needs to be appointed, and suggested Steve. John Zimmerman reported that the state requires training and four members of the fire department have been certified; Chris Norris, Steve McGrath, Brian Duggan, and himself. Steve Holt has been attending trainings. B Duggan moved away and C Norris resigned. Steve Holt stated he is willing to take the EMD position as interim. Phil motioned to appoint S. Holt as interim Emergency Management Director. Second by Maureen. So voted 2-yay, 0-nay.

Phil asked about someone for Emergency Services. D Antosz considered Mark Gould but hasn't spoken to him about it yet. It was determined it can wait until someone comes forward.

- Hampshire Power will no longer be providing the electricity supply service. Hampshire Power made arrangements to transfer the service in August to Sunwave Gas & Power Massachusetts, Inc. ("Sunwave") without interruption or change in price, terms, or conditions. The town must give consent to the transfer. Without consent the service is dropped and invoicing is directly from Eversource. Phil motioned to authorize Hampshire Power to transfer the electricity supply service for the Town of Westhampton to Sunwave Gas & Power Massachusetts, Inc. ("Sunwave") at the same price, terms, and conditions of electricity supply service set forth in the agreement with Hampshire Power. Ginny Curtis questioned why Sunrise was selected when they're a Canadian company. Phil replied if any issues develop with the company they'll be

addressed. Maureen made a second to the motion. Motion passed with 2-yay, 0-nay.

- **Public Safety Complex Review Committee updates:**
Steve Holt reported the documents are out for the designer RFQ. The committee will start reviewing submittals. Their next meeting is August 28.
- **Part time officer search:** Chief of Police Dave White reported the search is pending.
- **Town Clerk:**
Susan Bronstein's final date of service as Town Clerk is August 29. Applications are coming in and are under review. A temporary clerk needs to be appointed until a Town Clerk is appointed. Phil motioned to appoint Cheryl Provost as Temporary Town Clerk effective August 29 at the current rate of pay. Second by Maureen. Motion passed by vote 2-yay, 0-nay.
- **Town Meeting:**
Cheryl reported the warrant is drafted for September 30. Article to fund insurance savings payoff is not complete, research is needed to determine which employees are to be included and where the funds will come from. Article to balance the FY20 budget will be effected by the New Growth and local receipts final number. Vocational Education may provide a source of funding but the actual enrollment is unknown until the first day of school, next week. An article to fund the elementary school parking lot project is under consideration.
- **Elevator lift:**
Cheryl reported the state has not returned to shut down the elevator. Ginny Curtis spoke of information she researched related to state requirements of elevator inspections.
- **Enforcement letter-0 Main Road:**
Cheryl reported that Teri Anderson had been reviewing the order with counsel by email. Cheryl was unsure if the letter in the email was the final version to be signed and had asked Teri earlier by email without response as of meeting time. Discussion ensued regarding the questions Teri was to ask and how to proceed. The draft order was approved August 5 pending further review and revisions with counsel. The order can be signed once the final version is confirmed by Teri. The timeline given to W Parks and G Curtis to send the order was the end of September.
- **Correspondence was reviewed:**
 - Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Services, Certificate of Appointment of Animal Inspector for Donald Tryon, III
 - Community Compact Cabinet Grant Program of FY20 is open. No recommendations of applying at this time.
 - Comcast change in service; effective October 10, 2019, Turner Classic Movies will only be provided with the Sports Entertainment Package.
- **Administrative Assistant updates, Cheryl Provost:**
 - requested August 29 and 30 as vacation days. So approved.
 - requested authorization to attend Mass. Municipal Human Resources Conference in Northampton September 12 & 13. There is a fee but not attending DOR's "What's New In Legislation" in September or MMA Annual Meeting in January. So approved.
- Ginny Curtis inquired about a letter she submitted in July and why it was not a public record then

submitted additional copies to Phil and Maureen. Phil moved discussion to the next meeting.

- Discussion was held regarding a summons issued to the Planning Board (members M Scwallie, T Hathaway, R Turner, and R Dragon, Jr.) and Town Clerk (Patricia Cotton) by Patrick Melnik, Sr., attorney for Timothy Fondakowski. Phil reported M Schwallie received one and sent a copy to counsel. Cheryl reported she received a copy (naming Robert Turner) late in the afternoon. Copy to be sent to board for review.

Next meeting: 7:00 p.m. September 3, 2019.

- Documents submitted:
Ginny Curtis-correspondence from August 19
- Documents signed:
-Tag Sale Permit for Lee Trapp of 21 Lyman Road
- Meeting adjourned at 7:55p.m.

Approve:

Philip Dowling, Chair

Maureen Dempsey

Teri Anderson