



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

Minutes of May 30, 2018

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

Present were Jim Huston, Art Pichette and Phil Dowling. Also present were David Blakesley, Dave White, Mary Powers, Joan Powers, Shirl Morrigan, Wayne Parks. Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Warrants were signed for: Payroll: \$72,433.08
 Vendor: \$52,955.05

Minutes were approved as follows:

April 17 with 2 yeas, 1 abstained (Jim). April 30 with 2 yeas, 1 abstained (Phil). May 4 with 2 yeas, 1 abstained (Jim). May 12 with 3 yeas. May 14 with 2 yeas, 1 abstained (Art).

- Highway Department updates, David Blakesley reported:
 - he followed up on the discussion from April 17 regarding the forest cutting on Spruce Hill Road. A forestry plan is on file and concerned individuals should contact the State Forester.
 - gravel roads are graded and treated with calcium.
 - shimming roads.
 - replaced a couple catch basins, one on Stage Road. Three or four more remain to be done.
 - he and crew members have vacation time to use before June 30. Trying to schedule them in around projects. Up to one week can be carried forward.
 - there was an article in the Country Journal about the gas pumps at the Public Safety Complex. He expressed concern with the representation of the story. There has been a problem with a pump two years, off/on .
- He put off replacing the pumps because it was thought to be part of the safety complex project. With the uncertainty of the project he repaired it. When it gets hot the valve separates and spits fuel, but it's designed to spit vapors. A bypass was installed. Dave White confirmed it's fixed. David heard talk that the tanks are leaking and reported they were replaced in the 90's and there's nothing wrong with them. They were tested by Miller Petroleum and are good. David suggested there's no immediate need to change the tanks. He is in favor of moving them to the highway garage if the safety complex project moves forward and agrees with town meeting decision to put it off indefinitely. Art replied that something will be done with the complex and named options that are on the table. Discussed moving them for convenience for the highway department as they use the most fuel. David held that he agrees with moving the tanks to the highway garage but in conjunction with the safety complex project; whether this year or next year. Dave White was asked to weigh in; he offered no opinion. He added that his office is on top of the tanks and the vent pipe runs above it which also caused odors at times. He asked David if it was looked at; he replied no. Dave White noted that he hasn't smelled vapors in the past couple of days, which have been warm. He was asked to notify the Selectboard if any problems come up. Art noted that he would like to see the tanks moved before it becomes a problem as doing so will be easier

than waiting until it's "under the gun".

- The Selectboard voted by roll call, 2 yeas, 0 opposed, to enter into Executive Session at 6:46p.m., as the Chair declared that discussion in a public meeting may have detrimental effect on the town's litigating position with respect to the following litigation:

1)GEORGE AND LOUANNE ATHANASIOU V. TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON AND TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON SELECTBOARD; Supreme Judicial Court 15-P-0894

2)TIMOTHY FONDAKOWSKI V. COTTON TREE SERVICES, INC., DODGE MAPLE GROVE FARM, LLC V. PLANNING BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON, THROUGH ITS MEMBERS, MARK SCHWALLIE, THOMAS HATHAWAY, ROBERT DRAGON, JR., AND ROBERT TURNER AND PATRICIA COTTON, TOWN CLERK OF THE TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON;Massachusetts Appeals Court No. 2017-P-1177

3)AMBER KELLOGG AND MICHAEL BARBEAU V. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON, ET AL., Trial Court; Housing Court Dept. Western Div., Docket No. 18CV 0012,

- Closed executive session and returned to open session at 7:07 p.m.

Present were Jim Huston, Art Pichette and Phil Dowling. Also present were Mary Powers, Joan Powers, Shirl Morrigan, Wayne Parks. Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

- Northeast IT, Joel Mollison presented two quotes; one to convert the Town Hall and Annex IT systems to a server and another to convert the Town Hall and Annex to a cloud-based system. Information was provided to support the quotes. Joel explained the pros and cons of each process in more detail and answered questions. Discussion was based on startup cost and maintenance, data security, access, storage, and compatibility as well as sharing certain documents to avoid redundant work. He recommended the town begin by converting to an in-house server before considering migrating to a cloud-based system. The systems in the Town Hall and Annex, and possibly the Highway Department need to be integrated before either process is completed. Moving to an off-site cloud-based version is more challenging at this time. By converting to an in-house server it gives more options and control to the town. The life of a server is typically 5-6 years. At that time consideration could be made to move to a cloud-based system. It would be an easier process at that time as the systems would be integrated.
- Finance Committee Member, Mary Cleary reported that the Finance Committee is meeting on June 19 to prepare for Reconvene of Annual Town Meeting. The Selectboard and committee should meet to discuss the Northeast IT. The Selectboard recommended the Finance Committee meet with them on June 11.
- Special Town meeting articles:
Warrant articles were reviewed for the June 25 Special Town Meeting to close out FY18 business. Two articles seek a transfer from Free Cash; one for Snow Removal Deficit and the other for Counsel Fees. On a motion and second, voted to approve the articles as written. They'll be submitted to the Finance Committee for their recommendation.
- Memorial Day thank you letters to participants were approved and signed.

- Appointments:
Susan Bronstein submitted a written request to fill the position on the Planning Board vacated by Robert Turner. An appointment may be made to fill the position until the next town election (2019 pending no special elections). The position will be placed on the ballot of that election for the remaining years. There are currently 2 years of a three-year term remaining. On a motion and second, voted by roll call, 3 yeas-no opposed, to appoint Susan Bronstein to the Planning Board until June 1, 2019; or the next town election.
- Correspondence:
-Bobbie Jones Hampshire Regional High School Business Administrator, provided procurement files for the Elementary School Lighting Project.
-John Shaw requested a laptop be made available to the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee to reduce redundancy between the committee, Clerk and Administrative Assistant. Funds are available in the IT Support budget. Cheryl suggested the Conservation Commission upgrade to a better laptop and their current laptop be provided to the committee. On a motion and second, voted to approve a purchase of a laptop for the Conservation Commission and to make available their current laptop to the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee.
-John Shaw requested the Selectboard consider Robert Turner for re-appoint to the Zoning Bylaw Committee.
- Other business:
-Dave White attended training for marijuana use in public places. Sample articles for restriction on use of marijuana were provided to be adopted as a general bylaw. Dave will provide a sample article for the town.
-Dave White also came to seek authorization to purchase a speed sign in the amount of \$5,800.00. The funds are leftover in his current budget. A speed sign has been on the Capital Plan for years but repeatedly passed over for other items. On a motion and second, by roll call, voted 2-yeas, 1-nay to authorize Dave White to purchase a speed sign from the FY18 Police Department expense account.
-discussion ensued with Michael Kelsey regarding a complaint of the sounding of the fire truck horn at the camp ground over the weekend. The Police Department is handling the complaint.
-Mary Powers asked if she was being considered for appointment as a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate as she submitted in writing. The request was received and all FY19 appointments are under consideration.
- Administrative Assistant updates, Cheryl Provost reported:
-catching up on filing
-have three vacation days left to take
- The next Selectboard meetings will be 7:00 p.m. June 11 and 25. Annual Town Election is June 2. Reconvene of Annual Town Meeting is June 25.
- Documents submitted:
-Special Town meeting warrant articles
-sample "public use of marijuana" bylaw
-Special Permit Application 211
-requests for appointment

- Documents signed:
 - Special Town meeting warrant articles
 - Memorial Day “thank you’s”

Phil recognized Jim Huston’s years of service on the Selectboard. It will be his last meeting as he’s not running for re-election. Phil and Art thanked Jim for his work on the board.

Adjourned meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Approve: _____

James Huston, Chair

Philip Dowling

Arthur Pichette