



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

Minutes of June 15, 2020

The meeting convened at 7:40 p.m.

Present via zoom conference from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey, and Teri Anderson.

Others present via zoom conference were David Antosz (Fire Chief), Shelby Macri (Country Journal), Barbara Pelissier.

Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

Reviewed minutes of May 8 & 26, and June 1. On a motion and second approved minutes of June 1 by vote 3-yay, 0-nay. On a motion and second approved minutes of May 26 as amended by vote 3-yay, 0-nay.

- Town meeting logistics:
  - A quote for town meeting sound was reviewed. Teri motioned to approve the quote from Teletrad Sound to provide sound at town meeting for \$550.00, with additional rain date fee of \$120.00, and wind screens (up to 100) for \$2.00 each. Second by Maureen. So moved by vote of 3-yay, 0-nay.
  - Phil reported he took photos with his drone to layout seating, entrance, and parking. He will add check ins. Cheryl confirmed there will be two.
  - Maureen reported she uses roofing shingles on the ground as place markers for distancing. She can bring them to use for sign in line. So noted.
  - Phil reported blue painters tape will stick to the pavement. Seating sections can be outlined. So noted.
  - Board of Health will not allow sale of food.
  - Board of Health has some concerns with using portable toilets only; not sure everyone will be comfortable using them. They also want to ensure proper handwashing/sanitizing is available.
  - Phil reported arrangement is made with school to allow access to one bathroom. There is sink there and hand sanitizer will be available in portable toilets.
  - facial covering will be required at the meeting, however, no one will be turned away if not wearing one. Seating sections will be determined and will include an area for those without facial covering.
- Fire Dept. update, David Antosz reported:
  - the ambulance contract needs to be signed by Phil so it can be brought to Easthampton. Discussed the clause that states Easthampton will name Westhampton as additional insured. Easthampton discovered they will be charged by their insurance company to do so, therefor will adjust the cost to Westhampton accordingly if the clause remains. Discussion ensued regarding former ambulance agreements and insurance coverage for EMT's and paramedics. David Antosz reported that past agreements did not include the additional coverage. It's the only

portion of the agreement holding up approval. Westhampton town counsel had made recommendation to add the clause for additional coverage if an incident occurs within Westhampton, as standard language. Other revisions to the agreement made by counsel were accepted by Easthampton. Phil made recommendation to remove the clause that would require Easthampton to name Westhampton as additional insured.

Teri motioned to approve the agreement with the clause removed requiring Easthampton to add Westhampton as additional insured, and authorize Phil to sign on behalf of the Selectboard. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll vote, 3-yay, 0-nay.

- **Town Property & Energy Assessment Committee:**  
No one from committee present. Phil reported the Invitation For Bids for the replacement of town hall and annex roof are published and due no later than 7:00 p.m., July 6.
- **Re-opening:**  
Phil reported he spoke to Tax Collector, Anne Marie Knox, and she is comfortable with opening by appointment only. Discussed the use of acrylic shield barriers. At this time they have not been requested by departments. Cheryl reported she will be ordering free-standing tabletop models for elections that can also be used by departments. Agreed a schedule and plan for the annex, with input from department heads, needs to be completed before opening to the public.
- **Reviewed Phil's description of a Covid Coordinator with initial employment period through December 31. Position may extend beyond that term depending on the status of the pandemic. The position qualifies for funds through the CARES Grant. The coordinator will assist with grant applications, track grant funds and expenditures, and provide support to departments with tasks related to Covid actions. Workload is anticipated to be 10 hours weekly. Teri and Maureen agreed the position is a good idea. Phil further explained that the person in that position will be responsible for attending meetings of the Emergency Operations Center and making sure everything is in line; including reporting back to relevant boards, committees, or officials. Everyone is doing their best in the situation. Moving forward, this is going to become difficult to keep up with, especially for the Board of Health.**  
Phil motioned to post search for Covid Coordinator, up to 10 hours weekly at an hourly rate up to \$25.00. Second by Teri. Teri made not that hiring process for a temporary position can be abbreviated. So noted. Motion passed by vote 3-yay, 0-nay.
- **Tag sale permits:**  
Recommendations of Westhampton Board of Health were reviewed for allowing tag sales. Tag sale permits have been issued for the season in past years. Agreed that permits should be issued only for specific dates. Teri made suggestion to add regulations similar to a sample she provided from Greenfield. Maureen suggested providing handouts of guidelines and regulations to anyone requesting a tag sale permit. Maureen motioned to allow tag sales by application to the Selectboard, following guidelines of the Westhampton Board of Health, for specific dates and with receipt of regulations. Second by Teri. Motion passed by vote 3-yay, 0-nay.
- **Annual Town Meeting Warrant article motions review:**  
-Articles related to school budgets will be moved by school department. The Finance Committee will move on overall budget items under article 5.

-Article 11, elementary school parking lot. Phil reported funding may be available through a transfer between appropriations or grant. He will follow up on it.

-Article 13-15, chapter 90 funding, borrowing authorization for highway truck, generator for highway department. Phil will make motions.

-Article 17, shared building commissioner. Phil reported he provided an update by email and he will follow up with Southampton. Southampton posted a search for commissioner, does not include Westhampton services. In the meantime, Phil spoke to Tom Quinlan regarding an appointment as temporary/interim commissioner with a local under him and Tom expressed interest. Phil motioned to hire Thomas Quinlan as Temporary Building Commissioner through December 31, 2020, with a local to be appointed at a later date. Teri asked if Phil received a price from Tom. Phil replied no, preliminary discussion considered the current budget and a local inspector, he will get a price and report back at next meeting. Second by Maureen. So moved by vote 3-yay, 0-nay.

-Article 18, Assistant Town Clerk, to be tabled.

-Article 19, Planning/Consultant will be proposed as written.

- Correspondence:

Cheryl reported that notice was received from Representative Lindsay Sabadosa that a bill to further provide relief to municipalities was enacted by the Governor. Included in the Act is provisions to allow local annual elections to be conducted no later than August 1, 2020. Therefore, the Westhampton Annual Town Election scheduled for July 25, 2020 is allowed and submission of request for special legislation is unnecessary.

- The Selectboard voted by roll call, 3-yay, 0-nay, to enter into executive session at 9:17 p.m., pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(5), as the Chair declared that discussion in a public meeting may have detrimental effect on consideration to the filing of criminal complaints; and pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(1), as the Chair declared that discussion in a public meeting may have detrimental effect on the rights and reputation of an individual. Open session will resume at the close of executive session.

Closed executive session and returned to open session at 9:40 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsy, and Teri Anderson. Also present was Administrative Assistant Cheryl Provost taking minutes.

- A draft Anti-Racism Resolution of the Westhampton Selectboard was reviewed. Phil and Teri both submitted draft versions. Phil wants to make a change, not make a blank statement. His draft made not of recent conflict from an incident between George Floyd and Minneapolis Police Officers. Teri wants the resolution to be broader, rather than specifically to what happened in that incident because other black people have been killed by law enforcement officers while others by non-law enforcement officers. Discussion ensued regarding the approach of the message. Phil's version speaks more to people in positions of power and touches on violence in general. Teri's version speaks to all acts of violence, inclusive of law enforcement. She made note that it's about educating herself and the community. Phil believed his version covered that. Maureen is in agreeance with both versions. She has some thoughts of her own but did not have time to put it in writing. All agreed the statement should speak to the thoughts and goals of the full board. Maureen will send her ideas by email for others to review and this will be revisited

next meeting.

- Next meeting: 7:00 p.m., June 22, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held July 20, 2020

Philip Dowling, Chair  
Maureen Dempsey  
Teri Anderson