

The Selectboard
TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON
TOWN HALL
1 SOUTH ROAD
WESTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01027

MINUTES of the MEETING

Monday, January 17, 2023, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, January 17, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, 1 South Road, and via video-conference.¹

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Phil Dowling, Chair.

PRESENT: Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Bill Jablonski (Highway Superintendent); Mr. Douglas Finn;

PRESENT BY REMOTE CONFERENCE: Scott Johndrow;

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Highway (Bill Jablonski)

Mr. Jablonski advised members of recent work completed by the Highway Department.

Mr. Jablonski noted that the grader had broken down; parts were on order, and repairs would be completed.

He also noted that with the removal of the last of the fire department equipment, reorganization of the highway shop would be ongoing.

Health (Robby Armenti)

Not present. No report.

Public Safety Building (Phil Dowling)

Mr. Dowling noted that the certificate of occupancy had been received. Much work remains, but the building is started to be used. There were brief positive comments about the condition of the building, and the advantages it will offer to the town for many years to come.

NEW BUSINESS (may include items not reasonably anticipated at time of posting)

AMBULANCE SERVICES CONTRACT - Final Review and Approval

A draft ambulance services contract was reviewed for final approval. While the overall cost was noted as a significant increase, the service being provided for the bottom line cost was overwhelmingly viewed as a positive advantage to the Town.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve and sign.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

¹ Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, the meeting was conducted as a "hybrid" (in-person / remote) meeting. Members of the public could access the meeting in person, or connect via "zoom" teleconferencing via internet – Meeting ID#: 870 4390 0582.

POLE HEARING - Review Application and Set Date for Hearing

An application for permission to locate a pole, wires, conduit, anchors, guys and other wires, sustaining conduit, and other materials, to be used in common by Verizon New England d/b/a Eversource.

Mr. Finn was requested to schedule the public hearing for a future meeting.

BUDGET WORKSHEETS - First Review

Draft budgets were reviewed, with some discussion, including:

- Selectboard Expense
- IT Support
- Document Management System
- Counsel Fees
- Town Office Expense
- Town Hall & Annex Repairs
- Long Term Debt (Public Safety Construction)
- Insurance and Bonds

There was some discussion relative to expenses related to tree maintenance in the Town.

There was discussion about OPEB.

Mr. Finn noted that Finance Committee will begin looking at departmental budgets within the next week or so.

There was some discussion relative to the scheduling of school budgets.

There was some discussion in regard to COLA adjustments.

MEMBER CONCERNS or OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Johndrow noted new potential revenue sources, and that he may have some information to provide.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Administrative Updates (Finn)

Mr. Finn noted progress toward renewal of the cable franchise agreement. There was some discussion about potential contract negotiations.

Review Correspondence

A letter from Eversource noting rate changes for residential and commercial accounts were reviewed.

A letter from John Lees requesting electrification of all town buildings was reviewed.

There was brief discussion relative to what efforts could be made (and are being made) by towns and cities in the commonwealth in regard to reducing fossil fuel use for heating and cooking.

Review Payroll and A/P Warrants: W23-15, WP23-15

The payroll and A/P warrants were reviewed.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve Payroll Warrant WP23-15 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey
To approve Accounts Payable Warrant #W23-15 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Review / Approve Minutes - January 3, 2023

Mr. Finn noted that the Minutes of January 3, 2023 were not yet ready for review.

Set date for next meeting - January 30, 2023

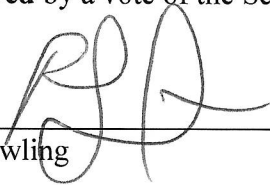
Adjourn

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Johndrow
To Adjourn.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (8:21 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn


Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on _____, 2023.



Phil Dowling



Maureen Dempsey



Scott Johndrow