



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

February 22, 2016

The meeting convened at 7:00PM.

Present were Art Pichette, Jim Huston, and Phil Dowling. Also present was Cheryl Provost, David Blakesley, Dave Moran, Charles Inman, Tom Cleary, and Mary Cleary.

Warrants were signed for: Payroll: \$64,508.64
 Vendor: \$106,948.05
 Presidential Primaries

Accepted minutes from February 8, 2016; Phil abstained.

- David Blakesley, Highway Superintendent update:
 - Reservoir Road speed limit sign request; last July Dave Moran requested the town to post speed limit signs along Reservoir Road. His complaint was that vehicles were traveling at a fast, unsafe rate of speed. In response, traffic count strips were placed on the road in August. The data confirmed that some traffic was traveling at excessive speeds. When limits are unposted they're 30 mph in densely populated areas, otherwise 40 mph. Dave Moran recently requested the status of posting signs. David Blakesley reviewed the procedures. The next step is for the Selectboard, Highway Department, and Police Department come to an agreement on what speed to propose to the state. Once submitted it goes to Mass. Highway, District 2 for a review. The request then goes to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The state determines the speed limit according to the 85 percentile traveling speed collected from the data. David reported that the average southbound speed was 42 mph and the average northbound speed was 49 mph. He recommended requesting a speed zone of 30 mph along Reservoir Road and through a short section of King's Highway; with exception to the school zone which is 20 mph. He explained that the road has blind corners, dips and curves making it unreasonable to increase the limit at any straightway. Dave Moran concurred with David's report and recommendation. Art replied that the board will take David's request under advisement and wait for a recommendation from Chief White.
 - continued to cut brush
 - worked a few small storms
 - will have the bucket loader for ten years as of 2017. Typically, every ten years they're traded in for a new one. At ten years they're still valuable and in demand and have a trade value of \$30-\$40 thousand. David reported he is not doing that this time. Instead, he spent \$780 doing welding repairs. Ongoing repairs will be required but he believes the loader can keep going. The cost of a new one is \$130-\$150 thousand, less trade (net \$90-\$120 thousand).
 - Representative Peter Kocot is trying to schedule a meeting at Mass. Highway, District 2 with Secretary Pollack and Secretary LePore to discuss the Northwest Road culvert project.

-the cold water line to the sink in the handicap bathroom burst and was discovered on Tuesday, Feb. 16. David shut the leaking line off; the toilet and hot water are working fine. The pipe burst at a section that's behind the wall. Since the wall needs to be cut to make the repair David suggested doing something to prevent it from happening again; such as bring the pipes up through the floor rather than through the wall. That would reduce exposure to the cold basement. Another suggestion was to cut a vent in the wall under the sink so the heat from the bathroom will reach the pipes. Art and David will look at it together during the week and decide the best plan.

- Tom Cleary and Mary Cleary from the Finance Committee were in to discuss the EMS and Fire Department FY17 budget proposal. Fire Chief, Chris Norris, had submitted the requests as a consolidated account, rather than two separate accounts as it has been. Tom stated that the Finance Committee believes the town should see what's happening with the EMS account, as a growing budget (referring to the new ambulance service). He also noted that the Fire Department budget has a history of the year-end figure not being the starting figure. Mary suggested keeping the two accounts separated will make it easier to track the increasing ambulance budget. Both Tom and Mary agreed that in the future it makes sense to combine the accounts, but this is not the time for it. They believed that the Selectboard approved it. Cheryl confirmed that Chief Norris reported to the Selectboard that he was doing this but took no action as it was informative. Art stated that they will discuss it more with Chief Norris.
- Adjourned to Special Town meeting at 7:26p.m.
- Reconvened at 7:45 p.m. Present were Art Pichette, Jim Huston, and Phil Dowling. Also present was Cheryl Provost.
- Community Compact Program- Cheryl signed up to join the program. Art attended a ceremonial signing Thursday, Feb. 18 in Northampton. Cheryl and Administrator's from other towns within the district have been corresponding with Kim Florek, IT Director at Hampshire Regional, towards applying for a grant through the program and researching the possibility of using Mass. Broadband Institute fiber network. Peter Cleary is interested in representing the town in the research within the Hampshire Regional School District. Voted to appoint Peter Cleary as a Representative for research of the Mass. Broadband Institute fiber network for the Town of Westhampton.
- Remote participation-Voted 3-0 to allow remote participation in accordance with the requirements of 940 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 29.10 and authorized public bodies to opt out of the practice altogether.
- Cheryl reported that a vote is required for the Annual Town Report dedication. Voted 3-0 to dedicate the 2015 Annual Report to Lyn Keating, Library director, retired. Cheryl submitted excerpts and highlights of 2015 meetings for resource in writing the Annual Selectboard report. She requested the final draft be prepared for review on March 21 and offered any additional assistance needed.
- Website-Reviewed a sample website disclaimer. Cheryl stated she can put in the Town of Westhampton where applicable. Agreed it was a straightforward, boiler plate disclaimer. Voted to approve the sample website disclaimer with the town name added. Website Committee is

meeting February 23 to review the site. The two hour training is scheduled for March 7 at 10:00 a.m. for interested officials. The site will go live the following week.

- Jim is interested in pursuing a separate zip code for the Town of Westhampton. It's been researched in the past without development. Art and Phil had no objections with Cheryl researching it.
- Art reported there have been inquiries regarding the town flag. The State House displays flags of Municipalities within the Commonwealth. Westhampton is one of the last to not have one on display. Mary Montague and Bob Miller worked on a design which was approved. Cheryl will discover what is available in the Flag Fund and look into vendors for cost.
- Cheryl reported that the Finance Committee will not be meeting on March 1 which was scheduled for the Selectboard budget discussion. The Finance Committee is available on March 22. Art has a scheduling conflict with that date and would like to participate. Cheryl suggested she can request the committee to come to the Selectboard meeting on March 7. Agreed to try to schedule that meeting.
- Art reported that Barbara Pelissier had breakthroughs in her research of the boundaries of North Road. More information is still needed.
- Reviewed correspondence:
 - Massachusetts Municipal Association is holding their Fall Legislative Breakfast. Cheryl plans attending the one in Lee on Friday.
 - Hampshire Council of Governments-County Selectboard Association is holding a workshop on March 17 for conducting a successful Town Meeting. Cheryl plans to attend
 - Hampshire Regional School Committee preliminary FY17 budget
 - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dept. of Telecommunications notice of hearing Wednesday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Boston
 - Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is starting the development process for the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement program. Also, holding a Regional Roundtable Luncheon on March 10; subject is regional accounting and finance services.
- Administrative Assistant, Cheryl Provost reported:
 - Art reported he completed the review and needs to make a final copy.
 - Cheryl requested changing hours and working Monday Feb. 29 to take March 1 off. Voted to approve the request.
 - Cheryl reported that Fuel Services came to service the boiler at the Town Hall on February 16 and a part was replaced.
 - Cheryl reported that her and Terry Donovan, Animal Control Officer are working together to coordinate a rabies clinic in Westhampton. Cheryl reached out to David Blakesley, Highway Superintendent; Chris Norris, Fire Chief; and Patty Cotton, Town Clerk for assistance with the planning.
- An application for a Tag Sale Permit and renewal of a Repair Shop Permit were submitted by Stillman Brooks. Voted 3-0 to approve both.
- Signed Tag Sale Permit and Repair Shop Permit for Stillman Brooks.

- Discussed the procedure for payment of the settlement to Levi Robbins. Cheryl will follow up with the insurance company and counsel.

Adjourned meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Approve: _____
Arthur Pichette, Chairman

James Huston, Clerk

Philip Dowling