



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

## Minutes of the Meeting - Westhampton Selectboard

December 20, 2021

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting on Monday, December 20, 2021, at 7 PM.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, attendance was by remote access only. Members of the public attended the meeting via “Zoom” conferencing. Meeting ID Code: 8704 390 0582. There was no in-person attendance by the public. The meeting was audio/video recorded for purposes of minutes only.

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

*Present: Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey, Teri Anderson*

*Also Present: Douglas Finn, Bill Jablonski, Susan Bronstein, Robbie Armenti, Shirl Morrigan*

### **Scheduled Business**

#### **Outlook Farm – Farmers Brewery and Winery Pouring License Renewal**

The board took up an application for renewal. Mr. Dowling noted that the board had previously approved the application, but in order to comply with ABCC regulations, the action had to be taken within certain timelines.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Anderson,

*To approve the application as presented; all previously imposed conditions remain in full force and effect.*

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:03 PM)

### **Department and Committee Updates**

#### **Highway Department**

Mr. Jablonski noted that crews remained busy with equipment repairs, preparation of equipment for snow removal, some storm cleanup. He noted that the trash compactor at the transfer station had a failed motor, and significant time had been spent conducting repairs, and returning it to service. He also noted that the compactor would likely come up for replacement within the next year or two, as it was 30+ years old, and close to a non-repairable status.

Mr. Jablonski also noted that an old, unusable bathroom had been dismantled, and would serve as additional storage space.

Mr. Jablonski also noted that FRCOG would be conducting bidding for road materials, and requested permission to sign all necessary paperwork.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Anderson,

*To grant signature authority to Mr. Jablonski for FRCOG road materials contracts and paperwork.*

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:03 PM)

#### Town Property & Energy Assessment Committee

Mr. Dowling noted that new members would be welcome on the Property and Assessment Committee.

#### Other Boards / Committees / Project Updates

##### *Municipal Vulnerability Plan – Teri Anderson*

Ms. Anderson noted that consultants continue to work on baseline data collection and mapping. Committee members continue to work on survey questions; survey will be issued towards the end of January.

Mr. Finn noted that a contact list would be provided to Ms. Anderson and Mr Dowling within a day or two.

##### *Public Safety Building Update – Phil Dowling*

Mr. Dowling noted that work continued; all underground work was largely completed. Building components are anticipated in early January, with the bulk of the construction to commence as soon as possible. Coordination with the state continues on securing funding from Mass DPH for the build-out of the second floor; letters to the DPH have emphasized the strong ‘regional responsibility’ component of the second floor “EOC” proposal.

##### *CARES Update – Susan Bronstein*

Ms. Bronstein noted the following expenditures to date:

Additional expenses through October: \$6,169 expended.

Anticipated to date: roughly \$20,000.

Unspent: \$65,452.

##### *ARPA Funds use and documentation*

Ms. Bronstein noted that it may be possible to use ARPA funding to compensate for overages on the Public Safety Complex project; ARPA reporting requirements mandate three separate parties to contribute, and recommended Mr. Finn, Mr. Dowling and herself.

After some discussion, the three agreed to meet between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

##### *Foothills Health District / Westhampton Board of Health – Robby Armenti*

Ms. Armenti noted that the number of Covid-19 cases had risen in the County, with an uptick of cases in the county. In Westhampton, two new cases were reported, but with an overall reduction in active cases in Westhampton over the past week. There have been significant issues with covid cases at the local schools.

Ms. Armenti noted concern and frustration regarding the availability of testing kits in the hilltowns; many larger cities are receiving distributions of testing kits from the state, but many smaller towns were not.

Ms. Armenti noted the various places that individuals can request Covid tests, or can

purchase test kits.

Ms. Armenti noted that the BoH are trying to setup some training courses on PFAS testing through the FRCOG. More information will be forthcoming.

Ms. Armenti also noted that re/ Foothills Health District was working on setting up their own personnel committee, and would advise as to their activities in relation to that.

Ms. Shirl Morrigan asked about specific numbers relative to Covid-19 infections. Ms. Armenti reported that the highest number recently had been 10 active infections, and that currently the town was at five. Most have been with unvaccinated individuals. No hospitalizations have been reported, and with only mild to moderate symptoms.

Ms. Anderson noted that local news reports list that 70% of new cases are “omicron” variant.

Ms. Armenti also noted that the proponent of a ‘green burial’ cemetery has discontinued their pursuit of same.

#### Maureen Dempsey: Report on ACO Applicant / Interview

Ms. Dempsey reported that she had met with the ACO applicant Sean Duma, and listed his experience, and level of interest. Ms. Dempsey also reported that Mr. Dumas’ references came back favorable. There was some discussion related to the requirements for the position relative to training and certification, the budget available for same, whether Mr. Dumas was aware of the compensation level, schedule of availability and other matters. After some deliberation, it was agreed that Ms. Dempsey would continue to research the stipend and expense budgets, and speak with Mr. Dumas regarding his expectations around training and reimbursement. Mr. Dumas to attend the next regular meeting for a final interview.

#### Review Correspondence

Mr. Finn noted no significant new correspondence.

#### Administrative Assistant

##### Discussion / Guidance: Town Hall Use Requests

Mr. Finn asked for direction in regard to new Town Hall use requests. The board noted that the Town Hall Use Policy addresses concerns related to commercial use, and ‘for profit’ use.

##### Discussion / Guidance: Remote / Hybrid / In Person meetings

Ms. Armenti noted that the board of health would be meeting on the second-Saturday in January to review town guidance in regard to Covid-19 and in-person or hybrid meetings.

Ms. Shirl Morrigan asked if windows could be open during meetings. Mr. Dowling noted that “hybrid” (in person and remote) meeting capacity would likely be in place by early January, and would allow residents to participate in public meetings remotely.

There was discussion about the logistics of hybrid meetings, the need to have meeting materials submitted and presented in digital format, and other considerations.

#### **Review of minutes of December 6, 2021**

Mr. Finn noted that the minutes were not ready for review. Postponed to January 4.

### **Review of warrants**

Warrants were reviewed. It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To approve the expense and payroll warrants as presented.*

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:44 PM)

### **Other items not reasonably anticipated at time of posting**

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To appoint Mr. Tom Cleary and Mr. Steve Holt to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.*

VOTED: ANDERSON: YES; DEMPSEY: YES; DOWLING: YES. (7:48 PM)

Mr. Dowling spoke about the need to carefully consider capital investments on a multi-year scale, and examine ways to ameliorate the impact of capital purchases on the overall budget for any given year.

### **Set next regular meeting date / time**

Mr. Dowling noted that the next meeting would be on Monday, January 3, 2022.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

*To Adjourn.*

WITHOUT OBJECTION

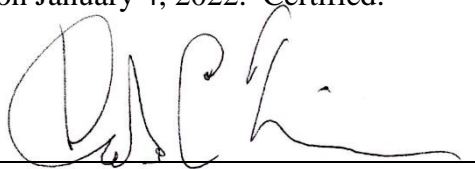
Adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Finn.

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Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting held on January 4, 2022. Certified:

  
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Douglas Finn, Administrative Assistant