



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

Minutes of June 21, 2021
Meeting held via ZOOM

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present from Selectboard were Phil Dowling (Chair), Maureen Dempsey, and Teri Anderson. Others present were Tom Martin and Robby Armenti (Board of Health), Bill Jablonski (Highway Superintendent), Ginny Curtis, Shelby Macri (Country Journal). Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

- Board of Health, Tom Martin reported:
 - no new cases in town over a month
 - Foothills Health District staffing in process, putting together structure; full time Director, full time Inspector, part time office staff, and a Public Health Nurse. Funding for the restructuring will be paid through a state grant for the next 3 years. Biggest challenge is finding a public health nurse.
 - recommends lifting town state of emergency
 - recommends mask indoors unless in office working alone, no other restrictions regarding gathering size or activities
 - described outdoor activities in area and town
 - spoke to Susan Bronstein regarding state response to appropriateness of purchasing items for the church food bank. The purchases meet state qualifications and requirements. Discussed activity and use of food bank.

Phil motioned to lift the state of emergency that went into effect March 2020. Second by Maureen. Teri recommended effective July 1 to allow transition. Discussion was held regarding effective date. Board of Health recommends the Selectboard require masks indoors unless employees are working alone. Teri recommended continuation of social distancing. Discussion ensued regarding capacity and enforcement of distancing. Discussed enforcement of mask wearing. Discussed state regulations.

Phil motioned to amend his motion as to lift the state of emergency set by the state March 2020, town buildings are mask required zone, effective June 28. Second by Maureen. Discussed enforcement of mask wearing. Phil suggested employees and officials can control visitors' actions through leading by example by wearing a mask. Phil recommended open windows and doors. Teri stated it should be okay for staff to ask people to wear a mask if they enter without one. Buildings should continue to have signs stating that masks are required. Motion moved and approved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Discussed remote access and office hours. Officers will be asked to provide hours and recommendations for remote access to be discussed at next meeting. Discussed non-business use of town hall, to be allowed upon lift of state of emergency. Discussed remote public meetings and hearings. Teri moved to adopt a policy to allow town boards and committees to continue to meet remotely in accordance with the Act Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures. Second by Phil. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Phil moved to amend the vote to lift the state of emergency set by the state March 2020, town buildings are mask required zone, effective immediately. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Robby requested posting to website masks are required. Teri suggested the motion as voted be posted.

- Highway department updates, Superintendent Bill Jablonski reported:
 - mowing sides of road
 - working at safety complex prepping site, removing blacktop, installed silt fence
 - tree removal company taking down trees along road, with approval from Tree Warden
 - assisted at cemetery
 - a lot of time spent at safety complex past two weeks, working in consultation with Mike Diggins
- Public Safety Complex Committee, Phil reported building was demolished. Highway department put up silt fences and is leveling site. In continued contact with the general contractor. Underground tanks and piping in foundation need to be installed before delivery of building, don't know date of delivery yet.

Bill reported he will be using some of his vacation time. He will respond to phone calls and email, forwarding as needed.

- Reviewed Carter Cleary Eagle Scout project to document history and progress of the public safety complex. Teri moved to approve the Eagle Scout Project proposed by Carter Cleary and send a letter of approval based on the recommendation of the Public Safety Complex Building Committee. Second by Phil. So moved by roll call vote:
 - Maureen-yes
 - Teri-yes
 - Phil-yes
- Property and Energy Assessment Committee, Phil reported on behalf of the committee. Final

stages of lighting project in progress. Funding for door contract approved by Finance Committee; Notice to Proceed sent to James Faulkner and contract in process. Town meeting approved funding for refinishing Town Hall Floor. The floor was last done by Labreque and he volunteered to do it at cost. Does not include court lines. Discussed removing the basketball hoops. Discussed timing of project.

- Phil moved to fix salaries and pay rates of officials and employees as recommended by Selectboard and approved at town meeting except library and Council On Aging Coordinator which is set at department recommendation and approved at town meeting. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:
Maureen-yes
Teri-yes
Phil-yes
- Phil reported he discussed the library invoice for reimbursement through CARES funding with the library and accountant. The Accountant rejected the reimbursement for excessive shipping costs. It's been resolved that payment from CARES for materials was approved and payment for shipping will be from other sources.
- Schedule all boards meeting. Agenda will be introduction of new members, use of Zoom, Anti-racism Action, Municipal Vulnerability Plan. Phil suggested holding it in September. So moved.
- Phil reported he attended the first of an online training series on Racial Equity hosted by Mass. Municipal Association. He provided an overview. Power Point is available with YouTube links. Two trainings remain in the series.
- American Recovery Act, Phil reported we are in line to receive \$479,000.00. He submitted the application last week. Phil and Susan Bronstein attended a seminar on the program. Waiting for clarity on qualifying projects.
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to be reviewed at future meeting.
- Reviewed list of appointed officials. Vacancies posted to website.
- Transportation Network Companies disbursements, Phil moved to hold 2020 TNC disbursement of \$3.70 for future use. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:
Teri-yes
Maureen-yes
Phil-yes
- Correspondence was reviewed:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals notice of public hearing 7:00 p.m., July 22 for Special Permit 224; Wesley Fortier and Jessie Fortier, DBA Rock Valley Heating & Air Conditioning; 1 Main Road
 - Police policies-review final draft next meeting
 - Municipal Vulnerability Program reports. Teri confirmed nothing else is required. Discussion

ensued regarding the final report.

Warrants were reviewed and approved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Payroll: \$89,326.10

Vendor: \$197,841.54

Reviewed activity of reconvene of Annual Town Meeting.

Reviewed posting of Administrative Assistant job. On MMA and website. To be published in Gazette.

Next meeting: 7:00 p.m., July 6, 2021

Adjourned meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held July 6, 2021.

Phil Dowling

Maureen Dempsey

Teri Anderson