



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

Minutes of the Meeting - Westhampton Selectboard

Monday, February 28, 2022, at 7 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 7 PM.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, the meeting was held as a "hybrid" (in person and remote access) meeting. Some members of the board and the public attended the meeting via "Zoom" conferencing. Meeting ID Code: 8704 390 0582. In-person attendance by the public was permitted. The meeting was audio/video recorded for purposes of minutes only.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Present:

In person: Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey.

By Remote Conferencing: Doug Finn (Town of Westhampton), Mary Lou Burgess, Chief David White (Town of Westhampton), Highway Superintendent Bill Jablonski (Town of Westhampton), Shelby Macri (Turley Publications), Susan Bronstein, Teri Anderson, Roberta Armenti

License Renewals

A request was received from Mr. Stillman Brooks, 15 Chesterfield Road, for a renewal of a retail license. It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Anderson

To approve the request as presented.

VOTE DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES (7:03 PM)

Review / Approve HRMC Contract

A request was received from the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative to request approval of a contract with MassDEP for services, to take effect on 07/01/2022, and to authorize Mr. Dowling to sign. It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Anderson

To approve the contract, and authorize Mr. Dowling to endorse.

VOTE DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES (7:04 PM)

Department and Committee Updates

Highway (Bill Jablonski)

Mr. Jablonski noted ongoing tasks: snow plowing was ongoing; some work on the break room; moving of chairs at Town Hall; repairs to one vehicle (brakes); some patching of potholes; general ice removal around town as needed.

Mr. Jablonski noted that the Northwest Road bridge has raised concerns with MassDOT; some cribbing of the support structure was completed last week; bridge will need to go to a single-lane bridge; engineering services are being sought, and work will proceed on a

timely basis; engineering and repairs to be paid for with Ch. 90 funding.

It was noted that the highway truck had been put out to bid. Bids will be received until 2 PM on March 14.

Mr. Jablonski noted that bids were still being sought for the Transfer Station Compactor.

Health (Robby Armenti)

Ms. Armenti noted that there are only two current Covid infection cases reported in Westhampton. Ms. Armenti noted that the Westhampton Elementary School agreed to reduce mask usage (optional in most cases) as of March 21. The removal of restrictions on mandatory mask usage on school buses has yet to be determined.

Public Safety Building (Phil Dowling)

Mr. Dowling reported that work is ongoing: Framing continues; all framing materials are on site. Next steps will be metal roofing and siding. Weather has been somewhat of a factor.

MVP (Teri Anderson)

The Open space plan community survey is out, and the public are encouraged to participate. The Master Plan community survey is due out in March. The groups are trying to get the greatest participation on surveys; however, some in the community have not heard of the project. A postcard mailing is proposed; funding for the mailing is being determined – a request for ARPA funding for this purpose may be forthcoming. Mr. Finn will look into whether funds are available in the Selectmen's budget.

Old Business

Ongoing discussion / deliberation on possible ARPA funded projects

There was discussion in regard to a proposed purchase of a new police vehicle; Chief David White spoke about the various options, but recommended the purchase of an F150 "interceptor" vehicle. The vehicle and upfitting would likely be purchased through the Greater Boston Police Council.

After some discussion as to options regarding funding, it was MOVED by Anderson, SECONDED by Dempsey

To commit up to \$65,000 for the purchase and upfitting of an F150 "Interceptor" vehicle for police department use, and to propose funding the vehicle through an appropriation of free cash at Town Meeting.

VOTE DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES (7:29 PM)

Chief White asked as to what date the funds would be available, and a preferred date of delivery. After brief discussion, delivery should occur no earlier than late May, 2022.

New Business

Mr. Finn presented a request for approval of a multi-year contract with the Mass Executive Office of Elder Affairs; Term of the contract will be through June 30, 2032, with the possibility of a ten-year extension. It was noted that the contract is for services to be provided by the state, and no local appropriation would be necessary.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve the contract as presented, and to authorize Mr. Dowling to endorse.

VOTE DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES (7:33 PM)

News / Correspondence

A letter from Comcast (626 letter) was reviewed. Mr. Finn noted that the letter was the first step in contract renewal negotiations; he would conduct research to determine what options were available for the town.

The board considered a request from the MMA for lobbying support for increases in various state funding. The board agreed that Mr. Finn and Mr. Dowling would work on the letter draft, and present the final draft to board members to sign.

A letter and exhibit from Tom Martin, relative to the future of the Board of Health, were reviewed and considered. Mr. Dowling noted that he may have a potential new member for the Board of Health, and would pursue that option.

Review / Approve Minutes

The minutes of February 14, 2022, as amended by Ms. Anderson, were reviewed.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve as amended.

VOTE DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES (7:41 PM)

Review of warrants

Payroll and Expense Warrants were reviewed. It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Anderson

To approve and sign the warrants as presented.

VOTE DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES (7:41 PM)

Other items not reasonably anticipated at time of posting

Cemetery Superintendent Resignation:

The board reviewed a letter from Mr. Ed Thornton, resigning from the position of Cemetery Superintendent. The board also reviewed a letter from Mr. Karl Norris (Cemetery Commission), and a proposed description of the duties of Cemetery Superintendent.

There was some discussion relative to the job description as proposed, after which it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve the revised job description as presented.

VOTE DEMPSEY: YES; ANDERSON: YES; DOWLING: YES (7:45 PM)

Ms. Anderson requested that Mr. Finn adopt the approved job description to the format used by the Town. Mr. Dowling requested that Mr. Finn draft a letter of thanks to Superintendent Thornton.

Finance Committee Presentation, March 7:

The board discussed the budget presentation to the Finance Committee scheduled for March 7. Mr. Finn agreed to review and update all necessary budget sheets, and forward PDFs of same to Board Members for review.

The board generally agreed to increase the town's IT budget in order to allow for more hardware purchases (laptops, cameras, headphones, etc.). Ms. Anderson requested new webcams and/or headphones for immediate use if possible. Mr. Finn will review available funds and make purchases as possible.

Next meeting

Mr. Dowling reminded members that the Selectboard would be meeting with the Finance Committee on March 7. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7 PM

Adjourn

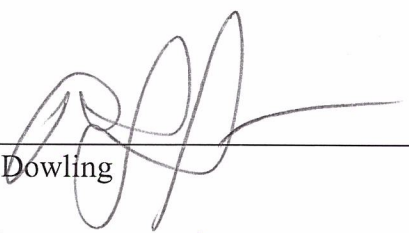
There being no further business, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey
To Adjourn.

WITHOUT OBJECTION

Adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn.

Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on March 14, 2022.



Phil Dowling



Maureen Dempsey



Teri Anderson