



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

The Westhampton Selectboard

Monday, June 6, 2022, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM.

PRESENT: Phil Dowling, Maureen Dempsey, Scott Johndrow.

ALSO PRESENT: Douglas Finn, Marilyn Witherell, Bill Jablonski, Jennifer Milikowsky

PRESENT by ZOOM: Robby Armenti.

Reorganization

Welcome new Selectboard member

Mr. Dowling welcomed Mr. Scott Johndrow to the board, who confirmed that he had been sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Select chair and clerk

After brief discussion, it was MOVED by Dempsey, SECONDED by Johndrow

To select Mr. Phil Dowling to serve as Chair of the Selectboard for a term to end on June 3, 2023 (Annual Town Election).

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:02 PM)

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Johndrow

To select Ms. Maureen Dempsey to serve as Clerk of the Selectboard for a term to end on June 3, 2023 (Annual Town Election).

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:03 PM)

Department and Committee Updates

Highway (Bill Jablonski)

Mr. Jablonski noted regular work done by the department, including some tree removal, placement of flags for Memorial Day, repairs on equipment, and other general work. Mr. Jablonski noted that some staff were taking vacation time, so less than a full crew was present on some days. He also noted that some repairs were sidelined, while waiting for replacement parts.

Mr. Jablonski noted recent negotiations with Caterpillar of Milton, Mass, related to the ongoing problems with the highway payloader. He presented a proposed solution: Milton Cat would forgive the outstanding \$14,000 repair bill, accept the existing loader as is on trade-in, and sell the town a new (2022) loader with three year / 3,000 hour warranty for \$50,000 in cash. While Mr. Jablonski noted that he would need to move funds from other

budgets to the Highway Equipment budget, but that he would likely have most of the \$50,000 available to make the purchase.

After some discussion as to the sense of the matter, and potential benefits to the town, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To authorize Mr. Jablonski to proceed to negotiate and finalize a deal for a new loader, and to prepare End Of Year Transfer requests as appropriate.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:20 PM)

Fuel Bid Contract

Mr. Jablonski noted that the fuel-bid contract had come in, with prices for fuel as follows:

- Diesel: \$4.835 per gallon.
- Gasoline: \$4.505 per gallon.
- Heating Oil: \$4.44 per gallon

After some discussion, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To authorize Mr. Jablonski to sign the contract for fuel on behalf of the Board.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:23 PM)

WRAP contract

Mr. Finn noted that the Winter Roads Assistance Program ("WRAP") Contract had been received, and would provide about \$140,000 in additional funding to the town for repairs of roads, bridges and culverts. It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To authorize Mr. Dowling to sign the contract on behalf of the Board.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:26 PM)

Shared Streets Contract

Mr. Finn noted that the town was also in receipt of the Shared Streets contract related to a grant which would provide a speed-monitoring sign to the town for use by the Police Department. It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To authorize Mr. Dowling to sign the contract on behalf of the Board.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:30 PM)

Mr. Jablonski also noted a history of issues with the Town's contracted water and air testing services, noting significant (12+ months) delays in the receipt of test results and reports, which have resulted in notations in reports from the DEP. Mr. Finn noted that the company contracted to do the work had noted that they would be 'catching up' within a day or two, and would keep the board apprised.

Health (Robby Armenti)

Ms. Armenti noted that the recently hired inspector for the Foothills Health District had given their notice, and that they were again looking for a qualified inspector. Ms. Armenti also noted that Mr. Tom Martin would be leaving the board at the end of the month. Mr. Finn noted that a qualified individual had already volunteered to serve on the Board of Health, and would be on the list of appointees at the next Selectboard meeting.

Public Safety Building (Phil Dowling)

Mr. Dowling provided an update related to the status of the public safety complex construction project. There was much discussion related to the details of the project, the current issues before the town and the PSB committee, and the historical reasons for the

project's delays and cost increases. Mr. Johndrow suggested that more public notice should be provided, with updates on project status made available to the Town. Mr. Dowling reminded members and the public that meetings of the public safety building committee are open to the public, but agreed that getting more information out to the residents of Town would be preferable. The next meeting of the PSB Committee would be Wednesday, June 8, at 6:30 PM, at Town Hall, and would be open to the public.

MVP (Teri Anderson)

Mr Finn noted that Ms. Anderson telephoned her regrets for not being able to make the meeting; however, it was noted that a public presentation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan would be presented at the library on June 22, at 7 PM.

Old Business

Notice of Intent to Sell – Harris Property, Reservoir Road

Mr. Finn noted that Kestrel Land Trust had expressed interest in being assigned the Right of First Refusal for the subject property, and would be preparing a proposal to the Conservation Commission at their next regular meeting on June 16.

New Business

Tag Sale Request – Shirley and Richard Pierce, 301 Main Street, June 18

After brief review, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey
To approve the tag sale permit as requested.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (8:14 PM)

Request for Appointment to Historical Commission

A request to be appointed to the Historical Commission was fielded. After discussion, it was MOVED by Dempsey, SECONDED by Dowling

To appoint Ms. Leah Stanton to the Westhampton Historical Commission

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (8:17 PM)

Review of Chapter 61 Affidavit – 246 Chesterfield Road

An affidavit, received from the buyer of the subject property, was reviewed. No action was taken, but the board agreed that the certification of continuance of the property as a Chapter land extinguished any Right of First Refusal that the Town might have, and considered the matter closed.

Review Correspondence / Discussion

The board reviewed a brief note from Police Chief David White, noting that Officer Hotz had declined to be reappointed next year.

Review / Approve Minutes

Minutes from May 9, May 17, May 23, 2022

After review, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve the minutes of May 17 as presented and amended.

VOTED: 2, 0, 1 (JOHNDROW) (8:18 PM)

After review, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve the minutes of May 9 as presented and amended.

VOTED: 2, 0, 1 (JOHNDROW) (8:20 PM)

The minutes of May 23 were reviewed. Mr. Finn noted that Ms. Anderson had reviewed the minutes and submitted corrections and changes, which were incorporated into the final revision of the minutes. Ms. Dempsey noted that she had not attended the meeting, and could not attest to the contents of the minutes. Mr. Finn noted that in cases such as this, the approval of the minutes constitutes a ministerial act in order to have a definitive record of the meeting.

After review, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve the minutes of May 23 as presented and amended.

VOTED: 2, 0, 1 (JOHNDROW) (8:23 PM)

Review of Payroll and A/P Warrants

A/P and Payroll warrants were reviewed. After brief discussion, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve the Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (8:30 PM)

Other items not reasonably anticipated at time of posting

Mr. Finn was reminded to send thank-you notes to the Memorial Day speakers, and offer the usual stipend for their participation.

Ms. Jennifer Milikowsky noted with concern the low turnout at the recent town election (240 votes cast out of 1,260 eligible voters), and suggested some methods to increase awareness. There was some discussion as to possible additional avenues to promote the election in the future, and increase public awareness of the election, and provide information about candidates. Mr. Finn reviewed the means by which public notice was given leading up to the election; There was some discussion as to past election turnouts, and possible ways to give better and more advance notice.

There was brief discussion about the use of email to communicate; concerns about electronic communication relative to open meeting law were discussed and considered.

Set date for next meeting: Monday, June 20, 2022 Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Mr Dowling noted that, due to the Juneteenth Holiday on Monday, June 20, the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 21 at 7 PM. Mr. Johndrow requested to attend through remote conferencing. Mr. Finn was requested to facilitate same.

Adjourn

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey
To adjourn.

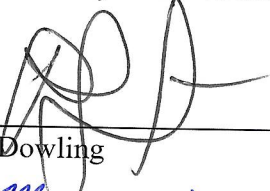
VOTED: 2, 0, 0. (08:42 PM)

Adjourned at 08:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Finn.

Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on June 21, 2022.



Phil Dowling



Maureen Dempsey



Scott Johndrow