



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

Minutes of December 21, 2020
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 Bill Jablonski (Highway Superintendent), Dave Antosz (Fire Chief), Robby Armenti (Board of Health), Susan Bronstein (Covid Coordinator), Wally Marek & Todd Alexander (local inspectors), Art Pichette (Town Property & Energy Committee), Shelby Macri (Country Journal). Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

- COVID-19 actions:
Board of Health, Robby Armenti reported:
 - 9 active cases in town
 - reviewed sports with Hampshire Regional High School and gave recommendations for Covid safety standards
 - Highway Department updates, Bill Jablonski reported:
 - plowed snow
 - chipping trees for maintenance
 - was down a couple guys for 4 days due to Covid tracing, fully staffed now
 - roof over fuel storage tanks is done
 - Fire Chief, Dave Antosz reported there was an accident at the Public Safety Complex. A volunteer firefighter backed the engine into the structure and damaged some masonry on a column and two overhead doors. The tracks need to be replaced or straightened. Dave had asked Wally Marek to provide an estimate for repairs. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to have a volunteer do mason work. Wally cautioned that a volunteer may not have the licenses required to obtain a building permit. Phil made recommendation to go through the process with the insurance company and procuring repairs. Cheryl reported an initial claim was filed with insurance. Dave will proceed through claim.
- Dave reported he has been in contact with Easthampton Fire Chief, Chris Norris. Northampton, Southampton, Easthampton, and Westhampton fire departments are pooling together for emergency service staff and volunteers to receive Covid-19 vaccinations.
- Public Safety Complex Building Committee update, Phil reported:
 - plans are on the street
 - agenda going out answering questions
 - big turnout at on site pre-construction visit

- filed sub-bids due January 7th
- general bids due January 14th
- discussing work to be completed by highway department

- Treasurer Search Committee, Maureen reported:
 - interviewed Ira Brezinsky
 - there were three initial applicants; one withdrew, another was not interviewed based on reports from two committee members.
 - the committee recommends hiring Ira Brezinsky based on experience and interview.

Phil asked Teri and Maureen if they want to interview Ira Brezinsky. Teri accepted. Cheryl noted an interview in an open meeting is appropriate. Scheduled an interview for Treasurer with Ira Brezinsky for 7:00 p.m., December 28.

Teri requested a formal process to transfer of Patty Cotton from Treasurer to Tax Collector. An official vote is needed. Phil replied that can be done on December 28th. Patty will need to submit an application.

- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness, Teri reported the core group held a meeting December 17th. Setting up focus groups with stakeholders. Shared draft documents to be completed. A series of workshops will be held for the stakeholders. The series will include three live sessions on three consecutive Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 discussing climate risks and adaptation related to:
 - Infrastructure Assets | Jan 21st
 - Community Resilience | Jan 28th
 - Natural Resources | Feb 4thCheryl will send out invites.
- Town Hall Roofing Project, Phil reported roof is done on both buildings (town hall & annex). A problem was found with the rubber roof over the front porch of the town hall, it's not in good shape. The contractor asked if we want the rubber roofing replaced and new gutters. Received a quote of \$3,850.00 to replace the rubber roof with thicker material. Art reported the quote includes roofing nearly twice the thickness of the existing rubber and recommended replacing it, the quote is a good price. Art received a quote of \$6,750.00 for the gutters. He offered to contact other contractors for pricing.
Phil motioned to approve a change order for installation of rubber roofing over the porch of the town hall for \$3,850.00. Second by Teri. So moved by roll vote:
Phil Dowling-aye
Maureen Dempsey-aye
Teri Anderson-aye
- Notice of Intent to sell land held under Chapter 61A owned by Philip and Laurie Norris located at South Road for \$115,000.00 was reviewed. Maureen explained the property has road frontage on South Road and Main Road that wraps the corner lot. The buyers plan is to build a house on the Main Road portion. There was question whether the buyer intended to leave any portion of the lot in Chapter Land. Phil motioned to not exercise Right of First Refusal. Second by Maureen.

Discussion opened. Teri does not like to see agricultural land come out of agricultural use. Discussed procedures to consider exercising right to purchase. All information was not provided by the seller. Phil withdrew his motion to postpone discussion until December 28 and ask the sellers and buyers to attend to answer questions.

- Transportation Network Companies disbursement, Municipal Assessment Reporting. The town received \$18.00 from the Department of Public Utilities for 2019 per-ride assessment funds. The amount of these funds was calculated based upon the number of Transportation Network Company (TNC) rides (e.g. Uber and Lyft) that originated within Westhampton boundaries in 2019. Municipalities must file an annual report of how the funds will be used. One option is to state the town will hold the funds for future projects. Phil motioned to save the funds for future projects. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll vote:

Phil Dowling-aye

Maureen Dempsey-aye

Teri Anderson-aye

- Class II & Class III License applications were reviewed. All applications are renewals and all paperwork must be submitted to receive license.

Phil motioned to approve Class II License renewals:

-Wayne Buzzee for Country Automotive located at 91A Southampton Road

-Robert H. and John A. Dunn dba Dunn's Auto Sales located at 37 Burt Road

-William McCloud dba Northwest Restoration located at 275 Northwest Road

-J & D Sales and Repairs located at 19 Perry Hill Road

Second by Maureen. So moved by roll vote:

Phil Dowling-aye

Maureen Dempsey-aye

Teri Anderson-aye

Phil motioned to approve the Class III License renewal to Richard Huntley for sales and repairs located at 165 Reservoir Road. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll vote:

Phil Dowling-aye

Maureen Dempsey-aye

Teri Anderson-aye

- Business License renewal for E & J Archery was reviewed. Phil motioned to approve the business license to Ed Fisher for E & J Archery located at 7 Kings Highway. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll vote:

Phil Dowling-aye

Maureen Dempsey-aye

Teri Anderson-aye

- Temporary Local Inspectors Wally Marek and Todd Alexander agreement ends December 31. Phil believes the two have been working out well and he has not received any complaints about them. Teri and Maureen concurred. Wally described it as a positive experience. Todd agreed and added that it's nice being involved and part of the process. Splitting the work with Wally is good. The two have been working towards obtaining required certifications which have been

extended to July 30, 2021. They are allowed to proceed as inspectors if working under a commissioner. Phil motioned to appoint Todd Alexander and Wally Marek as Local Inspector of Buildings through June 30, 2021. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll vote:

Phil Dowling-aye

Maureen Dempsey-aye

Teri Anderson-aye

- Structure of finance department will be reviewed at a future meeting.
- Anti-racism resolution, Teri is working on list. She reported that recently yard signs have been stolen; BLM and political signs. She discussed it with Chief White. Teri suggested adding a statement to resolution condemning the taking of signs, political in general. So noted.
- Animal Control Officer and Inspector of Animals search was reviewed. No interested persons. Discussed searching through various means of communications. Possible regional service.
- Correspondence was reviewed:
 - received budget proposal request from Finance Committee, due January 15
 - Easthampton building department inquiring of potential shared commissioner services. Reply to be sent of no interest at this time.
 - Tighe & Bond Release Notification and Permanent Solution Statement with No Conditions at 11 Loudville Road related to transformer oil release reported October 8, 2020.

Minutes of December 7, 2020 were reviewed and approved by roll vote 3-yeas, 0-nay.

Warrants were reviewed and approved by roll vote 3-yay, 0-nay for:

Payrolls: \$87,956.65

Vendor: \$128,191.71

Next meeting: 7:00 p.m., December 28, 2020.

Adjourned meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held January 4, 2021.

Phil Dowling

Maureen Dempsey

Teri Anderson