



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

Minutes of March 1, 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 Bill Jablonski (Highway Superintendent); David White (Chief of Police); Robby Armenti (Board of Health); John Shaw (Zoning Bylaw Review Committee). Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

- Covid-19 Action:
 - Board of Health, Robby Armenti reported:
 - updates on state vaccine program and appointments
 - has contact with vaccine ambassador whom can answer questions regarding vaccinations
 - Covid Coordinator, Susan Bronstein reported by email:

The CARES report is due by Friday, March 5. I have completed the report with as much information as I have received and a giant thank-you to Cheryl for that. Pending no new information submitting report tomorrow morning. Current standings:

We have received	\$144,675
Previously reported	\$52,793
Reporting now	\$6,960
Remaining to spend	\$84,922

Given the newly revised regulations we have 2021 to spend the remaining money.
Any and all questions, comments, info gratefully received.

- Highway department, Superintendent Bill Jablonski reported:
 - plowing snow, keeping roads clean
 - pushing back snow on dirt roads
 - patching dirt roads with stone
 - repairs on equipment from plowing
 - new pickup truck cab and chassis shipped from Kentucky on way to Marcotte Ford. Needs to be fitted to body. Should be ready in about one month.

Brief discussion was held regarding Culvert Grant Program.

- Police department, Chief Dave White reported information on police reform act. The proposed FY22 budget for the department as presented to Finance Committee does not include costs that

will be incurred from the act. Part-time police officers are required to return to the academy to have 240 hours of training. Three of five officers in department already have required training certificates. Of two remaining officers one is part-time in another municipality; training may be provided through them. Training for Sergeant Fisher is in budget. Dave described the training requirements and the additional costs. He estimated up to \$9600.00 cost for the department to be compliant. More information on requirements and deadlines is coming from the state. Discussed if costs should be added to FY22 budget request and the possibility for state funding to become available. Phil supported the proposal go to Finance Committee. More information should be available by town meeting to support budget action.

Dave added that under the reform the School Resource Officer position cannot continue in the same capacity as currently exists. He provided an overview of the current duties and how it's effected by the reform.

- Zoning Bylaw Review Committee, John Shaw reported:
 - new legislation passed related to zoning. One changes state requirements of super majority vote. Part of zoning will require only majority vote. He is attending a webinar to get more information. Another, passed by FEMA, requires updated zoning overlay floodplain district. Within two years must meet their minimum standards and definitions. John drafted a bylaw with areas needing completion with assistance from other officials. Floodplain maps require review and may need to be updated with revisions to floodplain overlay district. The committee cannot complete the mapping of the floodplain. Discussion ensued regarding FEMA floodplain maps.
 - getting close to completing proposed Zoning Bylaws. He asked if the draft will be sent to counsel for review prior to moving forward with public hearing procedures. Committee is looking at completion next year. Discussed use of planner to review the draft revised bylaws with the committee. Discussion ensued regarding the revisions made by the committee and how to present it to the public.
- Town Clerk, Cheryl Provost
 - requested official start date of new Town Clerk, Katrin Kaminsky be March 27 to follow payroll schedule. So moved.
 - Special town election, Cheryl reported early vote by mail is available for all voters in accordance with Massachusetts law and provided updates to current status of early votes.
- Special town meeting delayed from February 27 to March 6. Discussed notification methods of delay. Reviewed logistics of town meeting.
- Public Safety Complex Building Committee, Phil reported:
 - received two bid results
 - Demolition of existing public safety complex, low bid from Associated Building Wreckers, 352 Albany Street, Springfield, MA 01105 for \$48,870.00
 - HVAC-Phil explained this was a rebid and why, low bid from Boulanger's Plumbing & Heating, Inc., 373 Main Street, Easthampton, MA 01027 for \$476,600.00

The bids came in lower than budget, reducing the overall anticipated budget by \$66,000.00 for a total of \$4,260,000.00 to be requested at town meeting. Reviewed second floor plans of new building.

- Reviewed annual caucus schedule, April 12. Location and time to be determined.
- Discussed process for search of Administrative Assistant and forming screening committee.
- Reviewed revised Class II License for Dunn's Auto, to be issued solely to Robert Dunn. Phil motioned to approve Class II License for Dunn's Auto issued to Robert Dunn of 37 Burt Road.
- Second by Maureen. So moved by roll vote:
Phil-aye
Teri-aye
Maureen-aye
- Correspondence reviewed:
-Chuck Horn resignation from Council On Aging effective June 30, 2021
-Louise Jasinkowski will not accept reappointment to Council On Aging (term expires June 30, 2021).

Minutes of February 8, 16, 25, 2021 were reviewed and approved, with revision to February 8 (approval date), by roll vote 3-yeas, 0-nay.

Warrants were reviewed and approved by roll call vote:

Phil Dowling-aye

Maureen Dempsey-aye vendor; abstain payroll

Teri Anderson-aye

Payroll: \$84,366.72

Vendor: \$63,221.73

Phil reported the town is hiring Earthlight for lighting upgrades to the town hall, annex, library, and highway garage. They are a contractor through Eversource. The overall cost is \$55,710.00, with the town share being \$13,778.00. The remainder being covered by incentives from Eversource. Met with them and Mark Rabinsky from Green Communities. The intent was to pay the \$13,778.00 from Green Communities Grant funds. It was learned that any monies coming from the state must pay prevailing wage. If Eversource pays the entire amount prevailing wage is not required. The cost of labor would nearly double if prevailing wage is required. Another option is to continue to pay Eversource electric bills as currently exist, with net saving from upgrades applied to the \$13,778.00 until it is paid off. Phil supports the latter and looked for support to approve it. Discussion ensued regarding other uses of the Green Communities funds including work at the elementary school and town hall. Discussed effect on Eversource invoices and departmental budgets.

Motion by Phil that Eversource pay Earthlight the town share of \$13,778.00 for lighting upgrades at the town hall, annex, library, and highway garage and agree to continue to pay electric bills to Eversource based on current invoices until the \$13,778.00 is paid off. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:

Phil Dowling-aye

Maureen Dempsey-aye

Teri Anderson-aye

Reviewed Open Meeting Laws related to executive session and screening committees.
Discussion ensued regarding funding through FEMA and CARES.

Next meeting: 7:00 p.m. March 15 & 29, 2021.

Adjourned meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held March 30, 2021.

Phil Dowling
Maureen Dempsey
Teri Anderson