



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

Minutes of May 24, 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 Robby Armenti (Board of Health), Mark Bushee (Health Agent), Susan Bronstein (Covid Coordinator), Bill Jablonski (Highway Superintendent), Jeffrey Morse, Steve Holt, Art Clapp (Agricultural Commission), Ginny Curtis, Shelby Macri (Country Journal), Sue O'Rourke, Julia Lennen, Jess Williamson, Barbara Pelissier. Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

- Board of Health, Robby Armenti provided overview of Triple E (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) and opt-out of mosquito control spraying conducted by the state. The Westhampton Board of Health and Foothills Health District recommends the town approaches control with education and outreach. Aerial spray is detrimental to pollinators and not helpful to the control of mosquitoes, recommendation is use of alternate methods.

Phil opened to public comment.

Susan Bronstein, Susan O'Rourke, Barbara Pelissier, and Jess Williamson in favor of opt out.

Robby reported no history of West Nile Virus in Westhampton.

Reviewed the application for an Alternate Mosquito Management Plan Required for a Municipality to Opt Out of Spraying Conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board, as drafted by Health Agent Mark Bushee.

Teri moved to opt out of mosquito aerial spraying and to submit the Alternative Mosquito Management Plan as prepared by the Foothills Health District on behalf of the Town, with the change of the website address from Foothills Health District to Westhampton Website. Second by Maureen. Motion approved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Robby reported the board discussed re-opening of state effective May 28. June 15 no longer in state of emergency. Topics to discuss, re-opening of town offices and library. Spoke to Library Director, facemasks required until June 15 at which time it will be re-assessed. Board of Health requested Selectboard submit guidelines for town offices. Teri spoke in favor of continued mask wearing and distancing in public buildings. Robby will support Selectboard recommendations. Selectboard concurred they are seeking recommendations from Board of Health. Robby will

bring request to the next meeting of the Board of Health.

- Covid Coordinator, Susan Bronstein reported:
Reporting for first quarter is due one week from Friday.

Learned some things about American Recovery Plan Act. Phil also attended video conference. Guidelines available in print for review, approximately 150 pages. There is a lot of money and there is a long time to spend it. Funds being allocated by category. There are a couple major categories; 1- for something necessary related to Covid, 2- to address inequity. Maureen asked if relocating the food bank, currently at the church, qualifies for funding. Discussion ensued regarding potential funding and plans for the food bank. Amount of funding is unknown. There are also avenues for businesses effected to apply for funding.

- Highway department updates, Superintendent Bill Jablonski reported:
 - roads swept
 - working on dirt roads
 - repaired concrete steps in front of town hall
 - accepted bids for gas, diesel, and heating fuel through Franklin Regional Council of Government. There were increase, not as bad as expected
 - working on Franklin Regional Council of Government bids for highway materials
- Public Safety Complex Committee, Phil reported:
The asbestos in attic is removed and clear. Waiting for Eversource to disconnect service wire to building. There is a work order for it. Cheryl and Phil will make contact with Eversource to move it along.
- Bond schedule, Phil reported there was a conference call held May 21 with S & P Rating Agency, Lori Lombard (Unibank), Cheryl Provost, Joe Boudreau (Accountant), and Ira Brezinsky (Treasurer). Cheryl reported release of rating expected May 28. Date of sale expected June 7 for approval by Selectboard at their meeting that night. Return of sale due June 16. Dated bond expected June 18 (deposit into bank). Principle payments due December each year, interest payments due December and June each year.
- Agricultural Commission, Art Clapp reported the committee made a request to install signs along roadways to reinforce Westhampton as a Right To Farm Community. He gave descriptions of incidents with drivers while operating farm agricultural machinery on road. He has discussed signage placement with Bill Jablonski. Right To Farm Community signs are approximately \$45.00 a piece, could be placed on Safe Community and Green Community posts. Farm Machinery and Warning signs are \$38.50 each. No recommendation on time, as time and budget fits.
Phil, asked Bill if the Dept. Of Transportation has any interest on controlling such signs. Bill, no, only bridge weight limit, stop signs, and speed limit signs.
Bill reported there are some funds remaining in the highway budget that could purchase signs. Phil moved to approve highway department installing signs as described with a limit of \$1,500.00 from the highway budget. Discussed potential locations and sign style. Second by Maureen. Motion approved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

- Administrative Assistant Search Committee:
Job is posted in-house. Reviewed and approved ad for public posting.
- Westhampton Connects, Robby Armenti reported consists of Susan Bronstein, Susan O'Rourke, Julia Lennen, Barbara Pelissier, Jess Williamson. Others participate in different projects. Julia provided information on a walkability project assisted by Healthy Hampshire Initiative. Jess provided information on a walk-through art project at the library this summer. Seeking \$500.00 for the art project. The Selectboard supports the project. Discussion ensued regarding potential funding sources such as CARES, Cultural Council, and Historical Society. Susan Bronstein explained this event was created to draw everyone together after being isolated due to the pandemic. She believes a case could be made to fund this project. Phil motioned to appropriate \$500.00 from CARES Account to fund Westhampton Connects project at the library. Second by Teri. Motion approved by roll call vote:
Maureen-yes
Teri-yes
Phil-yes
- Outlook Farm License for Farmer/Winery On-site Consumption. The 2020 annual license expired. Brad and Jeff Morse submitted an application for 2021. They request hours expanded from initial license. The 2021 license requires a hearing as a late renewal/new application. A hearing is required for new applications. Reviewed the application and current hours/business with Jeff.
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to be reviewed at future meeting.
- Reviewed list of appointed officials.
- Memorial Day, Maureen reported her and Steve Holt have been working out details. Have a speaker. Police will take care of road closures. No schoolchildren will participate in ceremony. Board of Health gave approval for walk to cemetery and no masks.
- Correspondence was reviewed:
 - Zoning Board of Appeals notice of public hearing
 - Regional School District agenda, Maureen reported discussion of revising assessments to towns. A proposed revised assessment plan is under review, a meeting is scheduled for May 26 with a proposed all district agreement. Maureen recommends the Selectboard should stay informed but is unable to attend. Phil will try to attend.
 - Covid custodian Matthew Hurd resigned. Discussed if those services need to continue and if the regular custodian can take on more duties. Approved adding hours to custodian for additional duties funded under CARES.

Minutes of May 3, 2021 were reviewed. Phil moved to approve as written. Second by Teri. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Minutes of May 10, 2021 were reviewed. Phil moved to approve as written. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-abstain

Phil-yes

Teri moved to accept the bid from Greenfield Cooperative Bank due May 20, 2022 at interest rate of 0.380 for \$191,832.00 in principle, \$728.96 in interest for the state-issued note for the highway pickup truck & public safety complex design balance. Second by Phil. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Warrants were reviewed and approved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Payroll: \$86,897.27

Vendor: \$279,421.15

- Administrative Assistant Search; reviewed and approved ad for public posting.

Next meeting: 6:30 p.m., June 7, 2021

Adjourned meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held June 14, 2021.

Phil Dowling

Maureen Dempsey

Teri Anderson