



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

Minutes of May 10, 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 David Blakesley and Robby Armenti, (Board of Health), Mark Bushee (Health Agent), Susan Bronstein (Covid Coordinator), Bill Jablonski (highway Superintendent), Todd Alexander (Emergency Management Director & local inspector), Morley Cleary, Charlene Cross, Bill Tracy.

Minutes were taken by Cheryl Provost.

- Board of Health, Robby Armenti reported:
 - Covid case in 1 household
 - Foothills Health District Triple E (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) mosquito spraying opt-out info forwarded by email. Mark provided additional information. Deadline to submit is May 28. To be on agenda May 24 for public input and approval.
 - Foothills Health District awarded a Department of Public Health Excellence Grant for at least \$220,000.00 for 3 years with potential for an extension. May reduce member assessments. The district will be restructuring the organization. Funds are to expand regional services and fund a Public Health Nurse, Health Agent Director, Clerk, and possibly add a part-time health agent. Mark explained the grant program.
- Morley Cleary was recognized. She reported she received inquiries regarding status of holding the Fall Festival this year. Will need to discuss details with library staff. Bill Tracy asked the Board of Health and Selectboard if there is any reason not to hold it in October. Discussion ensued regarding the Governor lifting restrictions and safety protocol recommendations of the Center for Disease Control. David and Robby have no objection. Phil suggested Morley and Charlene meet with Board of Health to work out guidelines and safety protocol.

Maureen had questions related to Memorial Day activities for the Board of Health. They will place on agenda of their next meeting for review.

- Covid Coordinator, Susan Bronstein reported:
 - next reporting is due June 30
- Highway department updates, Superintendent Bill Jablonski reported:
 - working on grading and patching dirt roads; big storm last week wash outs required clean up
 - Mike went to Fort Devins last week for mower test (4G license); passed
 - lights were out on war memorial, changed bulbs

-set up and cleaned up town meeting
-Kathleen Casey, Hampshire Resource Management Coop, applied for a couple grants; Westhampton awarded \$3,000.00 for a shed to hold mercury light bulbs and similar items at the transfer station.
-Erica Subocz requested the highway department bring rocks for the flowerbed at annex. So noted.

Phil reported he looked at the mezzanine area to see what is needed for the breakroom in the garage in order to have pricing for town meeting. Todd Alexander reported he has blueprints from the architect. Working out details of design.

- Public Safety Complex Committee, Phil reported:
In progress. Have a contractor. Demolition 10 day delay coming to end.
- Pollinators Committee, Maureen reported the committee is getting together to work on educational material.
- Administrative Assistant Search Committee:
Reviewed job description. Teri moved to approve the amendments to Administrative Assistant job description as proposed by committee. So moved by roll call vote:
Maureen-yes
Teri-yes
Phil-yes
Position is to be posted in house then public.
- State House Note Phil moved to approve borrowing as presented by Unibank. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:
Maureen-yes
Teri-yes
Phil-yes
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Todd Alexander gave overview of plan. Last updates were 2017 and are overdue. Phil asked for more time to review it. Todd confirmed that there is not a deadline. To be reviewed for vote at next meeting.
- Audit update, Cheryl reported the audit report was on schedule for completion today. Phil reported there is a meeting scheduled with S&P Financial for May 21 with financial officers, Cheryl, and Laurie Lombard to review the bond application for construction of the public safety complex.
- Review of Annual Town Meeting action. Phil reviewed items held until reconvene. Phil motioned to have a Special Town Meeting scheduled before reconvene with an article to approve \$5,000.00 for two doors at town hall. The total quote for four doors is \$10,561.00. Funds exist for two of the doors in the maintenance account. Discussed alternately proposing a transfer between appropriations in conjunction with the Finance Committee. Phil withdrew motion then moved to transfer \$5,000.00 from town hall roof into town hall annex repairs account, in

accordance with Chapter 44:33b of the Massachusetts General Laws for doors at town hall.
Second by Teri. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

- Reviewed town meeting articles/proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Debt items held:
Line 97-design of public safety complex & highway department pickup
Line 98-safety complex construction bond
Line 99- interest is \$728.96
- Municipal Vulnerability Plan that is to be submitted to the state was just received from Amanda Kohn for final review. Approval at next meeting. Link to video of public listening session is to be posted to website.
- Memorial Day, Maureen reported Steve had it published in the Bell Tower. Still searching for a speaker.
- Correspondence was reviewed:
 - Barbara Pelissier
Dirt roads maintenance cost/paving dirt roads. Deferred to Bill.
Document management preservation. Cheryl offered to maintain scanned documents until reviewed.
 - Franklin Regional Transit Authority notice of public hearing for construction of new facility
 - Pioneer Valley Planning Commission progress report
 - Northeast IT update

Minutes of April 26, 2021 were reviewed. Phil moved to approve. Teri made recommendations for amendments then moved to approve minutes of April 26 with amendments as reviewed. Second by Maureen. So moved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Minutes of May 6, 2021 were reviewed and approved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-abstain

Phil-yes

Warrants were reviewed and approved by roll call vote:

Maureen-yes

Teri-yes

Phil-yes

Payroll: \$84,923.21

Vendor: \$309,406.75

Phil reported Kristen Smidy, Principal of Hampshire Regional High School applied for a MassDOT Shared Streets Grant. She requested a letter of support from Selectboard for the proposed sidewalk and outdoor meeting space expansion and improvement. Reviewed and approved Phil to submit letter.

Phil reported UMass report three weeks ago on the elementary school options to upgrade heat pump system and control systems. Eversource involved through Energy Resources. At request of Principal Bate working with Jamrod, the contractor familiar with current system. Looking at using clean energy funds for some of the upgrades. Some upgrades are things that could happen this summer, such as updating controls in the system. Longer term upgrading include component for heat pump and add air conditioning to the school. Other piece includes the town hall. This week, meeting with an insulation company for pricing for the town hall ceiling and walls. In addition, the perimeter walls of the elementary school.

Reviewed availability of CARES funds. Discussed purchase of new chairs for office.

Town meeting reconvene Saturday 9am June 19th.
Finance Committee June 7.

Next meeting: 7:00 p.m., May 24, 2021

Adjourned meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Approved by vote of the Selectboard at virtual meeting held May 24, 2021.

Phil Dowling
Maureen Dempsey
Teri Anderson