



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

MINUTES of the MEETING

Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, 1 South Road, and via video-conference.¹

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Phil Dowling, Chair.

PRESENT: Phil Dowling, Scott Johndrow, Maureen Dempsey

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Douglas Finn.

By Remote conferencing: Susan Bronstein, Mr. Zach Holt

PRESENTATION – Zach Holt "Power Options"

Mr. Zach Holt, from Power Options, presented information in regard to advice, programs and options that could provide savings related to electricity supplier.

Some materials were provided in advance.

There were a number of questions in regard to costs, contract duration, the impact of the Power Options services on the existing Rockwood ("Cow Power") arrangement, and the possibility of a Power Purchase Agreement, etc.

Mr. Finn was directed to work with Mr. Holt to further determine potential options for the town, with the goal of saving money on utility purchase costs.

Mr. Holt was thanked for his time.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION – John Shaw – Zoning Bylaw Review Committee

Mr. Shaw was not present; Mr. Finn noted that Mr. Shaw requested to postpone his presentation to March 27.

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Highway (Bill Jablonski)

Mr. Jablonski was not present; Mr. Finn noted that he was preparing for the storm anticipated to take place overnight and through Tuesday. No other report.

Health (Katch Bachelor)

Ms. Bachelor noted that the Foothills Health District met, and completed a phase-1

¹ Pursuant to Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2021, the meeting was conducted as a "hybrid" (in-person / remote) meeting. Members of the public could access the meeting in person, or connect via "zoom" teleconferencing via internet – Meeting ID#: 870 4390 0582.

capacity toolkit. That assessment suggest that the Foothills district is in dire money to support the FHD staffing and the state agrees. More news will be forthcoming.

Public Safety Building (Phil Dowling)

Mr. Dowling noted that work on the window screens was being pursued. The final change orders have been submitted and are being processed. A final settlement with the GC remains outstanding. Mr. Dowling reported on the final change order costs and credits; a radio transmitter, including transmit facility for the building, is still being specified, with a costs estimate to be forthcoming.

Remaining in retainage: \$50,000.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer / Financial Services

Mr. Finn noted that no proposal had been received by the single vendor the town had identified as a potential provider of services – Mass Muni Fin.

Ms. Dempsey noted that monthly meetings with the financial team should become a regular arrangement.

There was some discussion relative to various options relative to the position of treasurer, including combining the Treasurer and Collector position, adding a backup or assistant, or seeking other options.

NEW BUSINESS

SALARY BUDGET REVIEW

Proposed salary adjustments were reviewed. No action taken.

REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed. No action taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Dowling provided an update on the reimbursement for the Elementary School Furnace, pending a third-party inspection, and action by Eversource.

Mr. Dowling provided some history relative to the Green Communities processes.

Mr. Dowling also expressed an interest in forming an energy committee, in order to best determine how the Town can pursue local energy generation and work toward 'net zero.' He noted that the committee could also act as a "Maintenance and Energy" committee, helping to facilitate the maintenance of Town Assets.

ADMINISTRATIVE

First Review: Surplus Equipment Policy

A first draft of a Surplus Equipment policy was presented. Taken under advisement.

Second Review: WISP Policy

A second reading of a draft Information Security Policy was presented. No action requested, no action taken.

Review: Final Draft of 2022 Town Report

The Board reviewed a recent draft of the 2022 Town Report. There was discussion about the dedication of the Town Report. After deliberation, it was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey

To dedicate the 2022 Town Report to the 2020-2023 Boards of Health, including members Tom Martin, Robby Armenti, David Blakesley, Katch Bachelor, and Brianna Dupras, for their diligence and service to the Town as members of the Board of Health during the national and statewide State of Emergency caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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

Review: 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Town Meeting warrant was reviewed. No action taken. The schedule for warrant publication and posting was reviewed.

Review and Sign: FY2023 LCC Allocation Contract

The LCC allocation contract was reviewed.
It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Johndrow
To approve and sign.

3, 0, 0. (8:21 PM)

Review and Sign: CY2023 Caucus Warrant

The Warrant for the Town Caucus was reviewed and signed.

Review Payroll and A/P Warrants: W23-19, WP23-19

The AP and Payroll warrants were reviewed.
It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey
To approve Accounts Payable Warrant #W23-19 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey
To approve Payroll Warrant #W23-19 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Review / Approve Minutes – February 27, 2023

The minutes of February 27 2023 were reviewed.
It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Dempsey
To approve the Minutes of February 27, 2023, as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for March 27, 2023, 7 PM.

Adjourn

It was MOVED by Dowling, SECONDED by Johndrow
To Adjourn.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

The Board stood adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn

Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on March 27, 2023.

Phil Dowling


Maureen Dempsey


Scott Johndrow