



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

MINUTES of the MEETING

Monday, March 20, 2023, at 6:30 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Town Offices, 1 South Road, and via video-conference.¹

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 PM by Phil Dowling, Chair.

Called to order at 6:50 PM

Present: Scott, Maureen, Phil.

Also Present: Patty Cotton, Aimee Burnham, Doc Pruyne (Reporter, "The Reminder")

Treasurer / Collector discussion

The board reviewed a written proposal for services from Mass Munifin

Board generally agreed that the proposal doesn't constitute an actionable contract as it has too little specificity, and no terms of service; additionally, too many required responsibilities of the position would not be taken on, and the costs could be unreasonably high.

There was some discussion relative to the issues that left the accountant unable to proceed with reconciliation past September were resolved. The variances from August and September have been corrected; Ms. Cotton and Ms. Burnham noted that, while the town's bookkeeping isn't 'caught up', it is moving ahead.

Mr. Dowling noted that the town had only received one application for the position of Treasurer. Mr. Dowling also noted that the DOR report had recommended combining the Treasurer / Collector into a single position, and to provide an assistant.

Mr. Dowling asked Ms. Cotton if she would be interested in serving as Treasurer / Collector. Ms. Cotton replied, noting that she would consider, if the position were exempt (fixed salary).

Ms. Burnham noted that the demands of the position could require more than 40 hours at certain periods of time, and somewhat less at other times, supporting the idea of a salaried (exempt) position.

Mr. Dowling asked if Ms. Cotton had a salary in mind. No response given. Ms. Cotton expressed a concern about whether Town Meeting would support an increased salary level.

The discussion also addressed concerns relative to backup or assistant positions for the combined position.

Ms. Burnham suggested that, given the rates provided by Mass MuniFin, a figure of

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.

\$85,000 for a combined treasurer / collector position would not be unreasonable.
The board requested that Ms. Cotton provide a salary request to them as soon as possible.
(7:35 PM)

Review of IT Budget

The board reviewed the IT budget as proposed; Mr. Finn made a presentation, and offered explanation for the various costs.

After extensive discussion, the board agreed to support an IT budget of \$34,400.

The board talked briefly about the overall budget, as presented, and the anticipation of the Elementary School Budget.

The board reviewed an accounting relative to the Public Safety Building budget and expenses to date.

There was some discussion relative to the ongoing work, and outstanding work on the public safety building.

Mr. Dowling suggested that a building superintendent', or a building maintenance committee' be identified in order to see to the long-term building maintenance.

Adjourn

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

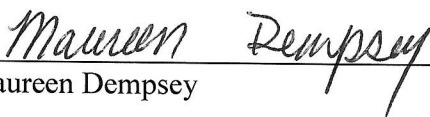
VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

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