



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

MINUTES of the MEETING

Monday, April 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, April 10, 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 7:01 PM by Maureen Dempsey, Chair pro temp.

Present: Scott Johndrow, Maureen Dempsey; Absent: Phil Dowling.

Also Present: Patrick Brock, Bill Jablonski, Mary Lou Burgess (by video conference)

PRESENTATION – Patrick Brock, Hampshire County Retirement Board

Mr. Patrick Brock, Chairman of the Hampshire County Retirement Board was present to make an extensive presentation and discussion about a request to support an additional COLA for Hampshire County retirees. Mr. Brock noted that, on March 8, 2023, the Hampshire County Retirement Board voted to approve Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 for the retirees of the Hampshire County Retirement System. This Act provides an increase of an additional 2% increase to the previously approved 3% COLA adjustment on our retirees' pension payments on their first \$13,000.00 of their pension payment retroactive to July 1, 2022, if approved by two-thirds of the towns in the retirement system by June, 2023. The approval is required of the chief executive officer as defined by MA General Laws Chapter 4, Section 7 (in Westhampton's case, the Select Board). Mr. Brock asked that the board support the effort.

After some discussion and deliberation, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dempsey,

To approve Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 - An Act Relative to Cost-of-Living Adjustments for Retirees, and further direct the Westhampton administration to notify the Hampshire County Retirement System in writing of this vote.

VOTED 2, 0, 0. (7:27 PM)

DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Highway (Bill Jablonski)

Mr. Jablonski apprised the board of recent work.

Declaration of surplus property:

Mr. Jablonski presented a list of town-owned equipment that he believed to be of no use to the town, and asked for a declaration of "surplus", and authorization to dispose of all items

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.

by auction.

After review, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dempsey

To declare the following items as surplus -

- 1999 F350 Pickup
- 1979 Compressor
- 2009 F350 Pickup
- 2001 New Holland tractor and Mower
- Kohler Generator
- Marathon Ramjet MSW Compactor and Container
- 1947 Willys Jeep

and to authorize the Superintendent and the Administrative Assistant to dispose of all items through a public bidding process via Municibid.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0. (7:31 PM)

It was noted that the proceeds from the Willys Jeep would be redirected to the Historic Commission, in accordance with the original intent of the donation.

Municipal Solid Waste Trucking – Contract Extension (req: vote to approve, and sign)

Mr. Jablonski presented a contract extension agreement for review. After deliberation, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve the recyclables and solid waste hauling contract as presented, and to authorize Ms. Dempsey to sign on behalf of the board.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0. (7:37 PM)

Perry Hill Road Extension – Change to ROW – draft plan (req: vote to approve)

Mr. Jablonski presented a draft right-of-way plan, prepared by Mass DOT, in preparation for the replacement of a bridge on Perry Hill Road Extension, and asked for a vote of the board to approve the draft plan as proposed.

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dempsey

That the preliminary right-of-way plan set entitled “Plan and Profile of Perry Hill Road Extension over North Branch Manhan River, Bridge No. W-27-028 (OTA)”, prepared by Garofalo & Associates, Providence, Rhode Island 02940, Revision #1 (“Town Layout Line Alteration at 35 Perry Hill Road Extension”), dated 3/24/2023, is satisfactory to the town, and MassDOT is encouraged to proceed with the planning process.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0. (7:43 PM)

Health (Katch Bachelor)

There was no report presented. Mr. Finn noted that covid-19 test kits were still available through the Westhampton public library, and the Foothills Health District.

Public Safety Building (Phil Dowling)

Ms. Dempsey noted an open house at the Public Safety Building on April 22. Mr. Finn noted that key staff had received an introduction to the access control system, which appears to be working well.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Finn quickly reviewed the current IT budget as proposed, including a proposal by Paragus IT.

NEW BUSINESS

May include items not anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting time.

Mr. Finn noted an outstanding request from Power Options, a non-profit energy purchasing consortium, to become a member. The board reviewed potential costs, and contract terms. After review, it was determined that, provided that the per-year cost

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dempsey

To accept the contract proposal, provided that the annual fee remains fixed for the duration of the contract, and to authorize Ms. Dempsey to sign on behalf of the board.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0. (8:00 PM)

REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Sean Cronin – re/ Schedule A

Correspondence reviewed. No action taken.

Letter from Hotz – re/ use of parking lot for High School Graduation. (req: vote to approve)

Request reviewed. Approved by acclamation.

Letter from Kaminsky – request for increased hours / pay for clerk

Request reviewed. After deliberation, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dempsey

To adjust the hours for the Town Clerk from "8 to 10 hours" to "12 hours" per week at the current per-hour rate (FY23: \$32.24); the stipend will continue to be subject to a COLA.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0. (8:10 PM)

There was discussion relative to the Cost of Living Adjustment for FY2024. The board agreed to keep the COLA for FY2024 at 3%.

There was discussion relative to

ADMINISTRATIVE

Ongoing Review: 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Finn noted that there were several nominations to the Finance Committee. There was some discussion relative to quorum requirements for meetings.

Mr. Finn also reviewed the warrant article proposing a revolving fund to capture building permit application and inspection fees.

Review and Sign: Payroll and A/P Warrants: W23-21, WP23-21

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dempsey

To approve the warrants as presented.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0. (8:19 PM)

Review and Sign: Minutes – March 27, 2023

After review, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Dempsey,

To approve the minutes as presented.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0. (8:24 PM)

Set date for next meeting – April 24, 2023

Adjourn

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

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

The Board stood adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn

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

Phil Dowling

Maureen Dempsey
Maureen Dempsey


Scott Johndrow