



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

MINUTES of the MEETING

Monday, January 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Tuesday

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, January 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, 1 South Road.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Present: Dempsey, Bronstein, Johndrow, others as noted.

License Renewals (if any)

The board considered requests for Class License renewals from Richard Huntley, and James and Daniel Meehan, d/b/a J & D Sales and Repair Inc.

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

To approve a Class III license for Richard Huntley as requested.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:04 PM)

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein

To approve a Class II license for James and Daniel Meehan as requested.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:04 PM)

Committee Reports

No reports heard.

Department Reports

Highway

Mr. Jablonski reported recent work completed by the department, including some tree cleanup, significant cleanup of drains and gutters after recent rains, repairs to equipment (backhoe and grader), support for the local holiday concerts, some work in the shop, and other regular work.

Mr. Jablonski also requested approval to allow him and Mr. Finn to review and execute necessary agreements relative to FRCOG bidding services.

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein

To authorize Mr. Bill Jablonski and Mr. Douglas Finn to execute all necessary agreements relative to highway materials and fuel bids through the FRCOG.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:15 PM)

Public Comment – Mr. Peter Montague

Mr. Montague expressed concerns about the work done by the Assessors office, and the need for certain records to be updated and made available online.

The board accepted the comments and concerns, and agreed to follow up with the Board of Assessors on the several matters central to the concerns.

Old Business

Administrative Assistant Job Description

Mr. Finn presented the adjusted job description for the Admin Assistant, and requested approval. After some discussion, it was MOVED by Bronstein SECONDED by Johndrow

To adopt the job description for Town Coordinator as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:30 PM)

New Business

No new business was raised.

Administrative

Appointment – Kelli Wainscott, ACO

Mr. Finn noted that, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 140, Section 151, that the board must make an annual appointment of an animal control officer (“ACO”) and report said appointment to Mass Department of Agricultural Resources.

Mr. Finn noted that Ms. Kelli Wainscott has agreed to continue in the role.

It was MOVED by Johndrow SECONDED by Bronstein

To reappoint Ms. Kelli Wainscott as Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector for the 2024 Calendar Year.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:32 PM)

Resignation – Bob Dragon, Historical Commission

A resignation from the Historical Commission was regretfully received from Mr. Bob Dragon.

The board authorized a letter to be written to Mr. Bob Dragon, expressing thanks for his years of service to the Historical Commission.

Request – Hilltown CDC – Request Support for CDBG Application

Mr. Finn noted that, in previous years, the Hilltown CDC, on behalf of the Town of Chesterfield is applying for a Community Development Block Grant. Anticipated activities are Housing Rehab and Public Social Services – HEN, HOPE, and Hilltown Food Pantry.

The Town of Westhampton has been asked to be included on the application.

It was MOVED by Bronstein, SECONDED by Johndrow

To authorize Ms. Dempsey to certify the Town’s participation in the CDBG application.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:35 PM)

Review Correspondence

No other correspondence was reviewed.

Review and Sign: Payroll and A/P Warrants: W24-14, WP24-14

After review, it was MOVED by Bronstein SECONDED by Johndrow

To approve A/P Warrant #W24-14 and Payroll Warrant #WP24-14 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:43 PM)

Review and Sign: Minutes from Previous Meetings

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

To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 18, 2023, and the executive session of December 18, 2023, as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:44 PM)

Green Communities Grant Update

Mr. Finn provided a brief update on the Green Communities grant, noting that after conversations with Ms. Jane Pfister, the town will not be eligible to participate in the FY24 round of Green Community Grants.

Mr. Finn also noted that the town has been approved from a Digital Equity Grant via MBI, and will be working with a company called VHB to conduct work in town to determine how broadband can be better deployed and expanded.

The board stood in recess at 7:47 PM

The board resumed at 8:08 PM

Fire Department

Chief David Antosz proposed that the fire department make use of a 2010 Ford Expedition, previously used by the Police (retired in 2023). He reported that the rocker panels have rust damage, preventing the vehicle from being inspected. However, necessary bodywork repairs could be made for about \$3,500.

The vehicle would serve to transport fire staff to training, events and emergencies, to provide for mutual aid to neighboring towns, to tow the light trailer, the Kubota trailer, and the air trailer. The vehicle would be able to be used in winter snow emergencies to close roads, etc.

The vehicle has about 59,000 miles on it, and in the estimate of the two service shops that have inspected, other than the body work, the vehicle is mechanically in very good shape for its age.

Chief Antosz explained the process by which the town might ‘inherit’ a vehicle from other towns or cities, state or federal agencies.

Mr. Johndrow expressed support, noting that it made fiscal and operational sense.

After some discussion, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein

To transfer a 2010 Ford Explorer from the Police Department to the Fire Department; and authorize all necessary repairs and upfits, and to appropriate funding from ARPA, not to exceed \$4,500, for the repairs, upfit and other work on the vehicle.

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

Set Date for Next Meetings

Upcoming meetings were scheduled for January 16, 2024, and January 29, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein
To adjourn.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (8:25 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn


Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on January 16, 202~~3~~⁴



Maureen Dempsey



Scott Johndrow



Susan Bronstein