



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

MINUTES of the MEETING

Tuesday, February 26, 2024, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Town Offices, 1 South Road.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Maureen Dempsey, Chair; Scott Johndrow, Susan Bronstein.

Others Present: Douglas Finn; others as noted.

General Business

Discussion – Formation of a “Westhampton 250th Committee” – Ms. Julia Lennen

Ms. Lennen engaged the board in discussion relative to a potential celebration of the Town’s Sesquicentennial. Ms. Lennen noted that in September, 2028, the town will celebrate 250 years since its incorporation, and that the time was right to start planning for a year-long schedule of programs, activities, town history, etc.

Ms. Lennen also suggested that the Town should begin to consider setting aside some monies to help fund the project.

Ms. Dempsey: Should Town Meeting set aside funds for the purpose of same? Ms. Lennen: Yes.

Ideas for various activities were briefly noted.

The board generally agreed to begin the process with a warrant article for funding to be added to the next Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Discussion: COA Salary and Operations

Present: Julia Lennen and Amy Landau

There was discussion relative to the COA salary as requested, as well as the operational budget.

There was also discussion about an increased request to the operational budget, for the purposes of funding a newsletter.

After deliberation, Ms. Dempsey noted that the additional funding likely should be presented in the form of a warrant article, and stated that she would support adding an article to the warrant, provided that the COA presents and explains the article to Town Meeting.

Contract Review: AED purchase through state grant (Todd Alexander)

Mr. Finn noted that the contract was related to a grant, written by Mr. Alexander and awarded to the town, for the purpose of purchasing a new automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. As the contract had already been signed by Mr. Alexander, no further action was needed by the board; Mr. Finn wanted the board to know that the grant had been awarded, and the contract signed.

Contract Review: Municipal Website Development through State Grant (Doug Finn)

Mr. Finn requested that the website working group was still in the process of considering multiple options, and requested no action on the contract. No action taken.

Department Reports

Highway

Mr. Jablonski noted the following recent work:

- Road treatment for ice and freezing rain, but minimal snow removal.
- Potholes have been patched, tree limbs have been cleaned up.
- The 2010 Expedition has been serviced and delivered to a local repair shop for bodywork.

Health

Ms. Katch Bachelor reported on the following recent work:

- The “nursing” program at the library has been successful, but may not be reaching all residents. A mailing is proposed. A “Destination Clinic” is also being considered.
- Covid Guidelines are in the process of being updated, and will be publicized when finalized.
- An opioid survey is online, and should be completed by as many folks in Town as possible.
- There was some discussion relative to the opioid funding, and possible practical uses.
- Ticks are on the rise. Tick puller will be provided for public distribution at the Town Hall and the Library.
- A reduction of revenues coming into Foothills Health District is likely due to a lower number of septic system installs and inspections.

Other Business

Administrative Update

Mr. Finn provided an update on recent correspondence, and the status of the Annual Town Report.

Review Correspondence

Correspondence was reviewed. No action requested, and no action taken.

Review and Sign: Payroll and A/P Warrants: W24-18, WP24-18

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

To approve and sign Payroll Warrant WP24-18 and A/P Warrant #W24-18 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:45 PM)

Review and Sign: Minutes from Previous Meetings

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

To approve and sign the minutes of February 12, 2024, as presented and amended.

VOTED: 3, 0, 1 (7:46 PM)

Set date for next meetings –

Upcoming meetings were noted as follows:

- Finance Committee: February 28 (Assessment, Financial Services)
- Next meetings: March 11, and March 25.

Executive Session – if needed or requested

It was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein

To enter executive session to discuss pending litigation, if the chair determines that an open session will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Town.

The Chair so declared.

VOTED: JOHNDROW: YES; BRONSTEIN: YES; DEMPSEY: YES.

The board entered into executive session at 7:47 PM.

(Executive session minutes: 1 page)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was MOVED by Johndrow, SECONDED by Bronstein
To exit executive session and immediately adjourn.


VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:59 PM)

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas C. Finn

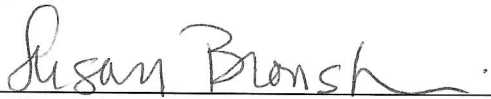
Approved by a vote of the Selectboard at a regular meeting, held on March 11, 2024.



Maureen Dempsey



Scott Johndrow



Susan Bronstein