



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

MINUTES of the MEETING

Monday, March 11, 2024, at 7:00 PM

The Westhampton Selectboard scheduled a regular meeting to be held on Monday, March 11, 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

Presentation / Discussion – Library Trustees Westhampton Library Garden Accessibility Plan

Mr. Finn noted that Ms. Andrea Pichette had called to request a postponement to a later date. No action taken.

Presentation / Vote – ARPA - Request Appropriation for Annex Alarm System Repairs

Mr. Finn presented a quote, and request for appropriation of ARPA funding for a replacement of the central alarm system controller at the Town Hall Annex. Mr. Finn reported that the alarm system has been malfunctioning for some time, throwing false alarms due to technical problems in the system. Further, the current system does not have a telephone connection to report alarm conditions to the monitoring service.

The upgraded system will include a dual-channel cellular dialer for remote monitoring, and will stop all false alarms. Further, it will add additional carbon-monoxide detection capacity, bringing the whole system up to code.

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

To approve the quote as presented, and to appropriate \$3,946 for the purchase and installation of a new Fire-Security combo panel at the Town Hall Annex.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:02 PM)

Review and approve issuance of an RFP for solar systems on town buildings.

Mr. Finn noted that he was gathering information relative to development of solar PV systems on the Town Hall and Public Safety Complex, and would work with the Master Plan Steering Committee on same. No objection.

Department Reports

Inspections

Fire Dept

Review of ISO Report

Mr. Finn noted the report had been distributed. No action taken.

Reappointment of Todd Alexander as Emergency Response Coordinator

After brief deliberation, it was MOVED by Bronstein, SECONDED by Johndrow

To reappoint Mr. Todd Alexander as Emergency Response Coordinator.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (7:21 PM)

Highway

Mr. Jablonski reported recent ongoing work:

- Some extensive tree cleanup on the 29th due to high winds.
- Tree limb trimming; cleanup of brush and branches from recent high wind.
- Dirt road repairs.
- Cemetery Equipment service
- Regular maintenance on snow removal equipment.

Some snow cleanup was needed on Sunday morning, March 10.

Veterans Agent Joe Henning

Mr. Henning reported on a particularly heated exchange with an oil vendor in an attempt to secure oil assistance for a Chapter 115 (Veterans Benefits) recipient that resulted in a written letter from the oil vendor to a neighboring community. Mr. Henning noted the details of the interaction, and asked for guidance.

After some discussion, it was determined that a quiet inquiry with the neighboring community might be appropriate.

Administrative Business

Appointment: Animal Inspector

Mr. Finn noted that Ms. Wainscott's appointment as Animal Inspector would be up as of March 30, and asked for a motion to reappoint.

After discussion, it was MOVED by Johndrow SECONDED by Bronstein

To reappoint Ms. Kelli Wainscott as Inspector of Animals for the Town of Westhampton for the statutory one-year term beginning on April 1, and ending on March 30, 2025.

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

Administrative Update

Mr. Finn presented a draft letter to be sent to Governor Healy and our State Reps regarding the proposed apportionment for Chapter 90 funding for FY2025.

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

To sign the letters, and send.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (7:49 PM)

Review: Expense Report to Feb. 28, 2024

Mr. Finn noted delivery of an expense report from Town Accountant.

Review Correspondence

No correspondence presented for review.

Review and Sign: Payroll and A/P Warrants: W24-19, WP24-19

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

To approve payroll Warrants WP24-18A and WP24-19, and A/P Warrant W24-19, exempting the payment to the Daily Hampshire Gazette from Fund #015171.700, "Con Comm Expenses".

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (8:00 PM)

Review and Sign: Minutes from Previous Meetings

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

To approve the minutes of February 26, 2024 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0 (8:03 PM)

Unanticipated Business

Ms. Dempsey announced her intent to not seek another term on the board.

Mr. Johndrow asked whether the hours of the town election could be expanded, which led to a review and discussion of the relevant bylaw.

Set date for next meetings

March 25, 2024, April 8, 2024 (by Zoom)

Executive Session

None requested.

ADJOURNMENT

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

To adjourn.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0. (8:19 PM)

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Finn

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

Maureen Dempsey

Maureen Dempsey

Scott Johndrow

Scott Johndrow

Susan Bronstein

Susan Bronstein