

**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
June 8, 2009  
Center School Offices  
7:00 p.m.**

Select Board Chair Alan Sanderson, Jr. called the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Whately to order on Monday, June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Paul Newlin and Jonathan Edwards, Town Administrator/Town Clerk Lynn Sibley, and Municipal Secretary Barbara Hancock. Minutes from the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as written. The vendor and payroll warrants were reviewed and signed.

**Town Administrator, Lynn Sibley: Budget Update** – The Finance Committee met recently and reviewed the budget and articles for the upcoming special town meeting. Lynn outlined the accounts expected to run into deficits (Water Dept., Group Health Insurance, Town Share of Medicare FICA, tax takings, and Winter Roads), which may be balanced somewhat with reserve fund transfers from other accounts that have surplus funds. The shortfall in the group health account was the result of an increase in new enrollments and FICA fell short due to miscalculations carried over from last year. The Finance Committee will attend the Selectmen’s July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to handle the interdepartmental transfers. **Annual Appointments** will be made at the June 30<sup>th</sup> Selectmen’s meeting. **Verizon** – The Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable continues to investigate the quality of Verizon’s telephone service in the surrounding rural communities. A public hearing for Franklin County customers has been scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Greenfield High to receive public comments. The investigation is the result of complaints from the Towns of Hancock, Rowe, Shutesbury, and Egremont regarding poor service quality. **Franklin County Selectmen’s Association** - The next quarterly meeting will be held at the Eagles in Buckland on June 18<sup>th</sup>. **Fighting Substance Abuse Workshop** – As part of the Communities that Care program, run by the FrCOG, a workshop focused on reducing liquor sales to minors will be held on June 22. **Memorial Day Thank You Letters** – The Board reviewed and signed letters thanking Carl Brooks for hanging the flags along Chestnut Plain Rd and Roland Kinsman and Jim Ross for repairing and painting the flagpole at Town Hall in time for the Memorial Day ceremonies. **Commendation from Senior Center** – Lynn read the commendation from the Frontier Senior Center praising volunteers that have participated at the Center over the past year. The Selectmen were among those recognized. **Energy Performance Contract Update** – Roland Butzke will attend the Selectmen’s June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting to review the preliminary energy audit and resolve the report’s errors.

**Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley: Town Elections** will be held tomorrow, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am-7pm at Town Hall. The Assessor’s position is still open. **Dog Licenses** – Late notices were sent to 42 dog owners.

**Highway Dept.** – Lynn updated the Board. **Haydenville Rd Bridge** has been postponed until October because a bridge in Amesbury required immediate emergency repairs. **Long Plain Rd** –The Selectmen will request authorization to negotiate drainage easements for the project at the June 30<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting. **STRAP** grant application process is ongoing. **Hatfield Grader Agreement** – Hatfield has decided not to purchase a new grader and is searching for a used one. Whately will have to rent one in the meantime, if necessary.

**Old Business**

**Gaffney Driveway** – The Selectmen reviewed and signed a letter responding to Robert Gaffney and Kay Klippel’s driveway concerns. The Board recommended the residents install a convex mirror, cut their banking back, and clear snow away from the end of the driveway. The highway department will install a stop sign at the end of Webber Rd at the Haydenville Rd intersection and will also keep snow from

accumulating at the intersection. While these efforts may help, extreme caution will still be required as the driveway is blind in nature.

### **New Business**

**Comments on Passenger Rail** – The Selectmen reviewed comments submitted by Lynn in support of exploring the expansion of commuter rail service through Whately. The Board felt it would result in an upgrade to the tracks, offer alternative transportation choices and aid economic development from Northampton to Greenfield.

**Park & Ride** – The plans for the Park & Ride project at the intersection of 5 & 10 and Route 116 in Whately were available at the meeting. The lot will utilize the stoplight at that intersection for an entrance/exit. There will be 54 parking spots and a bus stop shelter. The project has 25% of the design phase completed. It will likely be a year or two before the project is completed.

**Election Worker** – Lynn requested Randy Sibley be added as an election worker. The Board voted unanimously to appoint.

**Solar at Landfills** – The most recent FCSWMD executive director's report referred to a program that may make stimulus funds available through DOER for towns to install solar panels at closed landfills, which may work for Whately. The executive director will be participating in a workshop later this month on alternative energy projects at closed landfills and expressed interest in working on an energy efficiency block grant for towns if the project seems viable.

**Bottle Bill** – Mass Recycle is looking for support to expand the Bottle Bill to include plastic water and juice bottles in order to increase recycling and reduce refuse. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the proclamation of support.

**Special Town Meeting Warrant** – A special town meeting was set for June 30, 2009 at 6:30pm and will be held at the Whately Elementary School. The Selectmen approved three articles for the warrant: 1. Authorize the Selectmen to negotiate easements with regard to culvert work on Long Plain Rd, 2. Allocate up to \$3000 (amount recommended by the Finance Comm) for the Long Plain Rd easements, and 3. Transfer excess funds from the one-ton pickup account to the winter roads account. The Board reviewed and signed the warrant.

**Fuel Bids** – Requests for fuel bids will go out this week seeking a fixed mark-up price. The bids will be opened on June 29<sup>th</sup> so that the bids can be awarded at the Selectmen's June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Library Donations** – The Selectmen voted unanimously to grant permission for the library to accept donations in memory of Christine Moulton and for the accountant to set up a special account.

**Current Grants Pending** – Assistance to Firefighters Grant application was recently submitted. Homeland Security Additional Funding has also been submitted.

**Goodbyes** – This was Alan Sanderson Jr.'s last meeting as a Whately Selectman. After 9½ years, Alan decided not to seek reelection. Lynn brought cake and ice cream for all to celebrate.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

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Paul K. Newlin, Clerk