

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING – FEBRUARY 13, 2007

Present: Ch. Patricia D. Carlino, Gordon D. Bailey, Frank A. Consolati, Board of Selectmen.  
Robert L. Nason, Town Administrator

Ch. Carlino called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**1. Approval of Minutes:** January 23, 2007

**2. Public Hearings:** None

**3. General Business:**

Two members of the Housatonic Heritage came before the Board. Present were Steve McMahon, Western Regional Director of the Reservations and Housatonic Heritage Board member, and Beryl Jolly, Managing Director of the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center and Advisor to the Housatonic Heritage. Ms. Jolly stated that the Upper Housatonic Valley has been designated a Federal Heritage project. The Upper Housatonic Valley runs from Litchfield, CT to Lanesborough, MA and will receive up to \$1M per year for ten years. Ms. Jolly and Mr. McMahon said that public hearings will be held and they welcome feedback from the towns and citizens for collaborative projects that will preserve and celebrate this special region of the country. The Selectmen thanked them for coming in.

Rich Vinette, Executive Director of the Lee Community Development Corp., came before the Board to discuss a market and feasibility study for the downtown area. Mr. Vinette explained that he submitted a grant application for this purpose but it was not funded. He further stated that, through the efforts of Mr. Nason, there is \$40,000 in an escrow set up for the FY97 CDF Downtown Façade Program. The statute of limitations for wage claims has expired and this funding can now be utilized. Mr. Nason would ask the Dept. of Housing and Community Development for permission to do just that. Mr. Vinette felt that the use of this money met DHCD's criteria for this new project. The Lee Downtown Task Force would be working in conjunction with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, who would act as a consultant. Mr. Vinette urged the Selectmen to support the use of these funds. After further discussion, the Board voted, unanimously, to use the funds for the market and feasibility study. They thanked Mr. Vinette for his efforts on behalf of the town.

The Dept. of Public Works received three quotes for the repair of a 1997 International Harvester dump truck that was damaged in an accident. The low bidder was Carlson Auto Body of Lee, MA at \$15,000.00. The Chairman noted that if Carlson finds any hidden damages during the repair, they will negotiate the amount of the added cost with the town's insurance carrier and will bill the insurance company directly for any such additional payment. This stipulation is in the agreement drawn up by Town Counsel. The Board voted, unanimously, to award the work to Carlson Auto Body and sign a contract not to exceed \$15,000.00.

Mr. Nason explained that due to additional design work done by SK Design Group for the F.L. Roberts travel plaza project, Dan Lovett of Hill Engineers Architects and Planners was called in by the Conservation Commission to review the revised plans. This review cost an additional \$600 and is outside the expanded scope of work. F.L. Roberts agreed to the additional sum and has already forwarded a check to the town. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the payment.

At the request of the Selectmen, Mr. Nason, along with Norma Maroney, Council on Aging Director, approached the Board of Assessors at their last meeting to request the number of participants in the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-off Program be increased from 10 to 15. This would mean an increase of \$3,750 from the Assessor's overlay account. Mr. Nason was pleased to tell the Selectmen that the Assessors supported the increase.

The Board received a disclosure form from Deidre Consolati, Chairman of the Sandy Beach Committee. She submitted the "Disclosure of Financial Interests by Municipal Employee and Determination of Appointing Authority" to disclose her marriage to a beach employee and to obtain permission to manage the beach budget affecting his compensation. She is now married to the maintenance/operations employee at the beach and she is directly involved in the Sandy Beach budget. Ch. Carlino felt Ms. Consolati should not be acting on her husband's salary but had no problem with the overall budget. After discussion, the Board decided it was alright for Ms. Consolati to prepare the budget except for changes in her husband's compensation, which must be presented by another member of the Sandy Beach Committee.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a one day wine and malt license for St. Mary's Church for a function to be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM.

Because the list of Capital Outlay Committee appointees was incomplete, the Board will bring this up at their next meeting.

**4. Pending Business:**

Planning Board meeting – Feb. 26, 2007 @ 7:15 PM – Michael Kruse

**5. Town Administrator:**

Mr. Nason gave the Board a first draft of the FY08 budget. It shows a considerable increase and Mr. Nason will be working with department heads to scale it down. He will also be meeting with the School Committee. When asked about Chapter 90 funds, Mr. Nason said he wasn't sure what the new administration was planning. There was discussion about non-union, municipal employees salary ranges. There was also discussion on meal reimbursements. Mr. Nason will follow up on the last two items.

The Lee Youth Association has asked to use the former Senior Center at the Airoidi Building for a fundraiser from March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. There are questions of security, liability and operating costs that have to be addressed. There was discussion on whether or not that space could be used again for public functions.

Ch. Carlino asked the status of moving the bus stop in front of the Dresser Hull building on Main Street. Mr. Nason said that had been forwarded to the Traffic Commission.

**6. Public Comments:**

Ch. Carlino passed on the condolences of the Board to the family of David Canterbury, former LYA Director, who passed away recently and to his long time companion Georgia Masucco.

Selectman Bailey suggested the Board join Mayor Barrett, North Adams, in his battle with Time Warner Cable to keep Boston channel WBZ in the lineup. Selectman Bailey said he would contact the mayor. He would also contact Malcolm Chisholm, Lee's representative on the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee, to see what he can do.

**7. Motion to adjourn:**

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 7 PM. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Alderman, Selectmen's Secretary

cc:	Board of Selectmen	Principal Assessor	Dept. of Public Works
	Town Administrator	Board of Health	Town Treasurer
	Town Clerk	Conservation Commission	Town Reps. District Chairmen
	Town Collector	Police Chief	Superintendent of Schools
	Planning Board	Building Inspector	Town Accountant