

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – OCTOBER 16, 2007

Present: Ch. Gordon D. Bailey, Frank A. Consolati, Patricia D. Carlino, Board of Selectmen.
Robert L. Nason, Town Administrator
Ch. Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes: October 2, 2007

2. Public Hearings: None

3. General Business:

Bob Lohbauer, School Committee member, came before the Board to inform them of a new subcommittee elected by the School Committee to address issues relating to youth programming in the schools and in the town. The vision of the subcommittee is to better communicate and better understand what resources each has available currently. This would include athletic and non-athletic events. Mr. Lohbauer said that the Lee Youth Association and schools are working well together. Ch. Bailey asked Sharon Terry, LYA Director, to come forward and give her opinion of this new program. Ms. Terry said she is very much in favor of this new program. She said the LYA is already using the elementary school for “homework help” for students in grades three through six. She stated 55 students are enrolled. There is also the LYA after school program for students K through 2nd grade. These are very good programs because the students do not have to be transported to another destination. She said the LYA and the schools have an excellent working relationship. Jason McCandless, School Superintendent, said anyone interested should contact his office. There was discussion as to how the maintenance of the facilities and athletic fields would be funded. Mr. Lohbauer said that is a very important issue and the subcommittee will be looking at different ways to fund maintenance. The Selectmen were very much in favor of such a program and thanked everyone for their efforts.

Mohammed Zabian came before the Board to ask that they grant him two temporary sign permits for his businesses on Main Street for the holiday season. The banners in question are larger than the zoning by-laws permit but past Boards have granted them. Selectman Consolati stated that last year he said he would not vote in favor of another temporary sign permit application. He further stated that in light of a discussion with Mr. Zabian, he would make a motion to approve the permits. Selectman Carlino said she had no problem with the banners. A motion was made and seconded to approve the temporary sign permits. Discussion about other stores in town wanting to put up banners. Ch. Bailey said any business can apply but the banners have to meet the specifications of the zoning by-laws. The Board amended their motion to include Mr. Zabian filling out temporary sign permit applications and submitted them to the Building Department. The motion passed unanimously.

At the recommendation of the Dept. of Public Works, the Board voted, unanimously, to award the winter sand contract to J. Donovan & Son, Inc., the lowest of two bidders, in the amount of \$13.50 per ton.

The Board received a copy of a letter and report from Metcalf & Eddy regarding the water treatment plant access road slope failure. The price for this work was \$3,649.29, \$649.29 higher than the agreed price in Amendment #1. Ch. Bailey asked Mr. Nason to see what Amendment #1 said. He believes it said that the price could not increase without asking permission first. Metcalf & Eddy’s report differs from the one MassHighway did. The slope will be checked again this fall and in the spring. The issue of the increased price will be discussed at the next Selectmen’s meeting.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a permit from Berkshire Gas Co. to repair a main at 214 Park Street.

4. Pending Business:

Ch. Bailey announced the following: Berk. Regional Planning Comm. Lee area traffic study meeting on Nov. 1st at 6:30 PM in the Lee Elementary School cafeteria. Lee Community Development Comm. downtown economic development meeting Oct. 30th at 6:00 PM at the Senior Center. Ch. Bailey said he and Selectman Consolati did the required annual site inspection of Oak N’ Spruce and the results of it will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting on Nov. 6th.

5. Town Administrator:

Mr. Nason asked that at the recommendation of the Chris Pompei, DPW Supt., and Al Zerbato, Chief WWTP Operator, the Board approve Mr. Nason’s appointment of Todd Tyer as WWTP Operator. Mr. Tyer has all the licenses required to operator the plant and is an excellent choice. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the appointment of Todd Tyer.

6. Public Comments:

Ch. Bailey reported on a meeting he attended on Friday regarding the impending closing of the paper mills in Lee. The attendees, who included State Sen. Ben Downing, State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, members of the Lee CDC, Berk. Regional

Employment Board, Mass. Development and Mr. Nason, was to set immediate goals that would have the least impact on the town and its residents. Topics were: Existing employment opportunities, future use of the vacant buildings and what is available to those who will be unemployed. Ch. Bailey said that some of this information should be available after Nov. 1st and that a meeting with the general public should be scheduled when it is available. Selectman Carlino questioned why she and Selectman Consolati were not invited to this meeting and Ch. Bailey said he did not know. Selectman Carlino suggested that perhaps Nov. 1st was too soon to call a meeting and recommended waiting until the mill owners made more information available.

Ch. Bailey announced Trick or Treat night is Oct. 31st from 5 PM to 7 PM.

Selectman Consolati stated that once again residents are looking for a place to dispose of leaves. Ch. Bailey said that years ago the town made the property at the wastewater treatment plant available but it soon became a dumping ground for old furniture, appliances, etc. The Center for Ecological Technology is looking into this matter. Mr. Nason thought there was a disposal site in town and will follow up on the matter.

7. Motion to adjourn:

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 6, 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