

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – NOVEMBER 6, 2007

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

1. Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2007

2. Public Hearings: 7:00 PM – Pho Saigon – New All Alcoholic Beverages License – Ch. Bailey opened the public hearing at 7:00 PM. Selectman Consolati disclosed he is an abutter to the property. There were no objections. Atty. Nicholas Parsenios and Henry Chung, owner, came before the Board seeking their approval of an all alcoholic beverages license at his establishment at 5 Railroad Street. Mr. Chung had applied for a license previously but was denied due to taxes owed by the prior owner. Atty. Parsenios said he felt the situation was under control now. Mr. Chung will be taking the TIPS class on Nov. 19th. The Board has not heard of any complaints against the establishment. There were no questions or comments from the audience. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the license.

3. General Business:

James Scalise, SK Design Group, came before the Board to discuss the annual site inspection of Oak N' Spruce Resort. Mr. Scalise outlined the progress that had been made to date including the completed construction of Building 34 and the beginning of construction of Building 33 and Building 37. The pool and tennis court projects have been completed. There are still plans to build a pavilion behind the Sales Center. Maintenance projects included various interior and exterior renovations, repair and replacement of decks, walkways and handrails. In total, Mr. Scalise told the Board that Silverleaf spent over \$1.1M for construction and maintenance. Ch. Bailey said that a posted date and time he and Selectman Consolati walked the entire property. He stated that it looked like they were keeping up with the plantings. Selectman Consolati said he thought everything looked in good shape. The Board thanked Mr. Scalise for his time and efforts.

The Board next discussed the water treatment plant access road. Metcalf & Eddy had agreed to do work on the road not to exceed \$3,000.00. They have billed the town for \$3,649.29. Ch. Bailey stated he did not feel the town should pay the extra \$649.29. A motion was made and seconded not to pay the extra fee until an explanation has been presented. Mr. Nason said he will contact Metcalf & Eddy to have someone come to a Board meeting to explain the extra charge. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made and seconded to send a letter to Metcalf & Eddy. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nason stated that the town does have an inactive youth commission. It was authorized at the Oct. 16, 1980 special town meeting. Ch. Bailey ask if anyone is interested in serving on this commission, please contact the Selectmen's office.

Ch. Bailey said that there will be a community meeting regarding the mill closings in Lee. He was unable to provide a date and time as the Board is still gathering information.

The Board voted, unanimously, to send a letter to Time Warner Cable asking them to include C-Span on their basic cable tier and to delete a sentence that included the number of complaints the town has received. It was copied from a letter from the Town of Lenox and the sentence was irrelevant.

The Board next discussed Treasurer Susan Kelley's Nov. 2, 2007 report on the disposition of property at 25 School Street. There was a recent auction of the property and the opening bid was \$30,000. Due to an oil leak from an aboveground storage tank, there was no opening bid. The Board suggested conducting another auction with a lower opening bid. The Board voted, unanimously, to recommend that the property be auctioned at an opening bid of \$25,000.

Mr. Nason received a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency asking if the town would be interested in a presentation regarding the clean-up activities related to PCBs in the Housatonic River. The Conservation Commission was interested and would prefer a Monday evening presentation.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a permit from Berkshire Gas Co. to install new service at 360 East Street.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a utility cut permit from James Leahey Excavating to install water/sewer at 37 Reservoir Rd. and 440 East Street.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve seven temporary sign permits for St. Mary's School Bazaar.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve two temporary sign permits for Zabians.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a temporary sign permit for Brooks Brothers at Prime Outlets.

4. Pending Business:

The Board received a memo from the Police Chief outlining the winter parking ban from Nov. 1, 2007 to April 1, 2008.

The Board received a letter from the Mass. Office of Leasing and State Office Planning looking for courtroom space in the Lee/Great Barrington area.

5. Town Administrator:

Mr. Nason reviewed the FY08 property valuation results and tax bill tentative schedule. The results of the state mandated, triennial property revaluation results may be available to the public the last week in November. The listings will be available in the Assessors and Town Clerk’s offices, at the library and on the town’s web site.

The Selectmen will host a property tax classification hearing on Tuesday, December 4th.

Mr. Nason outlined the FY09 budget guidelines. A 2.5% COLA salary increase will be given to all for union and non-union personnel. Non-personnel will be kept at status quo. The town needs to get Verizon to pay property taxes on their telephone poles.

Mr. Nason reported that there were 12 applicants for the DPW truck driver/laborer position. At the recommendation of Chris Pompei, DPW Supt., and Dennis Kelly, Asst. DPW Supt., Mr. Nason asked the Board to approve his appointment of Richard Neales. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve Mr. Nason’s appointment.

The Board received a letter from the Mass. Collectors and Treasurer Association stating that the Board of Certification of the Association has renewed for an additional period expiring December 31, 2012, the certification of Janice Smith, Town Collector.

Ch. Bailey stated that Selectman Carlino attended the Lee Area Traffic Study meeting sponsored by Berk. Regional Planning Commission on Nov. 1st. There will be more meetings in the future and encouraged residents to attend.

A special meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 27th for discussion on financing the downtown parking project.

6. Public Comments: None

7. Motion to adjourn:

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007 at 7 PM. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 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