

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – AUGUST 7, 2007

Present: Ch. Gordon D. Bailey, Frank A. Consolati, absent, 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:** July 17, 2007

2. **Public Hearings:** None

3. **General Business:**

Susan Kelley, Town Treasurer, came before the Board to give a brief overview of the selection process for the implementation of combined school/municipal software for accounting, revenue, payroll and tax titles. A committee consisting of herself, Debbie Holmes, School Business Admin., Kathy Borden, Town Accountant, Donna Toomey, Treasurer's Clerk, and Kathy Ragusa, has spent two years looking at various systems throughout the Commonwealth and sitting through several presentations. After revisiting one particular company's software package, the Committee agreed that BudgetSense would be the best choice for the town and is recommending it. Mr. Nason said that if the Board approved the recommendation, the town would then start negotiating a price. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the recommendation.

A letter from the Police Chief was received asking the Board to sign a contract with M-H-Q Municipal Vehicles to purchase a new cruiser. This purchase was approved at the May 2007 annual town meeting. The Board voted, unanimously, to sign a contract.

The Board next discussed signing an engagement letter with Melanson Heath & Co. for the town's FY07 audit. This is the third year of a three year agreement. The price of this audit increased \$500 to \$22,000. The Board voted, unanimously, to sign the engagement letter.

In order to maintain the schedule to set the FY08 tax rate, the Board of Assessors sent out requests for quotes to complete the FY08 residential property revaluation. Four were sent out and only one company responded. Real Estate Research Consultants was the sole respondent at \$13,575.00. After a brief discussion, the Board voted, unanimously, to award the project to Real Estate Research Consultants.

The Board next addressed a renewal of the town's UMASS Medicare Claims Service Agreement with the town. Selectman Carlino asked Mr. Nason how much the town receives from this agreement and he said approximately \$30,000 annually. The Board voted, unanimously, to renew and sign the agreement.

The Board received a letter from Sharon Terry, Executive Director of the Lee Youth Association, asking permission to once again use the Airolodi Building to have a children's clothing consignment sale. This is a fund raiser for the LYA and the one held in the spring was very successful. Mr. Nason checked with the other offices in the building and no one had a conflict. The Board had no objection to the LYA using the building.

The Board received a letter from Suzanne Scarpa, Town Clerk, stating that the copy machine her office replaced has a value of \$500.00. This machine is now surplus property and is ready for disposition. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the disposition of the old copy machine.

Mr. Nason told the Board that for over one year he has been working with Tim Walter, owner and resident of 100 Housatonic Street, to resolve a dispute over the location of the electric load center that powers the new street lighting on the west side of Housatonic Street. To compensate Mr. Walter for the adverse impact, if any, of the load center, he and Mr. Walter have agreed, with the Board's approval, that the town pay him \$500, which Mr. Walter intends to use to pay a portion of the estimated \$1,800 cost to install a buffer fence along the front of his property outside of the town's easement. After a brief discussion, the Board voted, unanimously, to approve the settlement.

The town sought quotes for a boundary survey of the proposed golf course property and SK Design Group of Pittsfield offered the lowest at \$9,120.00. Mr. Nason explained that once this is done, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will provide the town with a GIS map free of charge. The Board voted, unanimously, to award the survey work to SK Design Group.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a utility cut permit for Lenox Construction for work to be done at High Lawn Farm.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a permit from Berkshire Gas Co. to retire service at 78 Canal St. and to repair a main line at 50 Pease Terrace.

4. Pending Business:

Ch. Bailey announced a one day mini-site collection of household hazardous waste on Wed. Aug. 8th from 4:40 PM to 6:30 PM at the Lenox DPW.

Ch. Bailey stated that due to the concerns of many in the town, he would like to invite gas station owners to come to the next Board meeting to explain why the prices of gasoline in Lee are so much more than in surrounding communities.

5. Town Administrator:

Mr. Nason previewed the latest union contract for the highway and water departments and the dispatchers for FY08 and FY09. They have been agreed upon by both bargaining units. Mr. Nason said that the basic changes were the 3.5% COLA increase and the carryover of five days of vacation into the next fiscal year to be used within two months. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the contracts.

Mr. Nason asked Town Counsel to research whether or not municipal and school employees who are also fire department and ambulance squad members could legally receive a stipend for their duties. Atty. Pollard found that MGL Ch. 268A, Sec. 20(f) exempted these employees from the financial conflict statute. Mr. Nason would certify to the Town Clerk, with the Board’s approval, that no such employee can perform the duties of a volunteer 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the certification.

At the recommendation of the Sandy Beach Committee, the Board voted, unanimously, to approve Mr. Nason’s appointment of Raymond Zelehoski as Swim Instructor at Sandy Beach. Ch. Bailey then read a notice from the Sandy Beach Committee stating when and at what time swimming lessons were being held.

6. Public Comments:

Selectman Carlino reminded everyone about the Friday night Movies in the Park.

Ch. Bailey stated that water and sewer rates were now combined. The members discussed what to do if you have a swimming pool. One suggestion was to get a submeter. Another was to have water trucked in.

7. Motion to adjourn:

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 7 PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 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