

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – MAY 20, 2008

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

1. Approval of Minutes: None

2. Public Hearing: None

3. General Business:

The Board received a Letter of Agreement from Western Mass. Electric Co. to provide energy efficiency service for the wastewater treatment plant. The town could be eligible for as much as \$88,000 from WMECO after this service is completed. The Board thanked Roger Scheurer and the WWTP Oversight Committee for their work in getting this service for the town. The Board voted, unanimously, to sign the Letter of Agreement from Western Mass. Electric Co.

The Board received a Temporary Sign Permit Application from the Lee Youth Association to put a sign up at the athletic field on Housatonic Street to advertise a community barbeque on Friday, June 27th at 5:30 PM. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the permit and waive the application fee.

The Board received a Permanent Sign Permit Application from the Lee Chamber of Commerce for a small directional sign indicating the Chamber building. It will be erected on the existing sign posts that reads “Town of Lee”. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the sign permit and to waive the application fee.

The Board received several applications from The Grind on West Center St. The first is an Entertainment License for Monday, May 26th (Memorial Day) from 1 PM to 7 PM for a five piece band on their lawn. The next is a one day wine and malt beverages special license for the same date and time. The third is a one day wine and malt special license for June 6th from 4 PM to 9 PM to benefit the Lee Youth Association. The last is a Temporary Sign Permit advertising their Memorial Day party. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve all the applications and to waive the application fee for the LYA fundraiser.

Mr. Nason explained that due to an unanticipated illness of one of the dispatchers, the Dispatch Supervisor will not be able to use all of her vacation time before the end of the fiscal year. He is asking the Board to approve a ten day carryover of her vacation to FY09. Mr. Nason said this is the same courtesy extended to all other municipal employees. The Board voted, unanimously, to extend the ten days of vacation time to FY09

4. Pending Business: Monica Ryan came before the Board to make a presentation on why she feels the representative form of government should be changed back to an open meeting form. She explained that she made a presentation at the last annual town meeting but didn't feel she got all her points across. Ms. Ryan provided data outlining when the representation form of government came to be. She felt this form of government belonged in a larger community and feels it is no longer needed because more people are interested in town government. She stated two non-binding referendums were placed on the ballot at the annual town election to eliminate the representative form of government and both were passed by a large majority. Unfortunately, both were voted down by the representatives at the respective town meetings. Ms. Ryan pointed out that there are only two towns in Berkshire County that have a representative form of government, Adams being the other one, and Lee is the smallest community in population of any town in Massachusetts having this form. She showed that state law says that a town must have a population of 6,000 or more to qualify for the representative form of government and Lee did when it was originally adopted. She further pointed out the percentages of town representatives attending each town meeting and the lowest percentage was 52%. Selectman Carlino argued that at an open town meeting you would never see 52% of the registered voters attending a town meeting. She is definitely in favor of the representative form and feels it's the most efficient form, especially in light of the current town administrator's diligence in keeping the town representatives informed of the issues coming up at a town meeting, whether special or annual. Ms. Ryan still felt that the open meeting form should prevail and felt personally that voting at a town meeting should be the right of every registered voter in town. The Board thanked her for her time and efforts.

5. Town Administrator:

Mr. Nason told the Board he would appoint, with their approval, two seasonal employees for Sandy Beach. The first is Edward Handberg as Maintenance Supervisor, and William Tyer as groundskeeper. These appointments are recommended by the Sandy Beach Committee. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the appointments.

Mr. Nason was pleased to announce that Suzanne Scarpa, Town Clerk, had successfully completed certification by the Mass. Town Clerks Association. Selectman Carlino said this is not an easy test to pass and she was pleased for Ms. Scarpa.

The next item from Mr. Nason was the appointment to the position of Electrical Inspector. After seeking applicants in local publications, there were two applicants. At the recommendation of the Building Inspector, Mr. Nason would appoint Richard Aloisi as Electrical Inspector. He has been serving as the Alternate Electrical Inspector since April 28, 2008. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the appointment of Mr. Aloisi.

Mr. Nason received a notification from Lisa Breault, Ambulance Director, stating that May is EMS month. As we all know, volunteers are the core of the ambulance service. Selectman Carlino read a list of the people responsible for making the town's ambulance service so successful and the Board thanked them for their time and efforts.

- 6. **Public Comments:** Ch. Bailey said that the town once again had a Memorial Day parade and thanked everyone responsible for its success.

Ch. Bailey sent the Board's condolences to the family of Bob Whalen who passed away recently. Mr. Whalen was a member of the volunteer fire department and a founding member of the Lee Ambulance Squad.

- 7. **Motion to adjourn:**

The next regular Selectmen's meeting will be July 1, 2008 at 7 PM. Motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Alderman, Selectmen's Secretary

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| 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 |