

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING – JULY 1, 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:**

David Bowers came before the Board to discuss the F.L. Roberts project on Route 102. He felt the proposed new motel and restaurant would adversely affect the businesses downtown. He also asked about the possible tax incentive that could be granted by the Board. Selectman Carlino said that right now the area is an eyesore. F.L. Roberts will be putting approximately \$21M into refurbishing the area and creating new jobs. Discussion about the tax incentive. This tax incentive program was approved at town meeting as a way to attract new businesses. The Board of Assessors determine whether a new business is eligible to receive the tax incentive which starts out the first year at a 100% discount and then the discount decreases each year after that during a predetermined number of years. At the end of the term the business will pay 100% of their taxes. This only pertains to real estate taxes. All others must be paid in full. The tax incentive program is tied to the number of new jobs a business can produce. This at any time this number falls short, the tax incentive is taken away. Selectman Carlino stated the proposed project could bring in 83 new jobs. The Board hoped this explanation helped Mr. Bowers understand the tax incentive program and thanked him for coming in.

The Board received an amendment to the town's agreement with UMASS Medicare Claims Service for reimbursement for special needs students. Mr. Nason said the contingency fee rate is being reduced from 4.75% to 4.25%. This is a significant savings to the town. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the amendment.

The Board received an agreement from County Ambulance for paramedic intercept services. It is a two year agreement and the fee per call has been increased from \$230 to \$285. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the agreement.

Next, the Board discussed improvements to the athletic field on Route 102. The first item is to repair and resurface the two tennis courts. The DPW put the project out to bid and received one response from Vermont Tennis Court Surfacing of St. Johnsbury, VT, in the amount of \$7,999.00. Mr. Nason said this project is a prime example why the regulations regarding payment bonds should be changed. There are several competent companies in Lee that could have bid on the job, but the cost of the payment bond is prohibitive. Dennis Kelly, DPW Asst. Supt., recommended the sole bidder for the project. Selectman Carlino was hesitant to award the bid at this time because the Lee Youth Association would like to use one of the tennis courts for an activity. Mr. Nason said the Lee Tennis Association was anxious to get the project started. Selectman Carlino asked Mr. Nason to discuss this with both parties to see if a compromise could be reached. The Board tabled their vote until their next meeting. The next item was the design of a new pavilion at the athletic field. The DPW received one proposal from Sato Design of Great Barrington in the amount of \$6,000.00. The old building would be torn down. The Board voted, unanimously, to award the project to Sato Design.

The Board received a recommendation from the DPW to award a two year rental contract for DPW uniforms to Cintas Corporation of Pittsfield for a price of \$8,556.60 for FY09 and \$8,984.43FY10. The Board voted, unanimously, to award the contract to Cintas Corporation.

The Board received a recommendation from the DPW for refuse removal and recycling to award a one year contract to The Master Garbologist of Great Barrington in the amount of \$11,739.00. The Board voted, unanimously, to award the contract to The Master Garbologist.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve an agreement with Clean Harbors Environmental Services for household hazardous waste collection in the town for FY09.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a Utility Cut Permit to B & B Landscaping to replace water service at 695 Fairview Street. This permit was approved by the DPW and Police Chief

The Board received a one day wine and malt license permit from Evening Star Lodge. Ch. Bailey said that he usually recused himself from this vote, but with only two Board members present they invoked the rule of necessity. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the one day wine and malt license for Evening Star Lodge for an event to be held on July 27, 2008.

The Board received a request from the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority to appoint a representative from the town to sit on their Advisory Board. Arthur Snide has once again expressed his desire to serve on this board and the Selectmen voted, unanimously, to appoint Mr. Snide to the BRTA Advisory Board with their thanks.

The Board received a Utility Cut Permit request from James Leahey to repair water service at Navin Heights. This permit was approved by the DPW and Police Chief. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the permit.

The Board received several permits from Berkshire Gas Company. The first was for gas main repair on Fuller Street which they approved unanimously. The second was for gas service repair at 35 Runway which they approved subject to approval by the DPW and police chief. The third was for emergency gas main repair at Cliffwood Street which they approved unanimously. The fourth was for new gas service at 20 Sturgis Ave. which they approved unanimously. The last was for new gas service at 110 Highfield Dr. which they approved subject to approval from the DPW and police chief.

The Board voted, unanimously, to appoint Kathleen Arment to the Conservation Commission for FY09.

4. **Pending Business:** Ch. Bailey announced that the Center for Ecological Technology will be holding a household hazardous waste collection at the DPW in Lee on July 12, 2008 from 9 AM to noon. Anyone interested should contact CET to register for this collection.
5. **Town Administrator:** Mr. Nason told the Board that Judith Monachina is asking the Board for a letter of support to the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, Inc. for funding for a paper mills documentary project documenting the history of the papers mills in Lee. The Board had no objection to writing a letter of support for this project.
6. **Public Comments:** None

Selectman Carlino announced that Sandy Beach has been reopened thanks to the efforts of the DPW to repair damage done by recent rain storms. Parking permits can be obtained from the special police officer on Fridays at the beach or from the Dispatch Center any day of the week.

Selectman Carlino also asked about traffic control this summer. Mr. Nason said he has not spoken to the police chief regarding this matter but will do so.

Selectman Carlino asked about the status of the clean-up at the former Mobil station on Housatonic Street. Ch. Bailey said he spoke to someone who said the clean-up was complete and there will no longer be a gas station on that parcel.

7. **Motion to adjourn:**  
The next regular Selectmen's meeting will be July 15, 2008 at 7 PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 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