

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING – NOVEMBER 4, 2008

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

1. **Approval of Minutes:** October 9, 2008, October 21, 2008

2. **Public Hearing:** None

3. **General Business:**

The Board received a letter from Police Chief Ronald Glidden indicated that he opened sealed bids for the 2000 surplus police cruiser. He received three bids and recommended Jersey One Auto Sales as the high bidder at \$1,055.00. The Board voted, unanimously, to award the bid for the surplus police cruiser to Jersey One Auto Sales at \$1,055.00.

The Board received Change Order #1 to the Palmer Paving Corp. contract in the amount of \$1,092.50 representing an overrun of the estimated cost of the 2008 paving project of \$431,572.50 or .3% of the contract price. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve Change Order #1.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a Chapter 90 reimbursement request in the amount of \$226,916.00 for the state's portion of the 2008 paving project.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the purchase of a plow for the town's sidewalk machine from Ti-County Contractors Supply, Inc. in the amount of \$6,660.45. This purchase was approved at the annual town meeting.

The Board next discussed a contract between the town and Lee Central Enriched Housing, Inc. for payment in lieu of taxes for Crossway Tower. This is the renovation of the oldest portion of the old Lee Central School into affordable elderly housing. This document is much the same as the agreement for Crossway Village. The town will receive approximately \$4,000 per year for the life of the contract. Selectman Bailey asked if this money could be earmarked for some kind of elderly assistance. This could only be done with the approval of the representatives at a town meeting. The Board tabled further discussion until their next meeting.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a Temporary Sign Permit from Prime Outlets.

Mr. Nason discussed the FY2010 budget guidelines he would like to implement with the Board's approval. He stated that the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment was 5.8% for this year. That would mean that following the procedure used in prior years of rounding the COLA up or down to the nearest percentage point or 6%. Mr. Nason explained that it did not look like this would be achievable this fiscal year. He did some preliminary number and it looked like for just municipal employees the salary increase would be approximately \$140,000. He said FY10 could see a reduction in new growth and could see a \$300,000 reduction in state aid. Mr. Nason would like to level fund personnel expenses with only an increase by steps or longevity to the base salary. He would like to wait until January to see what the governor's budget will look like before seeking any percentage increase in salaries. The Selectmen agreed to this proposal.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the purchase of winter road sale recommended by Dennis Kelly, Asst. DPW Supt. One bid was received from J. Donovan and Son for \$14.50 per ton, a price lower than the Berkshire Regional Purchasing Program price.

4. **Pending Business:**

Zoning Board of Appeals meeting – Nov. 5, 2008 at 7:30 PM – Cone Avenue

5. **Town Administrator:**

Mr. Nason provided the Selectmen with the FY09 real estate tax rate and billing schedule. The tax rate was approved by the Dept. of Revenue on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Bills were mailed today and there was an increase of 3.5%, or \$.41 per thousand of value. The tax burden for the average single family home, which increased \$3,095 in value to \$251,179, increased by \$139.00 or 4.8%. Included in the bills was an explanation of the elderly and disabled taxation assistance fund, the tax work off program and the fuel assistance fund.

Mr. Nason explained that the new police officer, Ryan Lucy, would be brought in as a Step 2. He has also been employed by the town of Great Barrington before coming here and would, therefore, be entitled to vacation leave earned during that time.

Mr. Nason recommended this credit for prior continuous service. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the vacation leave.

**6. Public Comments:** None

The Board discussed the decrease in gasoline prices since Labor Day. Although some were still higher than in other surrounding communities, Selectman Bailey said that the decreases were a step in the right direction.

**7. Motion to adjourn:**

The next regular meeting of the Selectmen will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008 at 7 PM.

The Board voted, unanimously, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation and not returning to regular session. Roll call vote: Bailey, yes; Carlino, yes; Consolati, yes. The meeting adjourned in executive 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