

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – DECEMBER 16, 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:** Dec. 2, 2008

2. **Public Hearing:** None

3. **General Business:**

Donald Torrico, Building Inspector, came before the Board to outline new building code violation procedures under Chapter 304 of the Acts of 2004. Selectman Bailey recused himself from discussion and voting on this matter as he is employed by the Mass. Dept. of Public Safety as a state building inspector. Mr. Torrico noted that six new violations have been added and citations can be issued by both the building inspector and the fire department. A hearings officer must be appointed by the state in order to hear appeals of these violations. The Pittsfield Fire Department has a hearings officer and Mr. Torrico would like the town to join with other member towns of the Pittsfield regional system. The cost would be \$200 per fiscal year. Selectman Carlino asked how the penalties occur and Mr. Torrico said that a violation is noted and the affected party has a certain time period to correct it. Mr. Torrico cited the Chapter 304 inspections for establishments selling alcoholic beverages. They were given three years to rectify code violations. Mr. Nason told the Board that Robert Burnick is the hearings officer for Pittsfield and regional members. Tickets cannot be issued without an appointment of the hearings officer for the purpose of hearing non-criminal tickets issued by the building and fire departments. After discussion, The Board voted, unanimously, to appoint Robert Burnick as hearings office for the town of Lee. Selectman Bailey returned to the meeting.

Police Chief Ronald Glidden came before the Board to explain two grants received by the Town. The first is the Community Policing Grant in the amount of \$8,609.00. This is a reduction from last year. Chief Glidden explained that these funds are used for the summer foot patrol program. He was notified of the second grant from the State 911 Department that the town was eligible for a \$111,407 Communication Center Support and Incentive Grant. It has been determined that, although Lee's is a small center, it dispatches for the Tyringham Fire Department and Stockbridge EMS which makes it a regional service and is eligible to receive larger funding. This funding will be used to upgrade the town's radio infrastructure and will likely include new radios, towers and/or repeaters. This upgrade will give the town better radio coverage. All funding for this Communications grant must be expended by June, 2009. Selectman Bailey asked about traffic control during Tanglewood concerts. He said that sheriff's deputies were used for certain concerts and were paid for by Tanglewood. The Chief didn't think this would extend to traffic control in Lee but he would ask about it. The Board thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the town.

Next the Board next addressed the expedited permitting procedures under MGLA Ch. 43D. Rich Vinette, Executive Director, Lee CDC, and Sarah LaValley of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission came before the Selectmen. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has established a set of policies for this permitting process. Mr. Vinette would be the town's single point of contact with all necessary town boards. The Selectmen went over the policies and asked Ms. LaValley for some minor changes. Mr. Vinette up-dated the Board regarding the downtown initiative. He is asking for recommendations and have then put on the town's website. Meeting regarding the Eagle Mill should be starting in mid-January. He has contacted the Chamber of Commerce to get a core group involved in the downtown plans. The Laurel Mill is being targeted for industry. Finally, he thanked the Consolati family for their efforts in developing the downtown.

The Board received a recommendation from Chris Pompei, DPW Supt., for emergency labor and equipment contracts for 2009. These would be for snow removal and water and sewer line repairs. Mr. Pompei recommended LB Corp. of Lee for both. The Board voted, unanimously, to award the contracts to LB Corp. at Mr. Pompei's recommendation.

The Board received two bids for a 1963 International Tanker being disposed of by the Fire Department. The Board voted, unanimously, to award the bid to Asian Auto Services, Inc. of Plaistow, NH in the amount of \$532.00.

The Board voted, unanimously, to appoint Selectman Carlino as their voting member at the 2009 Mass. Municipal Association convention.

The Board voted, unanimous, to approve 2009 liquor licenses, subject to Chapter 304 compliance and all other licenses are listed.

4. Pending Business:

Planning Board meeting 01/05/09 @ 6:15 PM – WMECO
Lee Area Traffic Study meeting – 01/21/09 @ 6:30 PM – Lee Elementary School

5. Town Administrator:

At the recommendation of Donald Torrico, Building Inspector, the Board voted, unanimously, to approve Mr. Nason's appointment of Jason Dion at Gas/Plumbing Inspector, replacing Paul Jakacky, who retired.

6. Public Comments: Deidre Consolati came before the Board to once again voice her disapproval of allowing a private citizen to control the dam at Laurel Lake. Monica Ryan also spoke regarding the proposed dam purchase by a private citizen and felt the town should take control of it.

Selectman Carlino wished everyone Happy Holidays and a safe and happy New Year.

7. Motion to adjourn:

The next regular meeting of the Selectmen will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009 at 7 PM. The Board adjourned their meeting at 8:15 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 |