

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING – JANUARY 20, 2009

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. 16, 2008 and Jan. 6, 2009

**2. Public Hearing:** 7:00 PM – Pauline’s Restaurant, Inc. – Transfer of All Alcoholic Beverages License from Greenock Lounge, Inc. – Ch. Consolati called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Pauline Tierney came before the Board seeking their approval of a transfer of an all alcoholic beverages restaurant license from Greenock Lounge, Inc. to a newly established corporation, Pauline’s Restaurant, Inc. She will be continuing the operation at Greenock Country Club. Selectman Carlino asked her if she had completed the TIPS program. She said she had along with her daytime bartender. Her other two bartenders will be taking the course next month. There being no further questions or discussion, the Board voted, unanimously, to approve the transfer. The public hearing closed at 7:04 PM.

**3. General Business:**

The next item on the agenda was an up-date from Lisa Breault, Ambulance Director, She was not present so the Board took the next agenda item, Rich Vinette, CDC Executive Director, discussing economic development. Mr. Vinette passed out a draft downtown economic development plan. He asked the Board’s permission to have the plan available on the town’s website for input from the general public. Selectman Carlino suggested hard copies be available in the Library for those who don’t have access to a computer. All comments received by the Selectmen’s office will be forwarded to the CDC. The Selectmen suggested all comments be made on or before Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> for review on their Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Sarah LaValley, Berk. Regional Planning Commission, came before the Board to ask them to approve the policies that will be in place under the provisions of MGL Chapter 43D for expedited permitting for the closed Eagle and Laurel paper mills. Ms. LaValley said there was also a Guidebook available for applicants that has been completed. She left one copy with the Board. After additional discussion, the Board voted, unanimously, to adopt the Chapter 43D policies.

Mr. Nason informed the Board that the amended lease for the Crossway Village project was not yet available. He said that all aspects of the first portion of the project have been completed and the town is no longer responsible for any of the expenses associated with the building.

Eleanor Tillinghast, Green Berkshires, Inc., came before the Board to answer questions regarding the proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern involving the Housatonic River running through Pittsfield, Lenox and Lee. The main reason for this designation is to give the state more power over the PCB clean-up of the river by the General Electric Co. There are concerns about this designation limiting growth within industrial, commercial and mixed-use zones in the town. There was a question about the southern most boundary. Selectman Bailey asked about Federal government control. Ms. Tillinghast said that an ACEC designation will give back some control to the state. Leslie Luchonok, consultant to Green Berkshires, had been a director of the ACEC program for 15 years. He stated wetlands regulations within an ACEC can be flexible by the Conservation Commission. There are 19 exceptions for limited projects within a wetlands. Discussion on the on-going business of Lane Construction. Mr. Luchonok said that there would be no problems as long as state and local regulations were complied with. David Durante, Planning Board member, asked about the potential development of the vacant mills in Lee. He wanted to know what problems are trying to be solved with an ACEC designation. Mostly the PCB clean-up by General Electric. Ms. Tillinghast said there were many concerns about the way GE was removing the PCBs. An ACEC would give the state more of a voice in how it will be removed. Rich Vinette stated the CDC has some concerns about the boundaries. How would an ACEC restore state influence. He would like to see a legal opinion on this. Ms. Tillinghast will look into that. There being no further discussion, the Board thanked everyone for their time and efforts.

**4. Pending Business:**

Lee Area Traffic Study meeting – 01/21/09 @ 6:30 PM – Lee Elementary School

Upper Housatonic River Area of Critical Environmental Concern public meeting – 01/29/09 @ 7PM – Lenox High School

**5. Town Administrator:**

Mr. Nason stated that in the absence of Lisa Breault, Ambulance Director, he would briefly up-date the Board. He explained that the nature of volunteerism has changed because of new state regulations. There is not enough coverage in the early morning and late afternoon hours. Therefore, Kevin Palmer, EMTI, and Mat Tyer, EMT/Custodian, will be changing their workweek from five eight-hour days to three twelve days and one four hour day. Mr. Nason stated this will open up some opportunities for part-time EMTs and there are two employment opportunities currently available for part-time EMTIs and

part-time EMT/Custodians. Because of the efforts of Vicki Sorrentino and Scott Rockefeller, the Lee Ambulance Service is now an accredited EMS training facility. The first class is scheduled to start in February.

Mr. Nason next up-dated the Board on the FY09 and FY10 budgets. He explained that there will be a reduction in state aid but no numbers are available as yet. He also said that state and local revenues are down. Although FY09 may not create insurmountable problems, FY10 looks less promising. He should have better numbers for the next Selectmen’s meeting on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Nason next informed the Board that he has submitted for consideration economic stimulus projects under the Federal Economic Recovery Bill in the amount of \$30M. These projects include road resurfacing, bridge repairs, water storage repainting and various energy improvements to municipal and school buildings. This is a wish list of projects ready to proceed.

Mr. Nason told the Board he will be attending a meeting in West Stockbridge with Sen. Downing and Rep. Pignatelli to discuss the governor’s revamping of Turnpike tolls. His proposal will greatly impact both West Stockbridge and Lee.

**6. Public Comments:**

Selectman Bailey said he has been asked about water and sewer rates. He commended the Board of Public Works for keeping the rates down but stated that fixed costs at both plants are responsible for increases in the rates. He said that the BPW is constantly looking at how to cut costs to keep rates reasonable.

**7. Motion to adjourn:**

The next regular Selectmen’s meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009 at 7 PM. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted, unanimously, to adjourn their meeting at 8:45 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