

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – APRIL 7, 2009

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

1. **Approval of Minutes:** March 17, 2009
2. **Public Hearing:** 7:00 PM – Lee Sunoco – Transfer of alcoholic beverages license – Ch. Consolati called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Atty. Nicholas Parcenios come before the Board representing the applicants. He stated that the business would remain the same. The corporate name would be changing from Dohaba, Inc. to Daily Stop, Inc. and the wives of the two principal owners would now be included as stockholders. The change is for the restructuring of the business. Everything else will remain exactly the same. There were no questions or comments from the Board of the public. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the transfer of the alcoholic beverages license from Dohaba, Inc. to Daily Stop, Inc. The public hearing closed at 7:05 PM.
3. **General Business:** Police Chief Ronald Glidden came before the Board to first present a letter of commendation to Officer Craig DeSantis for his heroic actions involving the rescue and subsequent medical attention to three victims of a helicopter accident off of Tyringham Road on March 10, 2009. Officer DeSantis was working a traffic detail for work being done on electrical lines when the helicopter crashed less than 100 feet from his location. The commendation went on to say that Officer DeSantis continued to give emergency medical attention to the most seriously injured victim until he was transported by ambulance to the hospital. Officer DeSantis's actions saved these victims from being more seriously injured. Chief Glidden also presented Officer DeSantis with a medal of valor for his actions. Officer DeSantis humbly accepted the commendation and thanked his fellow officer and fire and EMS personnel. He said the town is fortunate to have such qualified public safety personnel to depend on in times of crisis. Chief Glidden also said representatives from Northeast Utilities and PAR Electric will be making a presentation on April 17th at 2 PM in the courtroom to commend acts of valor during this emergency situation. The Selectmen thanked Officer DeSantis for his extraordinary actions during a time of crisis.

Chief Glidden also up-dated the Board on the grant received to purchase equipment to improve radio communications. He said a new console will be purchased for the communications center. The old one will be kept as a backup system. New Radios for the police cruisers and antennas will be installed to eliminate dead spots that have been a problem. The chief said funding should be available annually for up-grades but he wasn't sure how much the town would be getting in the future.

Ch. Consolati brought up the problem with the crosswalks on Main and Housatonic Streets and the number of people who have been injured while trying to cross in the past three months. He and Selectman have received a number of phone calls regarding this situation. Chief Glidden explained that none of the recent accidents involved speed or alcohol. A number of problems were discussed including lack of signage, poor lighting at night, whether some crosswalk locations should be changed to make them more visible. Chris Pompei, DPW Supt., came forward to say that the crosswalks will be painted in the spring and fall with reflective paint which should help make them more visible. After more discussion, no definitive conclusion to the problem was reached but Ch. Consolati said this dialogue will let the public know everyone is aware of the problem. The Board thanked Chief Glidden for his time.

Susan Kelley, Treasurer, came before the Board with recommendations from the Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC) for FY10 life and health insurance benefits. Ms. Kelley stated that the IAC met several times and recommended MIIA Blue Cross Blue shield's health insurance product at a 6% increase from FY09 rates. There will be no change in what will be offered. The town's broker received eight bids for life insurance and the IAC recommended Standard Insurance at a 9% decrease in rate and a three year rate guarantee. The town will save approximately \$2,200 per year. The Board voted, unanimously, to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Advisory Group for health and life insurance benefits.

Chris Pompei, DPW Supt., came before the Board regarding the contract for wastewater treatment plant sludge removal and disposal. This contract is between the town and Waste Water Services, Inc. at a cost of 8% over last year but still below the budgeted cost. The Board voted, unanimously, to sign the contract with Waste Water Services, Inc.

Next Mr. Pompei and the Board discussed the Tyringham Road repaving and reconstruction project. The first was an amendment to an agreement with Fuss & O'Neill, Inc., Project Engineer, to prepare preliminary right-of-way plans in the amount of \$5,700.00. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the amendment.

The Board received a letter from the governor certifying the town's Chapter 90 funding for FY10 in the amount of \$255,191.00. This funding will be set aside for road repairs.

Mr. Pompei told the Board that marble posts along the edge of the park had been damaged by a truck during the winter. No one came forward to take responsibility for the damage and therefore no insurance could be removed for repairs. Jim Morawiec, DPW employee, took the initiative and spoke with a monument firm to see how repairs could be done. The posts cost a considerable amount of money to replace. The repairs were made and the posts replaced by the DPW department at a considerable savings to the town.

The Board received a letter from Lenard Engineering, Inc. to extend time to complete the mapping of the water and sewer distribution in town from the scheduled completion of February 27, 2009 to a new completion date of June 14, 2009. The Selectmen wanted to make sure this information will be available in the future. Mr. Pompei said he would find out. The Board voted, unanimously, to grant the extension of time to complete the project.

Mr. Pompei informed the Board that the water treatment plant will be receiving stimulus funding for utility efficiency upgrades. The plan is to make the plant energy self-sufficient. He has eight weeks to complete the design and have everything ready for submittal or they lose the funding.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve temporary sign permits at Prime Outlets for three ten-day periods, all approved by the Building Inspector.

The Board received a letter from Richard Vinette, Jr., Executive Director, Lee Community Development Corp., recommending two appointments to the CDC Board. The appointments are Patricia Carlino, As Select Board member, and John Philpott, a reappointment. Because Selectman Bailey was absent, the Board had to invoke the rule of necessity and Selectman Carlino was able to vote for herself. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the appointments to the Lee CDC.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a Permit from Berkshire Gas Company to make emergency repairs at 100 Orchard Street.

4. Pending Business:

Household hazardous waste collections to be held on April 18th and June 10th in Gt. Barrington and May 16th in Lenox

The Board received a letter from the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee recommending a new two year agreement with CTSB to provide public access programming on Time Warner Cable television. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve an agreement with CTSB subject to review by Town Counsel.

5. Town Administrator:

While Mr. Pompei was still present, Mr. Nason went over a list of proposed warrant articles involving the DPW for the FY10 annual town meeting warrant. Mr. Nason next went over the other articles and after a brief discussion, the Selectmen were satisfied with the warrant articles as presented.

Mr. Nason told the Board that the town is now locked into an electric supply agreement with Constellation NewEnergy, an energy supplier for the Mass. Municipal Association. The quoted price is \$.08525 per kilowatt hour and the town will start buying electricity at that price in July. It should be a considerable saving to the town.

Mr. Nason said the baby town meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23rd at 7 PM in the Senior Center. Information regarding that meeting and the annual town meeting will be sent to the town representatives tomorrow.

6. Public Comments: None

The Board wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover.

7. Motion to adjourn:

The next regular Selectmen's meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7 PM. The Board voted, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Alderman, Selectmen's Secretary

cc: Board of Selectmen Board of Assessors 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