

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – AUGUST 18, 2009

Present: Patricia D. Carlino, Chairman, absent, Gordon D. Bailey, David J. Consolati, Board of Selectmen.
Robert L. Nason, Town Administrator

Selectman Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** July 7, 2009, Executive Session July 7, 2009, July 21, 2009, Executive Session July 21, 2009, July 27, 2009, August 4, 2009, Executive Session August 4, 2009. Approval of minutes held until Sept. 1, 2009 meeting.

2. **Public Hearing:** None

3. **General Business:**

Arthur Snide, Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board representative, came before the Board to discuss the BRTA's final report. There will be many changes to the bus routes in Berkshire County discussed at several venues within the county. He also discussed the increased costs of operation and the high cost of operating the trolley during the summer weekends and during the Christmas holiday season. Mr. Snide said anyone interested in what changes may take place should attend one of these meetings. The Board thanked Mr. Snide for his continued service to the town.

The Board next reviewed the Washington Mt. Road water main replacement project. There were eight bidders for the project and SK Design Group has recommended Borges Construction be awarded the contract as the lowest bidder. The award should be made with Alternate #1, removing and replacing a 12" culvert. The Board voted, unanimously, to award the project contract to Borges Construction in the total amount of \$253,330.50.

The Board received a new agreement with UMASS for Medicare claims service for a two year period beginning Sept. 1, 2009. This is for special needs students in the town's public schools. The fee for this service is 4.25% of the town's reimbursement which is the same as in the last contract. The Board voted, unanimously, to sign this agreement with UMASS.

Mr. Nason explained to the Board that Constellation New Energy has a program by which the town will be reimbursed for participating in a load response program. Certain buildings in town have the capability to run on their generators and during high energy demand periods Constellation would notify the town. The buildings are the two public schools and the wastewater treatment plant. The maximum time off the grid during one of these period would be four hours. There would be no disruption in services. The Board voted, unanimously, to participate in this program subject to Town Counsel's approval of the agreement and the recommendation of the Energy Committee.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve a one day wine and malt license for the Lee Sportsmen's Association for an event to be held on October 11, 2009.

The Board received a letter from the school superintendent regarding the disposition of two surplus school buses and various items of computer equipment. Because the computer equipment has been deemed to have no value and will be disposed of by recycling, the Board does not have to approve the disposition. The two buses will be advertised for parts only. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the disposition of the surplus school buses.

The Board received a letter from Doug Wilcox expressing his desire to become a member of the Traffic Commission. Gerry LePrevost, commission chairman, has approved this request. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the appointment of Doug Wilcox as a member of the Traffic Commission.

The Board voted, unanimously, to approve Berkshire Gas Co. permits for gas main repairs on Academy Street and Orchard Street, subject to approval by the Police Chief and the DPW Supt.

4. **Pending Business:**

Household hazardous waste mini-site collection will be held on Aug. 22nd from 9 AM to 11:30 AM at the Gt. Barrington Recycling Center.

5. **Town Administrator:** No report at this time.

6. **Public Comments:** Joanne Koivisto, 95 Hartwood Road, came before the Board to discuss an apparent error made on 2008 real estate taxes by the Assessors' office when determining the value of property on that road. She and others were unaware

of the time limit to file an abatement and felt a credit should be given instead to property owners who felt their assessments were too high. Selectman Bailey said he was not aware of this situation and wanted the Board of Assessors present to discuss this matter. The Board will look into having the Assessors present at the next Selectmen’s meeting and will contact Ms. Koivisto.

Deidre Consolati came before the Board asking about the newly created Sandy Beach Access Committee. She was told the members were asked to be present at the next Selectmen’s meeting on Sept. 1st. She also asked why no children from the Lee Youth Association participated in the free swimming lessons at the Beach. Selectman Consolati said she should speak to Sharon Terry, Director of the LYA, to get an answer.

Several people came before the Board to ask about the up-coming meeting with the Attorney General’s office regarding access to Laurel Lake. The meeting will be held on Sept. 14th at 7 PM at the Zukowski Auditorium at the Middle and High School. Monica Ryan and District Rep. Beverly Trombly urged all residents to attend this meeting.

- 7. **Motion to adjourn:** The next Selectmen’s meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009 at 7:00 PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Alderman, Selectmen’s Secretary

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| 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 |