

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF MEETING – MARCH 6, 2012

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

Selectman, David J. Consolati, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. **Minutes:** The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of February 21, 2012. Selectman Gordon D Bailey brought before the Board a motion to amend the Minutes of October 19, 2012 to include a sentence to the last part of Item 4 stating *“Selectman Bailey acknowledged receipt of an e-mail from the State Cultural Council concerning the use of donations previously received by the Lee Cultural Council”*. Selectman, Patricia D. Carlino seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion.
2. **Public Hearing:** Attorney Nicholas Parsenios brought before the Board an Application for a Retail Alcoholic Beverage License by Trader Moe’s, LLC. A retail package store primarily for the sale of wine and craft beers only, not the sale of domestic beers. He stated to the Board that there would be no connection to the bar behind the building known as Moe’s Tavern. Attorney Parsenios stated that he has attached two Manager Applications; one for Joshua Cohen and in the event that his application is denied because of his affiliation with Moe’s Tavern, a second Manager Application for Bertram Holdredge. The Board voted unanimously to grant the License pending the approval of the ABCC.
3. **General Business:** The Board voted unanimously by a motion made and seconded to appoint Frederick Clayson as a member of the Cultural Council upon a favorable recommendation by the Cultural Council Board.

In order to accommodate a large number of individuals who were present at the meeting to address sections 3-b and 5-a of the Agenda, those items were taken out of order and heard first.

The Meadow Street Bridge over Powder Mill Brook was ordered to be closed by the MassDOT due to a 2 x 2 foot hole in the bridge. A temporary fix was discussed at the cost of \$30,000.00 as opposed to a total bridge replacement of \$800,000.00. The Board is looking at all their options at this time. Sara Stiner of 488 Meadow Street came forward to discuss her concerns about the bridge closing. Her concerns were of the extra mileage and gas cost to her and her family in the five mile detour. She wanted to know when the bridge would be closed and encouraged the Board to try to find a way to enable, at the very least, a temporary fix until the bridge could be replaced. Linda Shafiroff of 490 Meadow Street, also expressed her concerns, mainly regarding a three year shutdown. Again the cost of mileage and gas cost was of great concern. A suggestion was made to her to call her town representative. David Renner of 540 Meadow Street voiced many of the same concerns. He also wanted to know who was responsible for the disrepair of the bridges in our town. Mr. Renner also stated that as a firefighter, he knows that the current response time of three minutes would be approximately 15 minutes with the bridge detour route. He wanted to know who makes the decision to close a bridge and Mr. Nason stated that the State mandates when a bridge is ordered to be closed and the State trumps any decision we might make. Mr. Renner

discussed the possibility of a temporary bridge, i.e. rental, lease, etc. and gave Mr. Nason some printed information regarding that issue. Robert Nason expressed that the DPW takes care of the roadways, but every two years an inspection by the State is done on all our bridges and two years ago the Meadow Street Bridge over Powder Brook passed inspection. Any disrepair happened very quickly. Mr. Nason also expressed that we are looking for federal dollars to help defray the cost. An engineer would be hired to look at any other alternatives. Chair, David Consolati also expressed that much of the damage has been caused by Hurricane Irene and the torrential rainfall of the past year. The main objective of the Board is in trying to work out details to keep the bridge open during the design process. Mr. Navin spoke of some of the same issues on the Golden Hill Bridge and that the process in replacing that bridge took well over three years. He stated that the state needs to "step up" with funding and that the bridge needs to be open for cars. Gordon Bailey mentioned that we are trying to work with the businesses and residents in the area in order to inconvenience everyone as little as possible. Dick Lindsey wanted to know if we "voted" to close a bridge and the Board stated that they do not vote to close a bridge; that any decision to close a bridge is state ordered. The consensus of the crowd was to implement a temporary one-lane fix for cars only.

Mr. Nason stated that we are a host community for The Southern Berkshire Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. The cost of participation in the Household Waste Program, which includes a base fee of \$2,750.00, is \$4,900.00. A motion to participate was made and seconded and the Board voted unanimously to allow the chair to sign the letter of intent.

The Berkshire On-Line Permitting Project was presented at the meeting. This is a service for the town that would allow people to obtain building permits on-line and to be able to track the status of any permits. This service would expand at a later date to other permits. We would need a grant for the start-up costs. Selectman, Gordon Bailey, recused himself from voting on this issue. The Town would be responsible for the coverage of the FY 2013 annual maintenance cost of \$5,920.00 and would be looking for a grant for the requested amount of \$13,486.00 that includes the one-time implementation fee of \$1,000.00. Residents would still be able to personally get permits at the Town Hall if they so desired. The Board approved the proposed project subject to the final approval of town counsel's authorization to sign the contract. Bev Trombley came forward wondering why we would spend this money when the old way works. She thinks we should focus on major issues and wanted her opinion to be "put on the record".

Mr. Nelson Daley, Jr. expressed his interest in serving as a Lee Dept. of Public Works Board Member in a letter submitted to the Selectmen. The Board of Public Works had no recommendation. Gordon Bailey made a motion to fill the open position with Nelson Daley, Jr. The Board voted unanimously to have Nelson Daley, Jr. be appointed as a member of the Board of Public Works.

Chair, David Consolati mentioned that the Beach Committee is looking for members and anyone interested should send a letter to the Selectmen if they wish to become a member.

4. Pending Business: The Board announced that there is a vacancy for a three year term for District 3 Town Representative.

Robert Nason announced the next Capital Outlay Committee Meeting of March 12, 2012 at 4:00 PM at the Selectmen's office at Town Hall.

Robert Nason also announced the Finance Committee Meetings on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM at the Selectmen's office at Town Hall.

5. Town Administrator: Mr. Nason provided the BRTA Bus Stop Relocation and Route Alteration Update. A Petition was presented to Mr. Nason by Sylvia Hubbard signed by the residents of Hyde Place of their concerns about changes to the bus route. Mr. Nason stated that the alternate route was designed to accommodate the needs of the residents of Hyde place. The drug store (old McClelland's) stop, now the business of the Dresser Hull Company will be moved per the operations manager of BRTA. The southbound stop will be on Railroad Street (which is considered the front door of Hyde Place), with the northbound stop being (at the back door of Hyde Place) Main Street. Cathy Corbett came before the Board to speak about the Convenience Plus bus stop. Her opinion was that it was not a good place for a stop with all the traffic from the store and the gas pumps. She thinks it is just too congested already. She also made a statement that if we were to receive more snow, someone should shovel the bus stop areas so commuters weren't stepping through snow to get on the bus. Rosemary Tirrell questioned the Board about the new Route and stated she was happy with the decision. Jeannine Trombly also questioned the relocation and stated that she preferred to catch the bus at the Dresser Hull Company store.

Mr. Nason announced the pending retirement of Kathy Borden, the Town Accountant. Kathy's letter of resignation was read by the Board. A motion to accept her letter of resignation was made and seconded and the Board voted unanimously to accept, with regret, her resignation as Town Accountant and wished her well in her new endeavors.

Mr. Nason noted that the Board members' copies of the Revenue and Expenses Reports, FY 2012 through February 29, 2012, were available for their review.

6. Public Comments: Bev Trombley spoke of our need as a town, to procure funding for an air conditioner unit at the library, our infrastructure which is in terrible condition, bridge repairs, paving of roads, our antiquated water system, etc. She stated that we need to be proactive in securing funds from grants, loans, etc. She also made comment regarding the DPW's salting of roads that did not, in her opinion, need to be salted. Mr. Nason spoke of the DPW's trying to get ahead of the snow and that there is a system in the salting of the roads and that Dennis Kelly of the DPW has 38 years experience in taking care of the roadways. The DPW crew follow the radar systems when a storm is predicted and take care of the roads accordingly. Mr. William Navin mentioned that it is difficult to determine the areas in need of salting as the town has many elevations.

Mr. Navin also wanted it to be made known that this past Sunday there was a water main break on Old Pleasant Street and that Big Y brought out pastries and coffee to the workers in the morning hours and later in the day when they were still there working, they sent out sandwiches to the workers. He thought a formal "thank you" was in order.

Mr. Navin made comment regarding the new bus route on Railroad Street. He thought that when the trucks line up at the lumber yard for deliveries, it may be difficult for the bus to get through.

Dickie Neales came before the Board in defense of the DPW. He stated that there are "rules and regulations" and comments made from citizens that there are five or six guys standing around an open hole not working were unfounded. He said that they are required to have someone standing outside the hole as road guards, and that they can't leave an open hole, even for a minute, without someone standing outside the hole. They do this so they don't have to hire a police detail. He felt that the DPW received no thanks or appreciation. He also said that all the members of the DPW take pride in their work. Mr. Nason and Mr. Bailey both spoke up regarding their appreciation of the DPW and that they have mentioned that in the past.

Mr. Navin spoke of the DPW in the area of Saratoga Springs in the town of Stillwater. He commented that they are a big land area and are on top of everything.

Bev Trombley's final words were that she was not singling out the DPW. We need to take a look at our money going out as there is room in every department to save money.

7. **Next regular meeting:** March 20, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

8. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy L. Belair, Selectmen's Secretary

Notice of Website Posting Sent to:

Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk
Town Collector
Planning Board

Board of Assessors
Board of Health
Conservation Commission
Police Chief
Building Inspector

Dept. of Public Works
Town Treasurer
Town Reps. District Chairmen
Superintendent of Schools
Town Accountant