

APPROVED ON 11/1/16

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – October 18, 2016

Present: Thomas Wickham, Chairman, Patricia D. Carlino and David Consolati, Board of Selectmen and Robert Nason, Town Administrator.

Chairman, Thomas Wickham, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded and unanimously approved, the members voted to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation strategy, because deliberating in open session would have a detrimental effect. The roll call vote was as follows:

AYES

NAYS

*David Consolati
Patricia Carlino
Thomas Wickham*

None

The Chair announced that the members expected to return to open Session at 7:00 PM and they did.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** *The Board members voted unanimously to approve the Public Session Minutes of October 4, 2016.*
2. **Public Hearing:** FY 2017 Tax Rate Classification – Karen Avalue, Acting Chairman of the Board of Assessors came before the Board to present their recommendation to the Town. She stated that the classification hearing is not to set the tax rate but to determine if the town wants to have a single tax rate or two tax rates (one for residential and open space and a second tax rate for commercial, industrial and personal property. *At the recommendation of the Lee Board of Assessors, the Select Board members voted unanimously to approve a single tax rate for all classes of property for Fiscal Year 2017.*

Mr. Nason recalled that there are also two programs to help out taxpayers. One is the Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund. Applications for this may be obtained from the Assessor's office, located on the second floor of Town Hall. The other is the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program for residents who are 60 years of age or older and who own and occupy their homes. To participate in this program you must

annually complete an application and be selected through an interview and placement process managed by the Director of the Council on Aging. Program guidelines and applications for this program may also be obtained from the Assessor's office.

3. **General Business:** Lee Land Trust (LLT) – Update on Barlow Trail - Linda Cysz, Secretary of the Lee Land Trust came before the Board to update them on the progress of the Barlow Trail. Linda stated that after a long and arduous road, the project will begin moving forward in 2017. Grant monies received were insufficient to do all that was required and extra money was sought from Berkshire County Metropolitan Planning Organization who had money from projects in the county related to transportation and roads. Requirements from the Federal Byway Commission and MassDOT along with delays in Boston because of review and requirements, rendered the LLT still unable to proceed with the work. At that point State Representative, Smitty Pignatelli was contacted to see if he could help the LLT to move the project along. Linda stated the "People" are what finally brought this project to the point of movement and she thanked everyone involved.

Ambulance Garage Window Replacement Project - *At the recommendation of Superintendent of Public Works, Christopher Pompei, P.E., the Board members voted unanimously to award the contract to the low bidder, Kubala Home Improvement, in the amount of \$22,849.00 and to authorize the Chair to sign the contract.*

Shared Services - Draft Implementation Plan for a Shared Chief Administrative Officer – The Board members were given an Implementation Plan for a Shared Chief Administrative Officer for Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge. David Consolati stated that he was opposed to the shared Administrator, while Tom Wickham stated that he was not opposed. Patty Carlino asked that each read the Plan, review it bring their questions and concerns to our next meeting. After a brief discussion, David Consolati agreed to read over the plan and would be ready for a discussion at our next meeting on November 3rd.

Community Compact Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Program Application - The Board members reviewed the information regarding the FY 2017 Efficiency & Regionalization Grant Program with two competitive application rounds for this new two million grant program. Round 1 opens Oct. 15, 2016, with all applications due by Nov. 15, 2016 and Round 2 opens on January 1, 2017 and closes on Feb. 1, 2017 at 5:00 PM. *The Board members agreed that Mr. Nason could submit an application on their behalf.*

FY 2018 Budget Guidelines – Mr. Nason presented the Board with a draft FY 2018 Operating Budget Guidelines. Provided that our state aid is at least level funded, our local receipts remain at least constant and our health insurance cost is contained, we may be able to afford a small pay increase in addition to scheduled step increases for school and municipal employees. Such increase will be constrained by the knowledge that our social security recipients will be receiving a 0.03% cost of living increase on January 1, 2017. Mr. Nason proposes that until we have more information about our revenue and

fixed expenses, to please level fund all personnel expenses except scheduled step increases. *The Board members voted unanimously to approve the FY 2018 Budget Guidelines as presented.*

State Election Warrant - The Board was presented with the State Election Warrant in which question #5 pertains specifically to the Town of Lee. The election will be held at 21 Crossway, Crossway Village Gym on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. *The Board members voted unanimously to approve and sign the warrant.*

Berkshire Gas Permits - *The Board members voted unanimously to grant Berkshire Gas permits for 1) 25 Margerie Street (retire gas service at main) and for 2) 251 High Street (replace natural gas service). The High Street permit is dated nunc pro tunc Oct. 17, 2016 as Chris Pompi gave the okay to do the project so that they would be finished cutting the road before the new paving on High Street.*

BRPC – Alternate Delegate - *The Board members voted unanimously to appoint John “Buck” Donovan to be our Alternate Delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Thank you to Buck for volunteering.*

Mutual Aid Agreement Certifications – Police Chief Roosa submitted for the member’s consideration Certifications for the Berkshire County Law enforcement Council Mutual Aid Agreement which is updated every three years. *The Board members voted unanimously to participate and authorized the Chair to sign the Certifications.*

4. Pending Business:

- a. ZBA – Appeal of the Decision of the Planning Board for the denial of a sign permit to the Big Y Express – Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Planning Board Office.
- b. Early Voting Announcement
- c. Holiday Sweater Fun Run – Sunday, Nov. 13th
- d. ZBA – George & Noha Noujaim - Variance Application for Public Hearing to construct a second means of egress within the required side setback - Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016 at 7:00 in the Planning Board Office.

5. Town Administrator:

- a. Mr. Nason presented the FY 2017 Heating Oil Procurement Quantity Estimate and pricing from Lipton Energy through the Berkshire Region Group Purchasing Program. He noted that the cost of \$1.80 average per gallon is down by approximately 10¢.
- b. Mr. Nason announced that the Lee Northern Mills Brownfield Area-Wide Plan for is available for viewing on the Town of Lee website. Click on “Flipbook”.

- c. Mr. Nason presented to the Board and announced that the Fall Hydrant Flushing Schedule is posted on our Town of Lee website.
- d. Mr. Nason reminded everyone of the Special Town Meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Lee/Middle High School Auditorium.

6. **Public Comments:** None.

David Consolati announced that Trick-or-Treat will be on Monday, October 31st (Halloween) from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Anyone participating should turn on their porch light for the kids. He also reminded everyone to watch for children and drive safely.

David announced that on Friday, October 28th from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM there will be a parade and hayride starting in the park (rain cancels). There will be refreshments and a Costume Contest following the parade in the First Congregational Church.

David announced that Trick or Treat will be on October 31st (Halloween) from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Anyone participating should turn on their porch light for the kids. He also reminded everyone to watch for children and drive safely.

- 7. **Next Regular Meeting:** Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 7:00 PM.
- 8. **Motion to Adjourn:** *The Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 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