

APPROVED ON 3/17/20

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – March 3, 2020

Present: Thomas P. Wickham, Chair, David Consolati and Patricia D. Carlino, Board of Selectmen and Christopher Ketchen, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Chairman, Thomas Wickham, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded and unanimously approved, the members voted to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to acquiring an interest in real property off Laurel Street, because discussing strategy in open session may have a detrimental impact on the Town's negotiating position. The roll call vote was as follows:*

AYESNAYS

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 subsequently did return to open session at 7:00 PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** None
3. **Public Hearings:** None.
4. **General Business:** Toll Stop Reminder - The Chair, Thomas Wickham, reminded everyone that applications for the Toll Stops are available in the Selectmen's Office. The drawing will be held at our next regular meeting on March 17th.
5. **Pending Business:** None.
6. **Chief Administrative Officer:**
 - a. The FY 2019 Revenue and Expense Reports for the period ended February 29, 2020 are available on the Selectmen's Table for their review.

Date: March 3, 2020

b. Discuss CAO's Recommended FY21 Budget – CAO, Christopher Ketchen presented the Board with the FY21 Budget. The recommended budget calls for \$25.8 million in spending requests from departments in their effort to serve the citizens of Lee. The recommended budget accomplishes the following:

- Fully funds the anticipated operating request of the Lee Public Schools
- Maintains core municipal services with reliance on a modest levy increase of 1.9% (mostly absorbed through new growth being taxes for the first time)
- Regional partnership on post-high school trades and vocational training
- Supports expanded operations of the Fire/EMS department
- Total capital requests from all funds and departments of nearly \$3.9 million
 - \$3 million for Main Street reconstruction plus \$422,00 for new paving projects
 - Over \$300,000 in other cash outlays for general infrastructure and equipment
 - Nearly \$200,000 in direct tax-supported capital outlay (beyond use of Free Cash)
 - Important investments at Schools, Town Hall, Sandy Beach and town-wide technology
- Modest Growth in employee health insurance costs (approximately 3%)
- Absorbs a substantial increase in retirement assessment.

CAO, Ketchen added that he looks forward to working with the Board and the Finance Committee during the ensuing weeks and months to present our Town Meeting Representatives with a spending plan that meets the needs of Lee residents while mitigating tax impacts.

7. Public Comments:

Kathy Hall came before the Board and stated that there is no ice at the skating rink at this point in time. She also stated that she is working on getting a survey for the feasibility study for a Community Center, which should be out by next week. People will then have three (3) weeks to respond to the survey.

Sean Regnier came before the Board and stated he is a resident of Lee. He wanted to speak to the Board regarding the Rest of River clean up and said he understands that the agreement is a “done deal”. Personally, he still thinks we have a fight and can impact the next draft of the agreement. In order for public comments to be effective we need to get organized and work together. He stated that “obviously he is against a dump” and is working with individuals from surrounding towns on how to impact the next draft from EPA / GE. As the river gets dredged and they are building the dump and the river is being remediated, we need to understand the permit and hold EPA/GE accountable for anything that can go wrong. He wants to know what steps he can take to better understand what exactly is happening. Tom directed him to look out for the “Construction Control

Document” which delineates what people are going to want to know, though that won’t be available for a while. Patty added that the revised permit won’t be available until late Spring early Summer. Chris encouraged everyone to go on our Town of Lee website under Town News and read the agreement. Sean asked, “what areas can we have the most impact”. Patty responded, “with means and measures. Sean asked if the legal representative we paid over the years would be still available to help navigate through this process. Patty explained that the five towns have paid \$365,000.00 so far and will probably have to spend more to continue on.

Nearing the end of the meeting, David Consolati stated that he spent his first ten years out of college running the Lee Youth Association program, the basketball program from November through March and refereed 110 games in one year. He has coached his kids’ lacrosse and soccer games. So if anyone thinks he is out to hurt any of these kids they are “kidding yourself” and to listen to the “crap” on “Facebook” is ridiculous. He knows these kids and they know him. He has spent his entire life in this town and this is wrong.

Sean Regnier asked Dave if he was directing this at him, because he also is disturbed about a lot of what he is seeing and reading on “Facebook” and David replied that he is not directing this at him, just putting it out there in general. David said “we have to do what we have to do and we can’t make everyone happy”. The EPA mandated to remove the PCB’s from the river. We could have rolled the dice and it would be a 50-50 shot. We could have ended up with three dumps, not one! Neither him, Tom or Patty are getting any money from this. They have to make decisions based on what they have. They took the advice of the lawyer that they hired. People need to take a deep breath, because we (the Select Board) are not the enemy!

Patty stated that she agrees with Dave on these points. We can’t take a chance with 5,800 people in town. This is a much better agreement than originally written and it wasn’t an easy decision. Patty concluded with her thoughts that in the end she thinks something good will come out of it for future generations. She urged everyone to read the details of the agreement and call if you have any questions.

Sean stated that he doesn’t disagree with anything said, he just wants to know “what do we do now? How can we all work together?”

Kathy Hall came back before the Board and said that she “is proud of all of all the Select Board and their hard work in a difficult situation and she is also proud of Sean for standing up asking what do we do now?” She stated that it is important for everyone to be objective in how to move forward, to think clearly about what it is and “working together”. It is important to come to a satisfactory end. No one wants a dump, we all want clean air, healthy people and we need to take our time to be aware. She ended with a final statement to the Select Board, “Thank you for all your hard work”.

8. **Next Regular Meeting:** Our next regular meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM.
9. **Motion to Adjourn:** *By a motion duly made and seconded the Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy L. Bigelow,
Administrative Assistant

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

Date: March 3, 2020