

APPROVED ON 7/7/2020

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – June 2, 2020

Present: Thomas Wickham, Patty Carlino and David Consolati, Chairman, Board of Selectmen and Christopher Ketchen, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

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

1. **Approval of Minutes:** *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the Open Session Minutes of May 19, 2020.*

2. **Public Hearings:** a) Order for Joint or Identical Pole Locations – Verizon New England, Inc. and NStar Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy – Job #1A4DIRT – Spring Street, Lee, Massachusetts: A representative from Eversource Energy came before the Board to present their application for a pole permit. They will be placing one jointly owned pole on the westerly side of Spring Street at a point approximately one thousand eight hundred ninety-seven (1,897) feet northerly from the center line of West Park Street. The reason for this is to place one (1) jointly owned pole on Spring Street to accommodate an electric company upgrade; and to provide for the distribution of intelligence and telecommunications and for the transmission of high and low voltage electric current. They are also asking permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersection public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each may desire for distributing purposes. *After a brief discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the application as written.*

3. **General Business:** a) Short-Term Borrowing - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to award, at the recommendation of Donna Toomey, Treasurer/Collector, the short term borrowing to Greenfield Cooperative Bank at a rate of 1.25%. The bids represent the \$56,192 (fourth paydown) for school boilers; \$81,433 (fourth paydown) for the dump truck and sander and \$133,655, (second paydown) for the dump truck, for a total of \$271,825.00 and that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment below to be financed with the proceeds of the borrowing authorization by the vote of the Town passed May 12, 2016 (Article 19 and Article 23) and May 11, 2017 (Article 29) is hereby determine pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7(1) to be as follows:*

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Borrowing Amount</u>	<u>Maximum Useful Life</u>
Dump Truck & Sander	\$200,000.00	10 years
School Boilers	\$126,000.00	10 years
Dump Truck	\$180,000.00	10 years

b) Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board (BRTA) - Nomination of a Town of Lee Representative - No one has come forward at this time, so the Board decided to keep the nomination period open until our next meeting.

c) Election Officials Appointments - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to appoint, Maggie Sorrentino, Emma Sorrentino, William Consolati, Mary Brittain & Samuel Sorrentino, as extras to be used as needed for COVID-19 accommodations for the July 22, 2020 Municipal Elections.*

d) Harsh Patel – Green Theory Cultivation, LLC – Status Update - The parties were a no-show, therefore there was no discussion.

e) Pete D’Agostino – Forest Wilde, LLC – Status Update - Pete D’Agostino came before the Board on behalf of Forest Wilde, LLC to provide the Board with a status update regarding where the stand in the special permitting process: He stated that they have procured their property at 735 Laurel Street (Cork N’ Hearth), and are ready to go forward with the intermunicipal departments for their Site Plan, etc. and to then move forward with the Special Permit. The Board had asked them to come back after due diligence to look at the location, traffic conditions, etc. Tom Wickham stated that he is concerned about the traffic on a difficult corner, especially during peak hours. He suggested that they contact Mass DOT and have conversations with them regarding the traffic. Mr. D’Agostino agreed that there are issues and is aware that these issues would need to be addressed. He mentioned that they could possibly hire a traffic detail during Tanglewood Traffic. They may need to clean up the site line. He will reach out and meet with Department Heads at Town Hall and speak with the State regarding a traffic study. Kathy Hall came before the Board and discussed her concerns which are the kids at the beach. The “Spirit of the Law” is to protect children. Sean Regnier asked what was so desirable about that location in the first place? Mr. D’Agostino replied that there were two reasons: one, the property had a “local feel” and “opportunity”. Mr. D’Agostino said that he would be back before the Board once that have completed their traffic study.

4. Pending Business: None

5. Town Administrator: a. FY 2020 Revenue and Expense Reports for the period ended May 31, 2020. The reports are on the Selectmen’s Table for their reviews.

b. Annual Town Meeting Discussion: CAO, Christopher Ketchen came before the Board to discuss the Annual Town Meeting (Draft) Warrant and the 32 Articles as follows:

1-5 – Typical budget items / 6- Capital Budget pared down / 7-8 – Water & Wastewater Enterprise (Operating) / 9- Blanket Grant Authorization / 10-Chapter 90 Receipts / 11- Outstanding Notes Due / 12-13 – Budget Debt Service / 14-15 – Percentage of Rooms Tax / 16- Annual ROR Assessment / 17 – 2,500 – Laurel Lake Preservation Fund / 18- Berkshire Brownfields / 19- Fireworks funding / 20-Shared CAO / 21-Town Meeting – report on Charter

Review / 22-Ratiff TIFF to Berkshire Sterile / 23- Disposition of Real Property / 24 - 27 – Zoning Bylaws / 28-32 - Citizen Petitions.

The Board discussed the scheduling of a town meeting, how to make people aware of the warrant Information without a Baby Town Meeting and how they would like to be notified. After a discussion, the Board decided to go with a 1/12 budget at this time and go with a bare operating budget. *After a brief discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to reschedule the town Meeting until either July or August depending on where we stand with the COVID-19.*

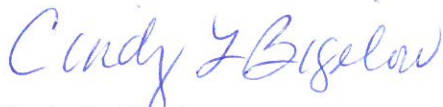
6. Public Comments: Kathy Hall came before the Board to talk about the Athletic Field. She stated that there are five (5) pieces of fitness equipment installed. The Class of 2020 “Class Night” is not “in person” but by ZOOM. Graduation is in process. Each person can have three guests. It will be held on June 11th or June 12th (rain date). She also wanted to state that everyone needs to be in compliance, because if not, the ceremony will stop. Congratulations to the Class of 2020.

The Board extended prayers for cities that are in crisis right now. We are thankful we live in the Berkshires. “Thank you” to VFW for the nice event for Memorial Day.

7. Next Regular Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

8. Motion to Adjourn: *Upon 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 Chair
Superintendent of Schools
Town Accountant