

APPROVED ON 4/6/21

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – March 16, 2021

Present: David Consolati, Chairman

By ZOOM: Patty Carlino and Sean Regnier, Board of Selectmen.

Christopher Ketchen, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Chairman David Consolati called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, stating that pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, this is an audio recording with a roll call vote of members present by ZOOM.

<i>David Consolati</i>	<i>here</i>
<i>Patty Carlino</i>	<i>here</i>
<i>Sean Regnier</i>	<i>here</i>

1. **Approval of Minutes:** *Upon a motion duly made and seconded and upon a roll call vote, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the open session minutes of March 2, 2021.*

<u><i>AYES</i></u>	<u><i>NAYS</i></u>
<i>David Consolati</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Patty Carlino</i>	
<i>Sean Regnier</i>	

2. **Public Hearings:** None.

3. **General Business:** a) Lee Chamber – Colleen Henry – discussion regarding restrictions on outside restaurant service - Colleen Henry came before the Board to discuss the restrictions on outside restaurant service. She is asking if they could allow the same as last year; allowing the Lee restaurants to serve outside. She'll notify the restaurants that they are under the same guidelines as the Board of Health instituted last year. Patty agreed to the restaurants taking advantage of the outside seating as long as they check with Jim Wilusz (Board of Health) and follow any guidelines he may set. Sean also agreed that he was fine with it as long as guidelines were followed. Colleen said there were no problems last year and everyone adhered to the Board of Health guidelines set.

b) Road Toll Participants (from last year's Covid cancelled participants) - Due to last year's road tolls being cancelled, those chosen for last year will be the participants this year. They are as follows: Troop 3-Lee Boy Scouts / Lee High Boys Soccer / Lee High Gridiron / Lee VFW-Memorial Day weekend / G. Marconi Lodge (Sons of Italy) / Lee Volleyball Booster Club / Lee

Lions / Knights of Columbus. Letters will go out to the participants, along with the guidelines to be followed which will include new guidelines per Jim Wilusz-Board of Health (mandated masks social distancing and any other requirements set for by the Board of Health.

c) Agricultural Commission – Announcement - The Agricultural Commission has 3 or 4 vacancies and is in dire need of additional members. The Agricultural Commission gives recommendations to other boards regarding agricultural topics and promotes agriculture in our town. Patty Carlino announced that if anyone is interested please contact Town Clerk Christopher Brittain. Sean added that he may know people that may be interested. He also asked if this could be posted on the Town of Lee website.

d) Greener Gateway Committee – New Member Appointment - The Board received a letter from Patricia Johnston asking to be appointed to the Lee Greener Gateway Committee. Patty Carlino welcomed her aboard. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded and by roll call vote, the Board members voted unanimously to appoint Patricia Johnston to the Lee Greener Gateway Committee.*

AYES

NAYS

David Consolati

None

Patty Carlino

Sean Regnier

e) Matthew Fenton – Request for Voluntary Recognition-Collective Bargaining – Firefighter/EMT Matthew Fenton came before the Board stating that the Town of Lee Firefighters/EMTs want to organize as a sole collective bargaining unit (union) on specialized teams as “career firefighters” to be technician for the Town to recognize as International Association of Firefighters Federation. Mr. Fenton added that they are 100% happy with Chief Brown, Chris Ketchen and the Select Board, they just want to memorialize their positions and when people change positions. He wants to make and keep what we have keep going. This makes it more attractive to retain and recruit members. Sean asked what are the specifics and Mr. Fenton replied that this would recognize the positions. The 24-hour shifts work well and allows time for training. The schedule is flowing nicely and reorganizing opens up avenues for more training at no cost to the town. CAO, Christopher Ketchen stated that he had nothing to add and they will make a determination at a subsequent meeting on whether to pursue this voluntarily or choose an alternate route. Patty Carlino stated that she would like to take a couple of weeks to think about the impact on the town and David said he would find out what the requirements are. Mr. Fenton added that the State would cover overtime and will never leave us uncovered. The final say would be Chief Brown. Chris Ketchen stated that once a Collective Bargaining Unit in in place they will be governed by 150E of General Laws.

f) Lee Youth Commission – (Draft of business plan for “potential community center” - CAO, Christopher Ketchen stated that Kathy Hall is attending a sub-committee meeting and cannot attend the Selectmen Meeting. This will be on a future agenda for discussion.

4. **Pending Business:** None

5. **Town Administrator:** a) FY 2022 Budget Discussion – CAO Christopher Ketchen came before the Board to discuss the FY 2022 Budget. He stated that the FY22 budget requests are at 26.6 million which is up 25.5 from the current FY21 budget. The operating budget is up 2.1% to 22.4 million. There is a 1.6 million resumption of aggressive capital plan, allocating a paydown of debt obligation of approximately 30,000 in tech upgrades. The budget will fund updates to both the comprehensive Master Plan and the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The contemplation of funding the continuation of special education stabilization fund as well as fully funding the anticipated budget requests of the schools. We will return to vehicle replacement as discussed last year due to COVID-19. In the town's favor is the unheard of flat health insurance assessment this year. Chris extended his kudos to ACAO Lyndsay Broom and Treasurer/Collector Donna Toomey for working with MIIA to keep costs down. Looking at the property tax levy impacted under 1.6% which is less than last years before any new growth. They discussed whether the CPA would affect this to which Chris replied that there will be a surcharge next year, but it's an independent assessment, which will have no additional impact on the operating budget.

6. **Public Comments:** None.

7. **Next Regular Meeting** - Our next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

8. **Motion to Adjourn** – *Upon a motion duly made and seconded and by roll call vote, the Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM.*

AYES

NAYS

David Consolati
Patty Carlino
Sean Regnier

None

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