

APPROVED ON 7/20/21

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING – July 6, 2021

The Chair, Patty Carlino called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Christopher Ketchen, CAO, Chair Patty Carlino, Sean Regnier and Bob Jones, Board of Selectmen.

The Members convened in Executive Session at 6:30 PM in their office on the second floor for the purpose of discussing negotiation strategy with new FF/EMT UNION, because an open meeting discussion would have a detrimental effect. The Members reconvened in open session in the former courtroom 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 18, 2021 and June 1, 2021.*

2. **Public Hearings:** None.

3. **General Business:** a) **Erik Williams (Canna Provisions) – Discussion – Community Impact Fee Payments** - Erik Williams from Canna Provisions came before the Board to discuss the Community Impact Fee. The impact fee anticipates that, as a result of the Company's operation of the establishment, the Town will incur additional expenses and impacts upon its road system, law enforcement, inspectional services, permitting services, administrative services and public health services, in addition to potential additional unforeseen impacts upon the Town. He stated to the Board that he had checked with a number of departments in the Town and no one could come up with any extra fees, impacts, etc. that were incurred by the Town as a direct result of Canna Provisions. After a brief discussion regarding this, the Board members the Chair, Patty Carlino asked Mr. Williams to allow us to take this under advisement and discuss this at a later meeting.

b) **Lee Historical Society – Discussion – re: Bill Mathews** Bill Mathews from the Lee Historical Society before the Board to discuss the adequacy of the firefighting water supply on the lower Main Street Historic District. He spoke of the fires and floods that changed our town. He told the Board that Dick Lindsay had written 6 articles in 18 months regarding the installation of a new water line and the paving of Main Street. With the new Main Street paving project that was just completed it now looks like the water line replacement is on the back burner again for approximately 10 years. As far as water flow, nothing has been documented; it's all speculation.

In his communication with Fire Chief Brown, he was assured that we are adequately protected. But Mr. Matthews commented that we need to know that for a fact. He also spoke with our Building Commissioner, BJ Church with the same concerns and was told that some work needs to be done, but currently we are protected.

c) **Berkshire Gas Permits** - Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve two Berkshire Gas permits, as follows:

- i) 335 West Park Street – Install New Gas Service
- ii) 85 Stockbridge Road (house & cottage) – Replace Gas Service

d) **Appointment – Board of Assessors – Sarah Navin** - Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Sarah Navin to the Board of Assessors for the standard three (3) year term.

e) **Donations for Public Installations – Discussion** - Patty Carlino, Chair spoke about the need for some guidelines and/or to set a policy for the installation of benches, streets, parks, etc., being memorialized for citizens. She stated that Lenox has a Policy and we should have guidelines in place for guidance when these situations arise. The Board agreed to see what we can come up with and once we have a draft, we will put it out there for people to look at and/or make changes. Monica Ryan said she was grateful for the consideration of this. The Board members will take some time and draft something up to present in the near future.

f) **Lee Youth Commission** - Kathy Hall came before the Board to thank the town for the playground equipment. She stated that they need volunteers to help with the surfacing for the playground at the Athletic Field.

They will be finalizing a plan for the potential community center on Monday, July 12 @ 7:00 PM in the courtroom.

4. **Pending Business:** None.

5. **Town Administrator** - a) **Preliminary FY 2021 Revenue and Expense Reports for the period ended June 30, 2021** - CAO Christopher Ketchen informed the Board that the Preliminary FY 2021 Revenue and Expense Reports for the period ended June 30, 2021 are available for review in the Selectmen's Office.

6. **Public Comments** - Janet Warner came before the Board stating that in reflecting on the Annual Town Meeting and the Housatonic River Clean-up, she commented that she watched the meeting on CTSB and is regretful that she should have stood up and said something, but she didn't. The tone of the conversation regarding the Housatonic River Cleanup has become rude and uncivil to the point of intimidation, and others have told her that they feel the same. She has been made to feel uncomfortable at the last meeting and some have tried to make fair points about the "Rest

of River” cleanup, but fear of repercussions has made some install security at their homes and people look over their shoulders. Repeated threats on social media include “sniper scopes” and “tar and feathering” of our town leaders. “What have we come to?” “We can disagree without becoming disagreeable”. Nobody knows what would happen if we drop out of the agreement. We could lose “our place at the table”.

Board member, Bob Jones commented that we have to start somewhere and that is why he made the motion that he made at the last meeting.

Board member, Sean Regnier stated that we may be taking a leap if HRI is successful, we’re still out. An ex-EPA lawyer said similar things about that; that it is best to stay involved in the progress. He also stated that to rescind the agreement could have legal ramifications.

John Coty came before the Board and stated that ultimately, we want the river cleaned up.

Monica Ryan stated that PAWA represents 5 towns – she doesn’t trust him and that he did us no favors. We need to clean the Housatonic safely and securely. We voted at town meeting to rescind and she doesn’t understand why Patty and San choose not to implement the process.

After a contentious back and forth between the townspeople present and the Board members, Dee Dee Consolati came before the Board stating that she is very sorry for the screaming, but all the people want is for the \$50,000 to be used as they had envisioned.

She switched gears and asked about the inability of townspeople to have their say in how the town beach could be used in the future. Could some financial arrangement with the owner be arranged for the people to get to the beach? The situation is “absurd”.

Discussion was had about the Annual Town Meeting and the inability of the moderator to control the situation, with a simple “Point of Order”. Kathy Hall stated there was intimidation towards Sean. People were still bashing people. Can we agree to disagree? We need to call a Point of Order when someone is indeed “out of order”

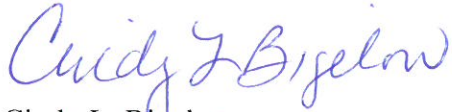
Board Member Sean Regnier added that the issue is about rescinding the deal – yes. Nobody “wants” the dump. It’s about what’s possible and that’s not possible.

Bob Jones commented, “Patty, you can change your mind”.

7. **Next Regular Meeting** - Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, 2021 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 8:45 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