

APPROVED ON 6/7/22

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING – May 17, 2022

**Board Re-organization**

The first order of business was to reorganize the Board. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to elect Sean Regnier as Chairman and Bob Jones as Clerk.*

Present: Sean Regnier, Bob Jones and newly elected, Gordon Bailey, Select Board members.

Also Present: Christopher Brittain, Town Administrator

Chairperson, Sean Regnier 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 3, 2022.*

2. **Public Hearings:** None.

3. **Public Comments:** Kathy Hall came before the Board and stated “The Lee Youth Commission’s Wednesday’s Simple Fun at the Athletic Field is a huge success. Tomorrow Jack McKeon will be at the athletic field from 3:30 to 5:00 to teach pickleball. The Lee Youth Commission has added WiFi to the Garrity Shield’s Pavilion. There is a sign posted to access the WiFi. The Lee Youth Commission is asking the Select Board for guidance as to whether the Commission should continue to pursue the idea of a community center of some sort with the possibility that private property may need to be purchased, and if so, what next? Do we spend more money for a Feasibility Study? Get a survey? We will need to make sure we have a viable location (closer to the school and/or downtown). What are the next steps? She offered that she will work with Chris Brittain and the Finance Committee and find out what is available. She also said she would like to be on the agenda for the next Select Board meeting. She is looking for any ideas for the next meeting.

4. **General Business:** a) Fire Department Presentation -Fire Chief, Ryan Brown came before the Board with the following statement: “In the fire service we measure our personal success by celebrating certain benchmarks. These are usually indicated by years of service. From probation to retirement, we tend to mark 5-year increments. Tonight , we wish to publicly acknowledge a milestone. Deputy Chief Ed North was appointed as a probationary firefighter to the Town of Lee in 1972. June will make 50 years of dedicated and selfless service to the tax payers with little or no reward. Ed is the senior member of our call force and continues his service to the town, all

hours of the day and night with hesitation. For this dedication we wish to pin him with a 50 years of service badge. As mentioned earlier, we celebrate benchmarks, but this is truly a milestone. I would like to thank you in advance for giving us this opportunity to show our appreciation for what Ed brings to the department and do this in a public forum.” Sincerely, Ryan C. Brown

The Board members extended their gratitude to Ed for his many years of selfless service to the Town.

b) MVP Grant Presentation – Carrieanne Petrik - Carrieanne Petrik came before the Board (via Zoom) to talk about the MVP Grant. Town Administrator Christopher Brittain announced that Carrieanne Petrick was available to talk about opportunities for the Town to apply for a Planning Grant for preparedness and for an action grant in the future. The Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness Grant (MVP) application is due June 7, 2022. The process looks at preparedness for climate change and this process takes just under a fiscal year (10-11 months) in total. The amounts are generally about \$25,000 for a planning grant with additional funds for an expanded scope if there are specific things i.e. Stockbridge focused on senior housing, Egremont just completed the process with businesses, etc they talked about climate change, etc. The Planning Grant has a little over 100 hours as the match requirement. The Action grant range anywhere from \$25,000 to 4 million. Some towns are looking at culvert replacements, at dirt roads, etc. Whatever we may decide she would help every step of the way and help access funds. Sean Regnier asked her how the funds were raised...where do they come from? Carrieanne replied that they are tied to the State budget and are part of the capital budget. Most of their grants are for 1- year projects. Gordon Bailey asked if there is a location on the state website on filling out the application. Chris Brittain stated that he has started the process in “draft” form to present to the Board members when completed. With the Board’s permission, Chris said that he would complete the application by the June 7<sup>th</sup> deadline. Nearing the end of the discussion, Carrieanne stated that they don’t need commitments at this point. Gordon stated that a number of years ago the DPW hired someone to to an I & I Study. Chris added that we are in the process of a Master Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation plan can overlap; the timing is good. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to complete the application of the MVP grant.*

c) Agricultural Commission Appointment - *Upon a motion duly made and seconded and at the request of the Agricultural Commission, the Board members voted unanimously to appoint Peter Naventi as a member of the Agricultural Commission for the customary one (1) year term.*

d) Annual Administrator’s Yearly Re-appointments – Veteran’s Agent, Animal Control and Sealer of Weights and Measures. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Board members voted unanimously to affirm the Annual Administrator’s re-appointments as follows: Veteran’s Agent -- Doug Mann / Animal Control Officer -- Jason Dragonetti / Sealer of Weights & Measures – Brandon Collinge.*

e) Discussion of Rest of River (ROR) Committee Member - The Board members received a letter from former Board Member, Patty Carlino, which was read into the record as follows: *“This is to advise you that I would very much like to remain as the representative to the ROR Municipal*

*Committee. After nine years of commitment to the committee I feel I would be the most qualified to continue as Lee's representative.*

*However, realizing the quandary the new Board may be in, should you wish to name another person to this committee, I would suggest that I remain at least until your next meeting, so that you can think about it. There are no meetings scheduled at this time, and this could give you the time needed. Sincerely Patricia Carlino"*

Gordon stated that he wasn't sure if the person on the ROR Committee must be a Select Board member. Sean said that Channing Gibson in Lenox is on the ROR Committee, but not currently a Select Board member. Anne Langlais stated that they want the Agreement rescinded and would like to see someone new on the Committee. Someone who could see the "bigger picture". She appreciates the Board waiting until our next meeting. Janice Braim stated she would like to see Bob Jones as the member on the ROR Committee. Tim Gray stated that he wanted nothing to do with anyone on the ROR Committee. He stated that the only people with answers is the Housatonic River Initiative (HRI) and that the ROR needs a new roster of people. Monica Ryan stated a "no" to Patty on HRI and a "yes" to a Select Board member. Gordon said that he wants to catch up on the Executive Session minutes to see what was being presented. Clare Lahey asked what the ROR Committee is doing right now. Patty answer "nothing right now" Following these discussions, *the Board members voted unanimously to table the decision on the ROR Committee member until our next meeting.*

5. Pending Business: None

6. Town Administrator: Christopher Brittain informed the Board that the paving on Housatonic Street will be re-paved to remove the very noisy brick pattern and make it quieter. The Board of Public Works endorsed the letter to Mass DOT to just paint the brick with no raised pattern, so there would be no sound issues. *The Board members voted unanimously to approve the Mass DOT's repaving of Housatonic Street to fix the raised brick pattern with no raised pattern in order to correct the sound issues.*

Chris presented to the Board for their signatures, Palmer Paving Contract in the amount of \$740,166.90 to pave East Street, West Street, Summer Street and Spring Street. *The Board members voted unanimously to approve the contract between the Town of Lee and Palmer Paving in the amount of \$740,166.90 and to authorize the Chair to sign the contract.*

Chris also informed the Board that our DPW Superintendent, Alan Zerbato is retiring in June, so we will be looking for a new Superintendent. We have posted the position on a number of platforms. Ed Lahey stated that Alan was always so responsive whenever called upon, he did a super job and always called back within 20 minutes.

Gordon Bailey, on behalf of the Board, thanked Al for all he did for the Town. Christopher Brittain added that he is a great asset to the town and will be missed.

The Board stated that during COVID many people were not coming in for Sandwich Board Sign or temporary sign permits. We now have Antojitos Oaxaca Mexican Restaurant on Railroad Street is asking to be allowed a Free-Standing Sandwich Board sign to be placed at the corner of Main Street and Railroad Street. The sign is a double sided 6.6 square ft per side sign. *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board members voted unanimously to approve the Free-Standing Sandwich Board sign as presented and the Board will waive the fee.*

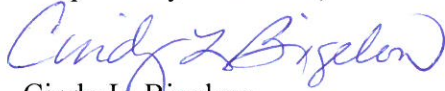
Clare Lahey commented that it should be set back and not block the sidewalk and/or view.

Gordon commented that back in the 1980's – 1990's near the Hardware Store and at the Railroad/Main Street intersection, they are allowed to put in a municipal controlled sign in a location that does not impede foot traffic.

7. **Next Regular Meeting:** Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM

8. **Motion to Adjourn:** *Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 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