

APPROVED ON 3/3/15

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – February 17, 2015

Present: David Consolati, Chairman, Patricia D. Carlino and Thomas Wickham, Board of Selectmen and Robert Nason, Town Administrator.

Chairman, David Consolati, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM .

1. **Approval of Minutes:** *The Board members voted unanimously to approve the Public Minutes of the Meeting of February 3, 2015 and the Revised Executive Session Minutes of January 20, 2015. The Board members (Tom Wickham abstained from this vote) voted to approve the Public Minutes of the Meeting of April 9, 2014.*
2. **Public Hearing:** The Starving Artist Café – Application to Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) for Restaurant, Wine & Malt Liquor License. Emmy Davis came before the Board to present her application for a wine & malt restaurant license for The Starving Arties Café. After a brief discussion regarding the TIPS certification, *the Board members voted unanimously to approve the wine & malt liquor license for The Starving Artist Café, with the condition that there be someone on the premises with a “tips” certification.*
3. **General Business:** Solar Photovoltaic Systems on Town-Owned land - Tom Wickham stated that after much exploration to place solar photovoltaic systems on town-owned land, it just didn't work out. The interconnection cost would have been \$400,000 thereby leaving no financial gain for the town. Despite their best efforts, at this point the Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee's (EEAC) recommendation to the Select Board is to cancel the procurement as it is not economically viable. There being no disagreement with that recommendation, Mr. Nason stated that he would withdraw the procurement. Tom stated that the Committee would continue to explore alternatives.

Innholder License Renewal – Ramsey House Bed & Breakfast - *The Board members voted unanimously to grant the Innholder license to the Ramsey House Bed & Breakfast.*

Common Victualer License Renewal - *The Board members voted unanimously to grant the Common Victualer license to Lucky's Ice Cream.*

Gay Forbes – Laurel Street - Gay Forbes came before the Board to discuss the lack of sidewalk clearing on Laurel Street. David Consolati responded by informing her that Laurel Street is a state highway and not a town road and that any plowing or sidewalk clearing is done as an additional service by the DPW. Ms. Forbes stated that she had contacted the State, who according to her, stated that it was the town's responsibility. Patty Carlino commented that it has been an extraordinarily bad year. David commented that as it is a state highway, that includes the sidewalks. Upon the

departure of Ms. Forbes, David said that he understands her frustration and the DPW guys are doing the best they can.

4. Pending Business:

- a. Planning Board – Hearing – Monday, March 9, 2015 at 6:15 on the application of Matthew D. Carlino & Jennifer M. Carlino, for approval of a Preliminary Subdivision Plan.

5. Town Administrator:

- a. Drinking Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Finance Option – Mr. Nason stated to the Board that he had attended an infrastructure finance workshop at the MMA annual meeting. He commented that there is a deficit in the sewer fund balance and not enough dollars to accommodate an annual withdrawal of \$300,000. New legislation permits municipalities that accept the law to impose a surcharge on real property for sewer and water infrastructure purposes. All monies collected from the surcharge must be in a special fund known as the Municipal Water Infrastructure Investment Fund. In order to collect the surcharge and establish a Municipal Water Infrastructure Investment Fund, a municipality must follow a two-step process to adopt the law. First, the municipality's legislative body must vote by a majority to accept the statute and designate the surcharge percentage and secondly, the voters of a city or town must vote to accept the law at the next regular municipal or state election. Mr. Nason stated that this is the rollout from the initial conversation. We will need more direction from the DOR and he will keep us informed.
- b. FY 2016 Operating Budget, Preliminary Requests - Mr. Nason stated that he is still chasing down budgets and will defer this conversation to our next meeting.

Mr. Nason also stated that salt for the roadways is hard to get. The Albany port is empty and is waiting for deliveries. We received 120 tons today, but having used 200 tons on the last storm with more storms on the forecast, we won't have enough. Tom Wickham asked if the salt could be mixed with sand and Bob replied that we are looking at alternatives. We are \$40,000 - \$80,000 over on snow and ice budget. Julie Ruth (Berkshire Record) asked about the minimum time to expect the salt delivery and David commented that multiple towns are all having the same problems. We are all waiting on the supplier.

6. **Public Comments:** Dick Lindsay, going back to the infrastructure conversation, asked if we would be resubmitting on the Mass Works funding. Bob Nason stated that we are and Smitty Pignatelli has spoken with Jay Ash, the new Secretary of Housing & Economic Development. We will be crafting a letter to the Secretary to pitch the funding once again.

David once again reminded everyone to check on their neighbors during these storms and also asked that everyone try to shovel their sidewalks.

7. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Courtroom.
8. **Motion to Adjourn:** *The Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the public session of the meeting at 7:32 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy L. Belair,
Selectmen's Secretary

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