

APPROVED ON 4/7/15

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – March 17, 2015

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

Absent: Patricia Carlino

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 March 3, 2015.
2. **Public Hearing:** None
3. **General Business:** Valley Street Bridge Repairs, Phase 1 - In light of the recent notification from Mass DOT determining that the maximum load which the bridge may safely carry be reduced from 20 tons to 5 tons, Chris Pompei, PE, Superintendent of the Dept. of Public Works, came before the Board to present Gill Engineering's March 3, 2015 proposal in an amount not to exceed \$8,275.00 and the LB Corporation's March 11, 2015 proposal for the repairs in the amount of \$9,650.00. *The Board members voted unanimously to award the contracts to Gill Engineering and LB Corporation and authorize the Chair to sign the agreements; and to approve the Chapter 90 funding request of \$5,843.00 to pay for a portion of the work.*

Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Removal and Disposal Agreement - *The Board members voted unanimously to exercise the option to extend Waste Water Services, Inc., Sludge Removal and Disposal Agreement to March 31, 2016, at the same price of \$0.1137 per gallon; and to authorize the Town Administrator to notify the Contractor of this contract extension.*

Tyringham Road Reconstruction - Recalling that the members had concurred with this \$5,530.47 expenditure from the State's contingency fund for the Tyringham Road Reconstruction Project, Chris Pompei reported that MassDot had now determined that the sewer line repair expenses must be borne solely by the Town of Lee. Accordingly MassDot had provided a "Non Participating Work" Agreement which the members

reviewed. *The Board members voted unanimously to accept the extra work agreement and to authorize the Chair to sign.*

Dick Lindsay, Berkshire Eagle asked about the status of the Meadow Street Replacement Bridge and Chris replied that the design will be complete by the end of the year. When asked when they would be starting the work on Tyringham Road, Chris replied, by the middle of March.

Bob informed the Board members and Chris that he had received an e-mail from a resident commending the Dept. of Public Works' staff for their snow removal work.

Ambulance Service Revenue and Expense - Bob Nason cited efforts to enhance ambulance fee collections recalling that the new billing service agreement contained a performance standard for timely billing; that Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) were sending payment requests to patients whose outstanding bills had been recommended for write off by the billing service; and, that the skill and experience of the Town's collection staff would be utilized to follow up on collectable accounts. Noting that patients cannot be compelled to pay outstanding bills that are more than six years old, Ambulance Director Lisa Michaud reported on the efforts to collect unpaid fees for services rendered between 1995 and 2008. She noted that in response to a mailing we had received payments or pledges amounting to \$1,839.29 and an offer to pay \$500.00 of an outstanding \$855.53 bill. Accordingly, she recommended that the \$241,331.40 remaining outstanding balance for the fourteen year period ended at the close of 2008 be written off. For the outstanding bills from 2009 to 2014, Lisa reported that the EMTs were preparing mailings requesting payment. However, she recommended writing off \$33,979.54 of those unpaid bills which cannot be collected, because the patients were deceased, dependent upon out of state welfare or from out of the country. *The Board members voted unanimously to write off the \$275,310.94 of uncollectable fees.*

Going forward, Lisa recommended that the Town terminate its unfavorable, 1996 fee agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield (BC/BS). Having recently been informed by the billing service of the agreement, she noted that we were providing BC/BS a substantial discount for no apparent benefit to the Town. *The Board voted unanimously to terminate the Blue Cross Blue Shield contract.*

Since at considerable added expense paramedic coverage would be expanded from 12 to 24 hours each day upon the October 2015 third anniversary of the paramedic level service upgrade; and, in light of the ongoing effort to increase revenue, Lisa reported that she had sought and received approval, subject to the submission of a formal request, to postpone the expanded hours of coverage until July 1, 2016, the beginning of FY 2017. Accordingly, the FY 2016 Ambulance Service budget request would require a less considerable \$46,687 appropriation from the general fund.

One Day Beer & Wine Licenses – *The Board members voted unanimously to grant a one day beer and wine license to the St. Mary's School for an event on April 11, 2015.*

The Board members voted unanimously to grant two (2) one day beer and wine licenses to the Spectrum Playhouse for event to be held on March 27, 2015 and April 10, 2015.

4. **Pending Business:** Zoning Board of Appeals – Public Hearing – Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:00 PM on the application of Silverleaf Resorts, Inc., for a variance from Section 199-7.8 A(2).
5. FY 2016 Operating Budget Requests – Mr. Nason presented the Board with the FY 2016 Operating Budget Requests and the FY 2016 Capital Outlay Requests.

Mr. Nason also noted that the Board of Assessors confirmed that they are releasing the Fiscal Year 2012 Overlay Surplus in the amount of \$47,979.17 and the Fiscal Year 2013 Overlay Surplus in the amount of \$67,007.78.

6. **Public Comments:** None. David Consolati announced an assembly at the Lee Middle and High School Auditorium on Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 PM by Chris Herren.
7. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7, 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 8:02 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy L. Belair,
Selectmen's Secretary

Notice of Website Posting Sent to:

Board of Selectmen	Board of Assessors	Dept. of Public Works
Town Administrator	Board of Health	Town Treasurer
Town Clerk	Conservation Commission	Town Reps. District Cha Chairmen
Town Collector	Police Chief	Superintendent of Schools
Planning Board	Building Inspector	Town Accountant

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