

TOWN OF LEE
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday October 18, 2022 @ 7:00PM
Town Hall • 38 Main Street • Former Courtroom

Minutes

Members Present: Sean Regnier, Bob Jones, Gordon Bailey

Members Absent: None.

Chairman Regnier called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

1. Minutes: Open Session Minutes of 10/04/2022

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the October 4, 2022 Select Board meeting minutes as submitted which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

2. Public Hearings: Special Permit – Marijuana Manufacturing, Canna Provisions, Inc.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to continue the hearing to November 15, 2022 at 7:15pm which Chairman Regnier seconded and was approved, 2-0. Mr. Jones abstained from the vote.

3. Public Comments

Kathy Hall, the Chairman of the Lee Youth Commission began by thanking the John 21 – Middle School Service Club of St. Mary's School for volunteering to paint the picnic tables at the Lee Athletic Field on Wednesday October 12th. Ms. Hall added a reminder to those who use the parks to help keep the parks clean, throw away trash, and take out what they take in. She also stated that if anyone would like to plan an event at the Lee Athletic Field, they must contact DPW at (413) 243-5520 to reserve the pavilion and/or field. Ms. Hall added a reminder announcement that Trick or Treat will be held in Lee on Monday October 31st from 5pm-7pm, and Trunk or Treat will take place at the Lee Elementary School on Saturday October 29th from 5pm-7:30pm. Ms. Hall also added a reminder announcement that elections are coming soon and to refer to the Town's website for any details.

4. General Business:

a. App Trail Committee Report

Debra Cranwell, Chair of the Appalachian Trail Committee, began by thanking the committee members for helping with the draft of the application to Appalachian Trail Conservancy for Appalachian Trail Community Designation. Ms. Cranwell stated that the application was submitted on October 1, 2022, and they are waiting to hear back from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy within the next few months.

Ms. Cranwell stated that an Appalachian Trail student assembly will take place on December 8, 2022 at the Lee Middle and High School, a winter workshop is scheduled for January 23, 2023, and a trail project is to be scheduled in the Spring of 2023.

Mr. Bailey suggested adding the application to the Town's website for the public to read. Admin Brittain agreed to help post the application for the public online.

b. Appointments – CPA Committee Membership

Chairman Regnier began by stating that CPA stands for Community Preservation Act, and this committee would oversee the funds and how they would be spent on different projects. Admin Brittain stated they have been soliciting members and at this point, all of the Boards have appointed their members, and after today there will be two public member spots available. Admin Brittain stated at this point, he would recommend they get the committee started even with the two vacancies.

Mr. Jones made a motion to appoint Tom Logsdon and Steven Bellafatto to the CPA Committee which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

c. Berkshire Gas Permit – 166 Bradley Street

Chairman Regnier stated that this application is to replace a gas riser at the rear of the house at 166 Bradley Street, and the Police Department and DPW have signed off on the application.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to have Chairman Regnier sign off on the Berkshire Gas Permit for 166 Bradley Street which Mr. Jones seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

d. Mass Save – BRPC Grant

Admin Brittain stated that the BRPC Grant is to help increase participation in Mass Save, Lee is eligible for this grant because they have an environmental justice designation, and the BRPC is administering for several surrounding towns. Admin Brittain stated that all it would take at this point is a letter of support which he can provide and BRPC would be applying for the grant on the Town's behalf for \$25,000. The \$25,000 would be used to help get the word out, advertise and reach out to people that are eligible for Mass Save. The Town of Lee would be committing for two years, but BRPC will take care of all of the requirements for the Town.

Admin Brittain confirmed for Mr. Bailey and Chairman Regnier that the Town will not have to hire someone to be the Energy Advocate to work 10 hours a week and BRPC will take care of that for them.

Mr. Jones made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to write a letter of support to BRPC for the Mass Save Grant which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

e. Parental Leave Policy

Admin Brittain began by stating the Town adopted a new Personnel Handbook a while back, and recently many other municipalities and businesses have changed their parental leave policy. Admin Brittain stated that this policy is for town employees since the school district already has a policy in place. This policy would allow a parental leave of twenty consecutive workdays of paid parental leave without any deduction from accumulated sick leave, for birth, adoption, child rearing, or court placement; provided that there was a timely request for said leave and the paid leave is started immediately following the birth or arrival of the adopted child. No more than one such paid leave may be received within a calendar year. The time shall not be increased as a result of multiple births or adoptions. Paid parental leave days also may be granted at the Town Administrator's discretion.

Admin Brittain clarified for the Board that the last sentence allows the Town Administrator to grant

additional time beyond the twenty days for some flexibility with certain circumstances.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the Parental Leave Policy as submitted before them which Mr. Jones seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

f. Assessor's – Classification Hearing

Admin Brittain stated that the State is behind with their approval so his recommendation is to postpone this item to a special meeting on October 27, 2022 at 3:00pm.

Mr. Jones made a motion to postpone the Assessor's Classification Hearing to a special meeting on October 27, 2022 at 3:00pm which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

g. Annual Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund & Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program Letter

Mr. Bailey made a motion to have the Board sign off on the annual letter which Mr. Jones seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

Any topic the Chairman could not reasonably anticipate.

Chairman Regnier stated a temporary sign permit application was submitted today and he hoped the Board could act on it in today's meeting. Chairman Regnier stated this application was for St. Mary's School's Annual Bazaar. The signs will be out from October 21, 2022 through November 21, 2022. There are four separate signs at four different locations: Carr Hardware, the corner of Park & Orchard, St. Mary's Church, and St. Mary's School. Admin Brittain also stated that the Board usually grants a fee waiver as well.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the temporary sign permit and waive the fee for St. Mary's School Bazaar which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

Admin Brittain added that he did receive one more thing for consideration after the agenda was posted and that was a group of ten citizens that have done a petition for a request of determination from the Conversation Commission on the proposed UDF. Admin Brittain stated usually when the UDF comes in, it's for some specific project but in this case it was not. Admin Brittain stated that the fee for posting was \$104, and they are asking the Board for a fee waiver.

Mr. Jones made a motion to waive the posting fee which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

5. Town Administrator: RoR Report & Municipal Aggregation

Admin Brittain began by stating the most recent RoR report states that this week GE contractors are conducting banks and sediment sampling designed to characterize contamination which will be used to help design a remediation plan. This work will last through October. The seventh interim baseline monitoring plan surface water sampling is scheduled for October 25th and 26th, and will be collected from eight locations. The EPA will do a split sample for quality control purposes and sampling results will be used to refine the two-year pre-remediation baseline sampling program which is scheduled to begin in 2023. Admin Brittain added that there are no field activities in the upland disposal facility location this week.

Admin Brittain stated that Chairman Regnier had received questions from residents regarding municipal aggregation, and if the Board is interested, someone from Colonial Power can come give a presentation. Admin Brittain stated that power in Lee is from Eversource, and every six months Eversource goes out and gets contracts with a supplier for electricity. Many surrounding towns have used municipal aggregation where the town negotiates for its own supply, typically resulting in a lower electric rate.

Admin Brittain stated that all of the Commonwealth goes through Colonial Power and the process does take a bit. They'll first have to accept MGL 164 at Town Meeting, then they'll do a plan on how we'll purchase it and the Board will approve Colonial Power's plan, and then there is a process with the Department of Public Utilities which could take up to two years. Admin Brittain stated that residents can opt out of the municipal aggregation.

Chairman Regnier stated that the one downside is residents may get hit with a significant increase at once. Admin Brittain stated that in the long run they are still paying less.

Admin Brittain stated that Colonial Power is the only company working in Berkshire County right now.

The Board agreed it would be great to have Colonial Power come do a presentation.

The next regular meeting is set for Tuesday November 1, 2022.

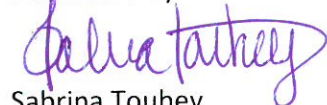
Mr. Bailey stated that the Board appointed him to the MPO and they're having a meeting on October 25th and he will give the Board an update after.

Chairman Regnier stated that the Master Plan Committee had a meeting the day before and he would still like the Select Board to be added to an agenda at an upcoming meeting such as November 21st.

Admin Brittain added that the MVP Committee kicks off Thursday this week at 2pm in the courtroom.

Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm which Mr. Bailey seconded and was unanimously approved, 3-0.

Submitted by:



Sabrina Touhey
Admin Asst BOS/TA

Approved on 10/27/2022