

APPROVED ON 1/19/16

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – January 5, 2016

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

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

1. **Approval of Minutes:** *The Board members voted unanimously to approve the Public Session Minutes of December 15, 2015.*
2. **Public Hearings:** None.
3. **General Business:** Utility Cut Permit – Chris Gerardi came before the Board with a Utility Cut Permit at 475 East Street for a new water line to serve the sprinkler system required for his apartment building. David Consolati stated that he was not happy with this request subsequent to the recent paving of East Street. David Consolati made a motion and, *the Board members voted unanimously to approve the utility cut permit with the stipulation that the owner, Golden Hill Properties (Chris Gerardi) would maintain the patch at his expense until the permanent patch is done in the spring.*

Water Meter Transponder Replacement Project - Superintendent of Public Works, Chris Pompei, P.E., came before the Board to present the bids for the Town Wide Automated Water Meter Reader Replacement. *The Board members voted unanimously to award the Contract to Toomey Water Services, for the Alternate A price of \$62,028.00, the loest price and sole Alternate A bid received from the three bidders.*

Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags and Styrofoam Container Study Update -- Jim Wilusz, Tri-Town Health Department Executive Director, came before the Board to present the Single use plastic shopping bags and Styrofoam container study update. Jim discussed the need for rules and regulations and the need for all of the towns in the Tri-Town have one set of regulations. David Consolati stated that he is against the banning of plastic bags and wanted to know how this would affect him. He said that he uses the bags over and over again and would now have to buy bags from the grocery store that is banning the use of them. David was also concerned with the idea that the elected officials wouldn't be making the decisions.

Peter Hofman, Recycling Committee Chair, came before the Board and commented that the time is right to approach this subject. He reported that he spoke with the representatives of the outlets and Chamber of Commerce regarding the use of plastic and Styrofoam. He also spoke with Big Y and they don't want to change. He stated that there are advantages and disadvantages to both by law versus regulatory paths and that he did extensive research on the health effects and environmental effects. Board member Tom Wickham asked if they were making biodegradable bags and Peter answered , yes. After lengthy discussion Patty added that she expected that he e will be back for input in the future.

Open Space and Recreation Plan - Bob Nason presented the Board with the third and final edition of the Open Space & Recreation Plan. This has been presented to the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board and the Select Board. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission seeks the Board's endorsement. The Plan was put together by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission with a grant of \$8,000.00 and \$2,000.00 from the Town. We will revisit this issue at our next meeting.

Board/Committee/Commission Appointments - Board of Health - *At the recommendation of the sitting members of the Board of Health, the Board members voted unanimously to appoint Mary Fenwick to fill the vacant term ending June 30, 2016.*

Zoning Board of Appeals – *At the recommendation of the sitting members of the ZBA, the Board members voted unanimously to appoint Associate Member Gordon Bailey, to fill the vacant term ending June 30, 2017.*

Community Compact - David Consolati reported to the Board that he participated in Great Barrington with Smitty Pignatelli, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to sign the historic Community Compact for the all communities to look to share services. Education would be just a beginning. David commented that every community in Southern Berkshire County has signed.

Main Street Holiday Lighting - Patty Carlino, Chair wanted to discuss the Main Street Holiday lighting as she had numerous people remark that they were disappointed in the street lighting this year. When she looked into the reasons why the lighting was so dismal this year she found that some of our light poles had been replaced and the new poles were without the electrical socket so they were not able to accept the lighting. Bob Nason stated that he will ask Chris Pompei meet with John Leprevost to discuss retrofitting outlets on the poles. People also remarked to Patty that they were disappointed with the lack of lights on the railing around the park. Patty reminded everyone that they can volunteer to help at the Chamber.

Ambulance Service Update – Mr. Nason presented the 2010 outstanding bills that are no longer collectible. The total of these bills is \$23,332.50 to be written off from January 11, 2010 through December 28, 2010 and are beyond the statutory limit to collect. *The*

Board members voted unanimously to write off the outstanding bills of January 11, 2010 through December 28, 2010 in the amount of \$23,332.50.

Mr. Nason recounted that our Comstar billing agency award came in February but we did not extend at that time due to concerns about their service. Mr. Nason has met for the last ten months with Town Collector Donna Toomey, Town Accountant Lynn Browne, Ambulance Director Lisa Michaud and Treasurer/Collector Clerk Heather Ketchen to go over the billing and they found that customers were billed for the full amount regardless of their health insurance status. Mr. Nason stated that we sent our queries on Dec. 21st and spoke with the manager regarding 12 cases and his reply was that he would not provide the information to us regarding insurance status. Moreover, our demand for insurance billing documentation led Comstar to terminate their service effective February 28, 2016. We will be sending out a new RFP tomorrow (1/6/15).

4. Pending Business:

- a. Planning Board – Lee Bank Site Plan Review – January 11, 2016 at 6:15 PM in the Planning Board Office.
- b. Zoning Board of Appeals – Appeal of the Decision of Building Inspector – Wed., Jan. 13, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Planning Board Office.
- c. Mass DOT – Western Massachusetts Turnpike State of Good Repair and Tolls – Public Meeting Schedule – January 19, 2016 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Springfield City Hall, 36 Court Street.
- d. Zoning Board of Appeals – Special Permit for Lee Bank – Wed., Jan. 20, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Planning Board Office.

- 5. Town Administrator:** a. FY 2016 Revenue and Expense Reports through Dec. 31, 2015 – Mr. Nason stated that the FY 2016 Revenue and Expense Reports through Dec. 31, 2015 are on the Select Board's worktable.

Mr. Nason advised that the Council on Aging is looking for volunteers to be drivers Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM.

Mr. Nason also commented that the Lenox DPW helped with a sewer backup over the weekend and lent us their flusher truck and operator. Thank you to Lenox DPW!

Patty Carlino remarked that she had a conversation with Kathy Hall regarding an ice skating rink that parents would like to pursue for their children.

David Consolati extended the Board's condolences to the Forzono and Puleri families.

6. Public Comments:

None.

- 7. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM, in the Courtroom.
- 8. **Motion to Adjourn:** *The Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 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