

OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

March 7, 2016

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chair  
Mr. Robert Ericson  
Mr. Henry Sayers  
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Manager

Warrants: Warrant Signed

The meeting was opened by John Goerlach at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mount Greylock School Committee Chair Carrie Greene came before the Board to speak about comments made at the Special Town Meeting last week and in flyers that were printed and being circulated. Ms. Greene handed out information to the Board. Ms. Greene stated that she realized that 70% of the Town's budget goes to the School. Ms. Greene gave the Board a chart with operating costs declining with the new building in upcoming years. Mr. Goerlach told Ms. Greene that when he was on the Greylock Building Committee he asked for the Committee to bring a project to the Town that it could afford. Mr. Goerlach posed questions to Ms. Greene relative to solar panels at the new building. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Schiek if the original project total was \$56 Million. Ms. Greene stated that this was an estimate not a priced project. Mr. Goerlach stated that the School Building Committee wrote an educational plan which dictated the price of the building. Ms. Greene stated that it was written for the educational plan for the school. Mr. Ericson expressed his opinion on the status of the existing building. Ms. Greene stated that the Committee is hoping to reduce the project by \$1-2 million. Mr. Sayers asked about the current interest rates. Mr. Schiek stated that he does not have a rate at this time, but there are multiple options that will be posed to the Town and the Lanesborough percentage of the project will drop over time based on the Regional Agreement. Mr. Sayers asked about the reimbursement rate for the project. Ron Tinkham spoke about the inequities with the project and believes that Board of Selectmen from both towns need to have a meeting. Ray Jones believes the School is being built for a larger population that the towns have and believed that the paperwork submitted by Ms. Greene is not an accurate depiction. Michelle Johnson asked Mr. Goerlach what his plan is if the project gets voted down. Mr. Goerlach stated that he is making no comment until the vote on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ericson stated that it is millions of dollars that the Town does not have. Ms. Greene thanked the Board for their time.[#1]

Permit(s) / Contract(s) / Use of Town Property or Notification to Town of Community Event / Appointment(s)

**Lanesboro Liquor Center LLC – Approval of All Alcohol Package Store License (contingent upon Board of Health approvals)**

Rakeshumar Vyas and Darren Lee came before the Board to give the status of the project. Mr. Lee stated that the Building Inspector gave them a Certificate of Occupancy and they will open in approximately 3 weeks on the 29<sup>th</sup> if possible. Mr. Ericson asked about handicapped parking and bollards in front of the door. Mr. Lee and Mr. Vyas stated that they will put something there for safety purposes. The Board and the applicants agreed to operating hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Motion 16-033. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the All Alcohol Package Store License for Lanesboro Liquor Center LLC, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#2]

**Tree and Forest Committee – Nicholas DeCandia Appointment**

Motion 16-034. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint Nicholas DeCandia to the Tree and Forest Committee, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#3]

**Berkshire Gas Company – Road Opening Permit – Narragansett at Wabun Street**

The Board was presented with a Road Opening Permit from Berkshire Gas Company together with a Memorandum from DPW Director William Decelles with conditions as to how the work should be completed. Motion 16-035. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the Road Opening Permit of Berkshire Gas Company for property located at Narragansett at Wabun Street, with the conditions stated by the DPW Director in a Memorandum dated March 4, 2016, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#4]

### **Berkshire Gas Company – Road Opening Permit – Wabasso Street**

The Board was presented with a Road Opening Permit from Berkshire Gas Company together with a Memorandum from DPW Director William Decelles with conditions as to how the work should be completed. Motion 16-036. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the Road Opening Permit of Berkshire Gas Company for property located at Wabasso Street, with the conditions stated by the DPW Director in a Memorandum dated March 4, 2016, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#5]

### Ronald Tinkham Recognition – Zoning Board of Appeals

The Board of Selectmen and Mr. Sieloff presented Ronald Tinkham with a Certificate of Recognition for his over 45 years of service with the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board thanked Mr. Tinkham for his service. Mr. Tinkham stated that he has a good group that he works with and recognized them individually.

### Request for Reimbursement and Town Action for Joseph Trybus

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a request for reimbursement from Joe Trybus for costs incurred on Orebed Road. Mr. Goerlach stated that he was recusing himself from the discussion. Mr. Sieloff stated that he spoke with Stantec Engineering and they recommended the removal and disposal of the charcoal tanks at a cost of \$2,600 which can be done in this year's budget. Motion 16- 037. Motion by Henry Sayers to remove and dispose of the charcoal tanks, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. John Goerlach abstained from vote. Mr. Sieloff told Mr. Trybus that the work will commence within the next week or two. Mr. Trybus stated that the line is still leaking. Mr. Sieloff will follow up with the DPW Director on this issue. Mr. Sieloff stated that Mr. Trybus would like his yard returned to its original state and that the DPW Director is aware and the work will be done. Mr. Sieloff stated that Mr. Trybus was also asking to be reimbursed for bottled water from August of 2011 for a total of \$3,256. Mr. Sayers asked when the Town water was turned on. Mr. Sieloff believes October 2015. Mr. Sayers stated that the invoices he submitted were up to February 2016. Mr. Ericson asked when it was tested and verified. DPW Director Decelles believes it was in November. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will get an exact date for the Board. Mr. Trybus stated that the bottled water was purchased from a spring water company when the Department of Environmental Protection said that the Town had to pay for it. Mr. Sieloff will review the paperwork and get back to the Board and Mr. Trybus. Mr. Trybus also asked that his original water softener system from Barnes and Kiley be installed instead of the current Culligan system because it is hard to get serviced. Mr. Sieloff will get back to Mr. Trybus about this. Mr. Trybus will get an estimate for this system for the Board. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if it was their consensus to replace this system for Mr. Trybus if the budget allowed. The Board agreed. [#6]

### Budget Meeting with Finance Committee

#### **Highway Department Budget**

Mr. Sieloff and DPW Director Decelles went over the Highway Department's budget with the Board.

#### **Fire Department Budget**

Mr. Sieloff and Fire Chief Charles Durfee went over the Fire Department's budget with the Board. Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that the budget was broken out into more line items to make it more detailed. Mr. Sayers asked about the Ambulance. Chief Durfee stated that the next meeting is on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) is trying to mandate that insurance companies pay the ambulance company directly instead of the patron. Mr. Sieloff stated that he has been reviewing this budget with the new Town Accountant and this is supposed to be self-sustaining. Chief Durfee stated that he is having a hard time getting EMT's to respond to calls. Mr. Sayers stated that he would hate to lose the service.

#### **Police Department Budget**

Mr. Sieloff and Chief Timothy Sorrell went over the Police Department's budget with the Board.

#### **Discussion on other budgets**

Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they had any specific questions. Mr. Sieloff stated that he has estimated the School's budget as it had not been finalized but it is about \$14,000 less than last year. Mr. Sieloff stated that he has now heard that they are only \$4,000 less but will know more when they present their budget next week. The

Elementary School seems to be level funded although the school health insurance did increase and McCann Technical School went up approximately \$56,000 due to an increase in students attending. Mr. Sayers asked what level McCann is rated. Michelle Johnson stated that it is a level 2 school. Ray Jones asked if students could attend Taconic High School which is a technical school instead of McCann at a lower cost to the Town. Mr. Sieloff stated he would check into this. Mr. Sieloff discussed other line items in the budget with the Board and asked them to come to him with any questions. Mr. Sieloff stated that there will be a 1.8% to 2.0 % tax increase if nothing changes based on the budget he presented. Mr. Sayers would like to meet with the Finance Committee to review the budgets. Mr. Sieloff will try to schedule a meeting in April.

#### Sewer Enterprise Fund Committee Bylaws

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with proposed Sewer Enterprise Fund Committee Bylaws for the approval. Motion 16-038. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the Sewer Enterprise Fund Committee Bylaws as presented, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.[#7]

#### Lynne Court Drainage Issues

Mr. Sieloff stated that the resident has decided to cap-off the well to try to hold the water in. Mr. Goerlach stated that water is pouring out of the well and other work may need to be done.

#### Discussion on property issues on roads off Narragansett Avenue

Mr. Sieloff stated that he is working on getting an inventory of the properties from the Board of Health and he will get back to the Board.

#### Health Insurance costs

Mr. Sieloff stated that he has spoken with Town Counsel and if it is decided to change the retiree rate it will not affect many retirees. Mr. Sieloff is working with a consultant to see about alternative plans for savings between the Town and employees. This item will be placed on the next Agenda for further discussion.

#### Request from Emergency Management Director to purchase 100 signs for house numbering program

Mr. Sieloff stated that the Emergency Management Committee has been proposing different ways to get residents to place numbers on their homes for emergency management purposes. Mr. Sieloff stated that residents can be compelled to place these signs on their residences by having Town inspectors not issue permits until they are in compliance. Mr. Sieloff stated that residents need to place these signs on their properties for safety factors. The Emergency Management Committee would like approval to purchase 100 signs at \$8 each to put on the homes of seniors and special Town facilities. Mr. Ericson believes it is a good idea. Mr. Goerlach asked if the 100 signs could be purchased by an outside party. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Goerlach to contact the Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director.

#### Approval of Tax Insert of authorized refuse haulers

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a list of authorized refuse haulers. The list represented all companies which have been issued a permit by the Board of Health. The Board was also informed that A to Z Trucking had been present at the Town Hall this morning and had inadvertently failed to file their paperwork with the Board of Health and it would be filed on Tuesday. Mr. Sieloff stated that once the Board of Health issued the proper permits for this company it would be added to the list on the Town's website. Motion 16-039. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the list of authorized refuse haulers to be placed in the upcoming tax mailing, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.[#8]

#### Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting.

None.

#### Selectmen's Items

None.

### Town Manager Report

Mr. Sieloff stated that he has recently been involved with several economic development activities. Mr. Sieloff stated that Representative Gail Cariddi had a meeting and is trying to set up a forum in the next couple of months for economic development in the Northern Berkshires and he attended that meeting. Mr. Sieloff stated that he is also working with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and he will report back to the Board with any new information. Mr. Goerlach asked about the chicken bylaw. Mr. Sieloff stated that he received a Regulation from Town Counsel and is going to talk to the Board of Health about putting it on their next Agenda to approve. Mr. Sieloff will send a copy of it to the Board for their review. Mr. Sayers asked about the Charter Communications merger. Mr. Sieloff stated that every indication is that construction work will begin this year and in approximately 30 to 60 days the merger will be approved and he is very optimistic. Mr. Sieloff stated that WiredWest is still an option and he is monitoring both options.

### Approve Minutes

Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of February 22, 2016, seconded by Robert Ericson.

Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of February 23, 2016, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0.

### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Sayers, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

#### Footnotes:

- [#1] Mount Greylock Building Project Handouts from Carrie Greene
- [#2] Lanesboro Liquor Center LLC All Alcohol Package Store License
- [#3] Tree and Forest Committee – Nicholas DeCandia Appointment
- [#4] Berkshire Gas Company – Road Opening Permit – Narragansett @ Wabun Street
- [#5] Berkshire Gas Company – Road Opening Permit – Wabasso Street
- [#6] Request for Reimbursement and Town Action for Joseph Trybus
- [#7] Sewer Enterprise Fund Committee Bylaws
- [#8] Approval of Tax Insert of authorized refuse haulers