

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

September 14, 2015

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chairman
Mr. Robert Ericson
Mr. Henry Sayers
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator

Warrants: Warrant Signed

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

Public Comment

Ron Tinkham came before the Board and stated that there are several issues that he believes require community input and he recommended that all issues be included in a paper ballot. The items he believed should be included are 1) wiring the Town for fiber optics, providing high speed internet, high definition TV and telephone; 2) Pre-K through 12 regionalization which he believes will increase State aid; 3) Hoosac Valley proposal at \$8,750 per student which would not include capital bonding and there are no costs included for retiree benefits which are major costs for the Town; 4) Mount Greylock Regional Agreement formula which should be adjusted periodically and not locked in for the life of the bond and should be determined by student population and a per capita resident income which would be a more fair and equitable way of making a determination for minimum contribution rates; and 5) Mount Greylock's building bond approval which would add approximately \$2 for the tax rate. Mr. Tinkham believes that these are critical issues which need to be addressed.

Robert Barton came before the Board to report on the 250th Committee. Mr. Barton stated that the latest event was a hike up Constitution Hill and roughly 30 people attended. The next event is called "Lanesborough Treasures" which is on October 18th from 4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Lanesborough Mall. There will be free refreshments and discounts at food court vendors and retailers and silent and Chinese auctions. Mr. Barton stated that several dignitaries will attend and extended an invitation to the Board.

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

Common Victualler's License – Berkshire Hospitality Group, LLC d/b/a Mad Jacks BBQ

A Common Victualler's License was placed before the Board for their approval to Mad Jack's BBQ at 126 South Main Street. Motion 15-136. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the Common Victualler's License of Mad Jack's BBQ, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.[#1]

Senior Tax Work-off Program – Carol Caird

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that Ms. Caird was inadvertently omitted from the original appointment list that was presented to the Board for their approval. Motion 15-137. Motion made by Henry Sayers to appoint Carol Caird to the Senior Tax Work-off Program, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0.

Harley Phelps Recognition – Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that Mr. Phelps has been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for over 40 years. The Board presented Mr. Phelps with a certificate to recognize and thank him for his dedicated service to the Town. John Goerlach thanked Mr. Phelps for his time served on the Board. Mr. Barton stated that Mr. Phelps is one of the brightest, finest people in the county and that the Town is very lucky to have him. Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Tinkham commended him for his knowledge and stated that it was a pleasure to serve with him on the Board.

Trick or Treat – Proposed date and time – Saturday, October 31 – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Motion 15-138. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the date of October 31, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.

Accept donation and trade of Animal Control Officer Vehicle

Mr. Sieloff formally thanked Mr. Sayers for his help with this issue and stated that he would like a formal vote by the Board to accept the 2007 Chevrolet C1500 pickup truck. Mr. Sieloff stated that Mr. Sayers has offered to trade the old vehicle and donate a newer used vehicle for use by the Animal Control Officer. The 1998 Chevrolet pickup was no longer usable by the Animal Control Officer. Motion 15-139. Motion made by Robert Ericson to accept the trade of the old Animal Control vehicle and the donation of the new Vehicle by Henry Sayers, seconded by John Goerlach. Henry Sayers abstained from vote. Motion carried 2-0.

Report on Berkshire County Education Taskforce – Regina Dilego

Regina Dilego for the Berkshire County Education Taskforce. Ms. DiLego stated that she has been forwarding Minutes from the Taskforce to the Town for their information. She stated that the Taskforce will be applying for a community grant to hire someone to work for them to look at education in Berkshire County and would like backing from the Board. Ms. DiLego stated that the Taskforce is looking into options to collaborate and share services and presented the Board with a handout of what they are hoping to accomplish to try to save costs. Mr. DiLego stated that they will only make recommendations and it will be up to communities to make their final decisions. She will keep the Board posted on future meetings. [#2]

Approve Entertainment License Application

The Board was presented with a proposed Entertainment License Application for their review and approval. Mr. Ericson stated that there should be a section for the use of pyrotechnics. Mr. Sieloff offered to add it to the form. Mr. Goerlach wants Mr. Sieloff to talk to the Fire Chief and bring the form back at another meeting. [#3]

Proposed Tax Mailing Insert relating to Horse Safety

Mr. Sieloff stated that the Town has a tax mailing every April which is just before horse riding picks up in the Town. An insert in the tax bills would be no additional postage cost to the Town. Mr. Sieloff stated that this would get information out to residents and horse riders to be use caution. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Board has to approve all tax mailing inserts. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would bring back the insert for approval before mailing. Mr. Sayers asked if it was possible to put the suggestions Mr. Tinkham's made earlier in the meeting in next tax mailing to ask for feedback. Mr. Sieloff stated that there was not enough time before the next tax mailing. Mr. Sieloff stated that it could possibly be done as a separate mailing and asked the Board what they would like to do. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Sayers and Mr. Tinkham to meet with him for further discussion. The Board asked Mr. Sieloff about Charter Communications and fiber optics in Town. Mr. Sieloff stated that it is on the next Agenda for a representative from Charter Communications to come before the Board.

New Street Light Removal Proposal – Energy Committee

Mr. Ericson would like this item placed on the next Agenda. [#4]

Police Station Roof Project Bid

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a Memorandum from DPW Director William Decelles with the winning bid for the Police Station roof project from D.J. Wooliver & Sons, Inc. Mr. Sieloff stated that this was the only company to submit a bid and it was for \$17,500.00. Mr. Sieloff stated that the bid came in higher than anticipated but he has spoken to DPW Director Decelles and believes it is a fair quote particularly because of the demolition and additional roof work needed. Motion 15-140. Motion made by Henry Sayers to award the Police Station Roof Project Bid as listed on the September 10, 2015 Memorandum from DPW Director William Decelles, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. [#5]

Police Station Furnace, Hot Water Heater and Insulation Project

Mr. Sieloff stated that the hot water heater has been purchased and he is meeting with DPW Director Decelles in the morning to discuss the remainder of the project.

Adopt Animal Control Officer Job Description

The Board was presented with a job description for the Animal Control Officer for their approval. Motion 15-141. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the job description for the Animal Control Officer as presented, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#6]

Narragansett Avenue neighborhood issues relating to chickens and other fowl

Mr. Goerlach stated that the Board would like to add this as an Article at the special town meeting for a vote.

Proposed letter to Massachusetts School Building Authority about Mt. Greylock project

After the Board's meeting on September 10, 2015 it was decided that no letter will be sent.

Mount Greylock School Agreement – Capital Assessment Formula

Carrie Greene, Chair of the Mount Greylock School Committee, came before the Board to talk about the Mount Greylock School Capital apportionment formula in the Regional Agreement. Ms. Green stated that currently the allocation was fixed at the time of bonding and is 50/50 equalized valuation and enrollment but it is not as equitable as it could be and the Committee is looking at possibly revising the formula in the Agreement to even things out. Ms. Greene stated that the Committee is recommending a five (5) year rolling average for capital apportionment for enrollment. Ms. Greene stated that the Committee would like to get this proposed agreement out to the public for their information and input. Ms. Greene stated that the decision needs to be forwarded to the State by December 15th with School Committee and Town approval. Ms. Greene stated that this needs to be done by a Town vote at a Special Town Meeting. Mr. Sieloff recommended a date of December 1st. Mr. Sayers asked if the Board could request other changes to the Agreement other than financial changes. Ms. Greene stated that changes can be made at any time but to speed things along it might be better to keep this vote to just the capital apportionment. Mr. Sayers stated that he would like to see a change wherein the Mount Greylock School Board has equal votes so that the School Committee cannot out vote the Town with respect to the budget. Mr. Goerlach asked Ms. Greene if she could have a hazard assessment for the School property and cost for the property by the time of the vote. Ms. Greene stated that she could look into it if Board wants to know but it does not have to be done at the MSBA level. Ms. Greene stated that things can be done to raise the reimbursement rate but not all of the project is reimbursable. Mr. Sayers asked Ms. Greene if the figure includes landscaping and environmental impact studies. Ms. Greene stated that site work is not included but that they might be able to get outside funding for this work. Mr. Sayers stated that residents are concerned about the environmental impact apportionment of the project having to be paid after the fact. Mr. Sayers also asked Ms. Greene if the cost of the parking lot was included. Ms. Greene stated she would look into this. Mr. Goerlach stated that the parking lot was not included in the building of the Elementary School which significantly raised the overall cost. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they still wanted to meet with the Williamstown officials to discuss this matter. The Board stated that they were comfortable moving forward without the need for a meeting at this time. The Board would like there to be a secret ballot vote for all things to do with the school at the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Sieloff stated he believes that this would have to be a motion on the floor at the meeting to have it be a secret ballot vote. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would check with Town Counsel.

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

None.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Sayers stated that he would like to ban alcoholic beverages at Town parks and would like to send a letter to the Recreation Committee to that effect. Mr. Sayers stated that there is no Open Container Bylaw for the Town. Mr. Goerlach would like to see what Town Counsel and the Town's insurance company suggests. Mr. Sieloff will check on this and get back to the Board. Mr. Ericson showed drawings to other members of the Board relative to insulating the Town Hall. Mr. Ericson stated that he has to speak with the Building Inspector for approval. Mr. Ericson stated that paperwork has been received regarding the grant for the solar array project. Mr. Goerlach stated that he asked for a quote to repair the front stairs and other work in the front of Town Hall. Mr. Sieloff stated that he asked Keith Lacasse who did work at the Elementary School for information as well. Mr. Ericson asked about basement windows at Town Hall as mice are getting into the building. Mr. Goerlach doesn't

believe windows can be closed off in commercial buildings. Mr. Ericson stated that he will talk with the Building Inspector. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff to check to see if the Town would like to construct a solar project at the Town's gravel bed to repurpose the property when the gravel runs out.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Sieloff stated that there are issues with storage in the basement. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board about moving the pool table out of the basement storage area. He stated that he would like to sell the pool table. The Board would like Mr. Sieloff to check with Mr. Newton to see who owns the table and bring it back at the next meeting.

Approve Minutes – August 24, 2015, August 26, 2015 and August 27, 2015

Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of August 24, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of August 26, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. John Goerlach abstained from vote. Motion carried 2-0. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of August 27, 2015, 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 7:50 p.m.

Footnotes:

- [#1] Common Victualler's License – Berkshire Hospitality Group, LLC - Mad Jack's BBQ
- [#2] Berkshire County Education Taskforce Handout
- [#3] Propose Entertainment License Application
- [#4] Street Light Removal Proposal
- [#5] DPW Director Memorandum dated September 10, 2015 – Police Station Roof Bid
- [#6] Proposed Animal Control Officer Job Description