

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

September 28, 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

Terry Cormier of 24 Baglee Avenue asked the Board if they would add a street light between house numbers 22 and 23 on Baglee Avenue. Mr. Ericson stated that he will have to walk the street at night to see what is currently there. Another resident from Baglee Avenue stated that the lights at both sides of her house were removed and it is very dark. She stated that when she spoke with Mr. Ericson he told her to put more sensor lights on the outside of her house. Ms. Cormier stated that putting extra lights on the houses does not extend the light to the end of road and it is a safety issue especially in the winter when trying to shovel their driveways. Mr. Goerlach stated that the Board will check into this as he didn't think that two lights were supposed to be removed. Mr. Ericson stated that the decision as to which street lights will be turned on/off should be completed by the end of October. Mr. Sayers told the residents that in the northern section of Town residents have no street lights but the Board will review the list. Mr. Tinkham stated that there is still a lighting issue at the Elementary School. Mr. Ericson stated that this will be taken care of when the Elementary School energy efficiency project is completed. Mr. Tinkham stated that it is a safety issue.

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

Berkshire Gas Company – Installation of New Gas Service – 15 Squanto Road

Motion 15-142. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the Application of Berkshire Gas Company for the installation of new gas service at 15 Squanto Road with the conditions set forth in a Memorandum from the DPW Director dated September 23, 2015, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.[#1]

Part-time police officer appointments

Chief Sorrell and Marvin Michalak, Chair of the Police Advisory Commission, appeared before the Board to recommend that they appoint two part-time police officers to the Police Department. Chief Sorrell stated that they conducted five interviews on September 24th and then gave the Board a letter with its recommendations. Chief Sorrell stated that each officer already has the necessary credentials to immediately begin working. Mr. Michalak stated that all five candidates could have stepped in to the positions but both final candidates had excellent qualifications. Jonathan Bishop was a 13 year veteran of the Dalton Police Department before he resigned to work in the private sector but Chief Sorrell stated that he would still like to continue part-time work with the Town. Brennan Polidoro is a full-time Police Officer in Sheffield but is seeking additional part-time work. Motion 15-145. Motion made by Henry Sayers to appoint Jonathan Bishop and Brennan Polidoro as part-time Police Officers to the Lanesborough Police Department, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0.[#2]

Board of Health Office Assistant appointment

Mr. Sieloff introduced Sherri Thompson to the Board as the candidate for the office assistant position with the Board of Health. He stated that she has a very strong clerical background and will work 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and will attend monthly Board of Health meetings on Monday evenings. Mr. Sayers asked if this was replacing an existing employee. Mr. Sieloff stated it was. Motion 15-143. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint Sherri Thompson as a part-time Board of Health office assistant, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.[#3]

Announcement of Committee Vacancies

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a list of Town Committee vacancies. Mr. Goerlach read the list that was presented. Mr. Sieloff stated that there were not many vacancies considering the number of committee positions

filled by the Board. John Goerlach stated that David Vogel asked about the possibility of serving on the Conservation Commission. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will follow up. [#4]

Proposed Council on Aging Bylaws

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with proposed Bylaws for the Council of Aging for their review and approval. Motion 15-144. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the Council on Aging Bylaws as presented, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#5]

Discussion on property issues on roads off Narragansett Avenue

Chief Sorrell stated that he viewed the area and that there were two dilapidated buildings on Iroquois Street (old Cirrone buildings) and 1 junk car violation on Wabasso Street on the Sarkis' property. Chief Sorrell stated that he talked with the owner of the vehicle and she stated that it will be removed within the next week. Chief Sorrell asked the Board if they would like the Department to get pictures during their shifts if they see any property that they believe is an issue and advise the Board. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff if letters could be sent to the property owners Chief Sorrell mentioned. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would like a comprehensive list before sending letters. Chief Sorrell asked the Board to give him a couple of weeks to complete this list. Mr. Sieloff stated that he needs to follow up with Mr. Joppru to see what progress has been made on other properties which are in very poor condition. Mr. Goerlach asked about having money placed in an account at Town Meeting to move forward with these types of issues. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will place this on the Agenda for the 1st meeting in December to give an update to the Board.

New Street Light Removal Proposal – Energy Committee

Mr. Ericson would like to continue this until the next meeting. [#6]

Police Station Furnace, Hot Water Heater and Insulation Project

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a Memorandum from DPW Director Decelles and three (3) quotes that were received from vendors relative to the oil burner at the Police Station. Chief Sorrell reported that the station now has hot water as work has been completed. Mr. Ericson stated that he also asked for another quote but it was for a propane system. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would like to move to approve the system with the bids received. Motion 15-147. Motion made by John Goerlach to award O'Connell Oil Associates with a bid of \$6,620.00, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 2-1. Robert Ericson opposed. [#7]

Approve Entertainment License Application

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a proposed Entertainment License for the review and approval. Mr. Ericson and Mr. Sayers would like to add language stating pyrotechnics and/or fireworks would require special permitting through the Fire Department and the State. Mr. Sieloff stated that this will be placed on next Agenda for follow up. [#8]

Approve License Fee Schedule

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a revised License Fee Schedule which includes fees for one-day entertainment license fees. Mr. Sieloff stated that a notation has been added to the schedule where approval from the Board of Selectmen will be required for each and every outdoor event on annual entertainment licenses. Motion 15-146. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the License Fee Schedule as presented, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#9]

Pittsfield Community Television Contract Renewal

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a proposed Contract Agreement with Pittsfield Community Television. Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that this contract is for a seven month period effective September 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016. Mr. Sieloff stated that he has been meeting with them quarterly to go over the needs of the Town. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board to approve the contract. Motion 15-150. Motion made by Robert Ericson to approve the extension of the Contract Agreement between the Town and Pittsfield Community Television for the period from September 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0. [#10]

Approval of List of Roads maintained and plowed by Highway Department

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a list of Town roads he received from DPW Director Decelles. The list depicts which roads are and are not maintained by the Highway Department. The Board reviewed the list and gave Mr. Sieloff recommendations. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will check with the DPW Director to see if a formal vote needs to be made at next meeting.[#11]

Discuss proposed Tri-Tech Police Case Management Contract

Chief Sorrell came before the Board relative to the Tri-Tech Case Management Contract. Chief Sorrell stated that Tri-Tech is the case management program being used by departments throughout Berkshire County. He stated that the Department paid \$8,400 this year and the cost for next year is approximately \$9,100 but the Town could choose to go with a three year contract which would transfer the case information to the Sheriff's Department at a cost of \$22,000 which would be financed over three years. Chief Sorrell would like the Board's approval for the three year contract and to obtain the best financing rates. Chief Sorrell stated that after the three year financing the cost to the Town would be \$2,300 a year for a licensing fee and the Sheriff's Department would be maintaining the system instead of the approximately annual \$9,000 fee. Mr. Sieloff stated that he supports this proposal. Chief Sorrell said that more refund credits could be obtained the sooner the Town switches over. Mr. Sayers wants to make sure that no other system will need to be purchased after this system is purchased costing the Town more money. Chief Sorrell stated that this is the system they will be using. Mr. Sayers asked if there were funds available and Mr. Sieloff stated that there are various funds available in the budget. Motion 15-148. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve moving forward with the Tri-Tech Police Case Management Contract, seconded by Robert Ericson Motion carried 3-0.

Vote to accept Spirit of Blue Foundation Award Grant – Police Department

Chief Sorrell presented the Board with a Grant Award Letter from the Spirit of Blue Foundation. This grant will provide the Police Department with two new defibrillators which will go in the cruisers and is valued at \$3,952.99. Chief Sorrell stated that the Foundation needs the Board to officially accept the Grant and asked the Board if they could vote to do so. Motion 15-149. Motion made by Robert Ericson to accept the grant award from the Spirit of Blue Foundation in the amount of \$3,952.99, seconded by Henry Sayers. Motion carried 3-0.[#12]

Chief Sorrell informed the Board that the closing date for the part-time officer positions is October 2nd. Chief Sorrell stated that he and the Police Advisory Commission will interview candidates at that time and forward their recommendations to the Board. Chief Sorrell apprised the Board that he had given two interviews to the Boston Globe with regarding to officer involved shootings and will let the Board know when the articles are published.

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

None.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Ericson updated the Board on the Town Hall insulation project and will bring drawings to the next meeting to review. Mr. Ericson also stated that projects at the Elementary School are progressing. Mr. Goerlach informed Mr. Sieloff and the Board that he received a USB drive containing pictures from Mark Messana regarding a rabbit issue affecting neighbors on Narragansett Avenue and would like to review the pictures after the meeting.

Town Administrator Report

None.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of September 10, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of September 14, 2015 with the proposed one word revision on page three, 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 7:10 p.m.

Footnotes:

- [#1] Berkshire Gas Company – Installation of New Gas Service – 15 Squanto Road
- [#2] Police Advisory recommendation letter
- [#3] Sherri Thompson Resume
- [#4] Committee Vacancy List
- [#5] Council on Aging Bylaws
- [#6] New Street Light Removal Proposal – Energy Committee
- [#7] Police Station Furnace Quotes
- [#8] Proposed Entertainment License Application
- [#9] Proposed License Fee Schedule
- [#10] Proposed Pittsfield Community Television Contract
- [#11] Proposed List of Roads maintained and plowed by the Highway Department
- [#12] Spirit of Blue Foundation Award Grant