

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary
October 27, 2014

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

Warrants: Warrants Signed

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

Moment of Silence for Elizabeth Phelps

John Goerlach asked for a moment of silence for Elizabeth Phelps a long standing involved member of the community.

Public Comment

None.

Permit(s), Contract(s), Use of Town Property and Appointment(s)

Luke Labendz - Sewer Commission. Mr. Labendz filed a Lanesborough Citizen Interest Form with the Town to ask to be appointed to the Sewer Commission. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Commission is a three member commission which currently has only one member. Motion 14-185. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint Luke Labendz to the Sewer Commission, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. [#2] John Goerlach abstained from vote.

John Goerlach - Sewer Commission. Motion 14-186. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint John Goerlach to the Sewer Commission, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. John Goerlach abstained from vote.

Jack Liebenow - COA Van Driver. Lorna Gayle, Director of the Lanesborough Council on Aging submitted an email recommending Mr. Liebenow for the position of COA Van Driver. Motion 14-187. Motion made by Henry Sayers to appoint Jack Liebenow as a COA Van Driver, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. [#3]

Stephanie Michalak, Board Member - Council on Aging. Lorna Gayle, Director of the Lanesborough Council on Aging submitted an email stating that the Council on Aging Board unanimously voted to accept Ms. Michalak as a member of their Board. Motion 14-188. Motion made by Robert Ericson to appoint Stephanie Michalak to the Council on Aging Board, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. [#4]

Confirm Halloween/Trick or Treat for Friday, Oct. 31st from 5-7 pm
Motion 14-189. Motion made by Robert Ericson, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted.

Proposal from Pittsfield Community Television to Manage Lanesborough Channel. Bernard Avalle and Peter Marchetti from Pittsfield Community Television were presented to the Board by Mr. Sieloff. Mr. Avalle is the Executive Director and Peter Marchetti is the Board President. The company has been in existence since 1986, has three channels on the air and 291 volunteer members. Mr. Marchetti said the contract agreement before the Board is a standard contract. Mr. Sieloff was impressed with their studio and thinks it would be a good choice for the Town. Mr. Sieloff chose a 6 month contract to make sure it is

a good fit and asked the Board to support the contract. Mr. Sayers asked Mr. Avasse and Mr. Machetti their thoughts in regard to the Town's current equipment. Mr. Avasse said that it is very outdated. Mr. Sierloff stated that they would be broadcasting the Selectmen's meetings and possibly school meetings as things progress. Mr. Ericson asked about internet access. Mr. Avasse stated that the Town could stream the broadcast via the internet if they purchased the proper equipment. Mr. Avasse stated that if all the recommended equipment was purchased it would cost the Town approximately \$27,800. Mr. Sierloff stated the Town does not have to purchase all of the equipment immediately and that the Town has approximately \$15,000 for this purpose. Mr. Goerlach stated that there are only about 600 homes with the capability to view the broadcast. Mr. Ericson said that the internet would open it up to more viewers. Mr. Avasse stated that a fee could be charged in order for residents to view the broadcast on-line which could recoup some of the money paid by the Town. Motion 14-184. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Contract Agreement with Pittsfield Community Television for a period of for six months, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted.[#1]

Discussion on Regionalization of Mount Greylock High School and Lanesborough Elementary School - Carrie Greene

Mount Greylock Regional School District Committee Chair, Carrie Greene came before the Board to speak about K-12 regionalization. On behalf of the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee she was present to ask the Board to put regionalization on the ballot for the Spring. Ms. Greene stated that she would like to give a full presentation to the Board in January or February. She presented packets to the Board for review. The Mount Greylock Regional School Committee voted unanimously to put regionalized on the ballot. Ms. Greene said there were many benefits to regionalization from educational to financial to political to bring everything under one umbrella to solidify the structure between the Towns for the future. Mr. Goerlach asked Ms. Greene if both elementary schools would remain open. Ms. Greene said there was never a plan to close either school. Ms. Greene said there is a provision that the region cannot close the school unless the Town wants to close it. Mr. Sayers asked why only Lanesborough and Williamstown are included and why they didn't go broader to include other towns. Ms. Greene said that once the first phase is completed and streamlined we could share services and expand. Mr. Sayers stated that he would like to see it expanded to include other Towns. Ms. Greene stated that the Mount Greylock Regional High School Committee takes the fiscal constraints of the Town into consideration and tries very hard to present a budget that can be passed. Ms. Greene stated that Williamstown can contribute more money than Lanesborough but that the School Committee cannot accept money from Williamstown because of the budget constraints of Lanesborough. Ms. Greene wanted to let Lanesborough residents know that there is district wide voting so they can vote for any member of the committee whether they are from Williamstown or Lanesborough. Mr. Goerlach asked Ms. Greene about public informational meetings. Ms. Greene stated that there should be in order to educate Town residents. Ms. Greene stated that they cannot consider moving the 7th and 8th grades back to elementary school because the High School building project that was submitted was for 7th through 12th grade. Mr. Sayers asked Ms. Greene if regionalization can save the Town of Lanesborough money why isn't it happening now. Ms. Greene stated that she would get back to the Board regarding the money savings.[#5]

Bridge Street Park Dog Park Proposal

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a letter from a Town resident to use the Bridge Street Park as a dog park. Mr. Sieloff stated that it is a very problematic request and presented the Board letters from the Recreation Committee and the Animal Control Officer stating that it was not in the Town's best interest to grant this request. Mr. Sayers asked about the possibility of using the landfill for this purpose. Mr. Goerlach asked if the resident was looking for a fenced in area but said that the Town could possibly designate the landfill as an open area. Ms. Sieloff stated that he would have to talk the DPW Director. Ms. Sayers stated that he had already spoken to the DPW Director and he did not have any issues as long as residents stayed away from the pipes. Mr. Ericson wanted to reject the request based on liability issues. Mr. Goerlach wanted to reject this but would like to look into another location. Motion 14-190. Motion by Robert Ericson to reject the use of Bridge Street Park as a dog park, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. Mr. Sieloff stated he would check with DPW Director about using the landfill as an alternative location and get back to the Board. [#6]

250th Anniversary: Calendar Approval and Tax Insert Mailing

Stephanie Abrams came before the Board for approval of the T-shirt design for the Town's Anniversary Celebration and for funding approval for the first order. Robert Barton presented a draft calendar of events to include with the next tax mailing. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Barton to bring a finalized document for approval. All members of the Board liked the T-shirt design. Mr. Barton asked the Board to approve a three member signature for the disbursement of funds. Mr. Sayers asked for a list of members of the Committee. Mr. Barton would like the Board to approve the Committee's funding plan and approve the concept of how they plan to raise money for the events. Mr. Sieloff said that Bruce Durwin, the Town's accountant had already set up an account for donations and the Town has already received money. Mr. Ericson would like to assign a Treasurer and two assistant treasurers to work with the Town accountant to manage the account. Mr. Goerlach would also like the Committee to come up with an end plan for the account for any remaining money at the project's end. [#7]

Proposed Energy Committee Bylaws

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board proposed Bylaws for the Energy Committee. Mr. Sieloff stated that he included terms in the language to be for three years instead of one. Mr. Sayers said that it would be tough to get volunteers to commit to three years. Mr. Ericson stated that he did not believe that this would be a permanent committee, but rather a "sunset" committee, that would do its' job and then dissolve. Mr. Ericson would like to bring the draft to the Energy Committee for their review and address it at the next meeting. [#8]

Water District Regionalization Letter

Mr. Sieloff updated the Board as to the possible transfer of water tax bills from the Water Department to the Tax Collector's Office. Mr. Sieloff said it would be beneficial for the Town by providing more hours and staff to answer questions when paying their bills and that the Water Department seems to be agreeable to this but has not formally voted to accept the proposal.

Town Meeting Article relating to water line installation - three engineer proposals

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a 10 point list explaining the scope of this project. Mr. Sieloff also stated that the Department of Environmental Protection was interested in this project as a way of mitigating some of the issues with the landfill. Mr. Sieloff recommending approaching 3 to 4 engineering firms for proposals. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Town has approximately \$199,000 in the budget for this project and if the Town goes forward quickly the project could be completed by fall of next year. Mr. Sieloff also stated that if the Town gets funding through the Federal Government for Water Districts that it could be bonded out over 40 years allowing for a low annual payment having a low impact on the Town's budget. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Sieloff if he knew how much it would cost to hire an engineer. Mr. Sieloff stated it would be about 10% of the budget. Mr. Goerlach would like to see the proposal broken down to include the hourly rate for overseeing the project. Mr. Goerlach stated that he would also like to get a proposal with the Town supplying the materials. Mr. Sieloff stated he would sit down with the Board to discuss this more in detail. Mr. Ericson stated that if the Town applies for grants that an engineer would probably need to be hired as a requirement of the grant. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would get back to the Board at the next meeting with an update. [#9]

Regional School Options - 5 Member Research Committee

Mr. Sieloff stated that there are nine applicants for this Committee. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board how they wanted to proceed. Mr. Goerlach wanted to wait to see how the vote goes on Wednesday. Mr. Sayers thought that we could get pros and cons from the Committee. Mr. Ericson and Mr. Sayers would like to appoint all the applicants. Mr. Goerlach asked Richard Cohen his thoughts on this issue. Mr. Cohen praised the collaboration between the schools and stated that Lanesborough Elementary School has the highest performance rate in the State. Ron Tinkham asked to be appointed as a full member not an alternate. Mr. Sieloff pointed out to the Board that Bob Barton's application had two provisos in it stating that he is interested if the Selectmen are ready to invest in a consultant, if needed, and that the members selected are people who accept the "charge" of developing clear analysis of all options, not advocating for or against any one of them. Motion 14-191. Motion by Robert Ericson to appoint all nine applicants to study the next steps in the educational process in Lanesborough, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. The nine members are Regina DiLego, Carole Chuslo Castonguay, Robert Barton, Jack Hickey, Christine Canning-Wilson, Shari Peltier, Jennifer Dechaine, Richard Cohen and Ronald Tinkham. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will set up a time next week for the members to meet. [#10]

Police Department Heating System Proposals/Town Hall Roof Insulation Project Estimate/Roof HVAC Cover Installation

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with quotes for these projects and stated that in every estimate obtained by DPW Director William Decelles the oil fired system was less than propane. DPW Director Decelles is recommending O'Connell Oil for \$6,960 which also includes heating the hot water. Mr. Ericson suggested an electric heater for hand washing so the heating system can be turned off from May to September to save

money. Mr. Sieloff stated that a decision should not be made until the Town receives word from the State regarding Green Community Grants. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Ericson to get a price on the electric heater. Mr. Ericson asked Mr. Sieloff to give him copies of the quotes to analyze as they pertain to the grant. Mr. Ericson did not want to vote until he looked into it further. Mr. Sieloff stated he would bring it back at the next meeting. [#11]

Mr. Sieloff stated that there was still work to be completed on the Town Hall roof and that Mr. Ericson stated that he would do this work for free but the materials would be about two hundred dollars. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board to approve this work by Mr. Ericson. Mr. Goerlach asked if there was enough money to pay for this and the installation of a cover on the HVAC system. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Ericson if there was a way to put in a moisture system that didn't have to be monitored. Mr. Ericson stated that there was. Mr. Goerlach asked where the engineer was that did the work on the roof. Mr. Ericson stated that this work needs to be done before winter. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will work with Mr. Ericson and DPW Director to complete the work.

Balance Rock Road & Bull Hill Intersection - Drainage

Mr. Sieloff stated that the drainage project has moved along quite quickly. Ms. Sieloff stated that the work will be done before winter. Mr. Ericson stated that the owner did cut back the vegetation.

Review of recent Meeting with Elementary School Committee and Finance

Committee. Mr. Sieloff stated that he thought the meeting was productive and that he has been approached by a member of the Finance Committee to pose more questions relative to special needs students to try to get a cost per student. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they wanted to get involved with putting a letter together to pose these questions. Mr. Sayers thought the meeting went well and the Selectmen should continue communication with the Committees. Ms. DiLego said that she would be happy to set up a meeting with Mr. Sieloff to discuss reimbursements. Mr. Tinkham stated that it was suggested that a similar meeting take place with the High School. Mr. Goerlach stated that Mr. Sieloff should try to set this up.

Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting. The resident on National Street that was asked to clean up his outbuildings has not complied. Mr. Sayers stated that he would try to call him again and if he does not comply the Town would need to send a letter. Mr. Goerlach would like to follow up on this issue at the next meeting.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Ericson presented an email from the State relative to the energy grant submitted by the Town with items that need to be substantiated. These items need to be addressed by November 3rd. Mr. Ericson is going to call Jim Barry from the State to ask if the Town can get a two week extension. Mr. Sieloff stated that it asks to send a letter that the Board supports the Energy Reduction Plan. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board to vote to adopt this plan. Motion 14-192. Motion made by Robert Ericson to adopt the Energy Reduction

Plan (ERP), and that the Board are fully committed to the implementation of the ERP, seconded by Henry Sayers. Unanimously voted. [#12][#13]

Mr. Sayers asked about Rockwell Road. Mr. Sieloff said he would look into it.

Mr. Sayers asked about putting no parking signs between the Old Forge Restaurant and the Mobil Station. There are currently 1 hour parking signs. Mr. Goerlach believed that someone had posed this before and the State said no. Mr. Sayers believes that it is a safety issue due to the lack of visibility. Mr. Sayers would like to send a letter to the State to do this. Mr. Goerlach asked if the Town could move a street light to that area. Mr. Ericson stated that the Town was going to upgrade one of the lights at that location.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with an illustration from McCann Technical School for the fueling station shelter at the Police Department. Mr. Sieloff stated that the Building Inspector has seen the design and stated that it needs more cross bracing due to wind concerns. DPW Director William Decelles suggested that the sides be extended down. Mr. Goerlach, Mr. Ericson and Mr. Sayers made suggestions as to possible revisions to the illustration. Mr. Goerlach stated that it should resubmitted to bring up to State Code. Mr. Sieloff stated that this is only a rough draft for their review.[#14]

Approve Minutes

Mr. Ericson had one minor revision to the minutes. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the minutes of October 6, 2014 with the revision of Mr. Ericson, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Sayers, seconded by Robert Ericson. Unanimously voted. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Footnotes:

- [#1] Pittsfield Community Television Contract
- [#2] Citizen Interest Form - Luke Labendz
- [#3] Recommendation - Jack Liebenow - COA Van Driver
- [#4] Recommendation - Stephanie Michalak - COA Board Member
- [#5] MGRSD Documentation - Regionalization
- [#6] Bridge Street Dog Park Documentation
- [#7] 250th Town Anniversary T-shirt Design & Draft Calendar of Events
- [#8] Proposed Energy Committee Bylaws
- [#9] Orebed Road Waterline Engineering RFP Task List
- [#10] Applications for Regional School Research Committee (9)
- [#11] Police Station Heating System Proposals
- [#12] Green Communities Regional Coordinator (Jim Barry) email
- [#13] Energy Reduction Plan
- [#14] McCann Technical School Police Outbuilding Draft Illustration