

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

December 14, 2015

Present: Mr. Robert Ericson, Acting Chair
Mr. Henry Sayers
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Administrator

Absent: Mr. John Goerlach, Chair

Warrants: Warrant Signed

The meeting was opened by Robert Ericson at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Regina DiLego came before the Board on behalf of the Lanesborough Elementary School Committee with a letter from the 6th grade class asking to install solar panels at the school. Ms. DiLego stated that she explained to the class that this type of request would need to be presented to the Selectmen and she would do so on their behalf. Mr. Ericson stated that the Energy Committee looked into solar but there is not enough real estate to install a system. Mr. Ericson stated that the Town is hiring someone to look at solar options and he will refer this to the Energy Committee to research further. Mr. Ericson stated that the 6th grade class should be commended for their idea.[#1]

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

Facility Use Application – Child Resources of the Berkshires

Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that this group meets on Wednesdays throughout the school year. Motion 15-188. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Facility Use Application of Child Resources of the Berkshires for a Play and Learn Group for 2016, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. [#2]

Mount Greylock School Building Project – Special Town Meeting Issue

Mr. Sieloff presented Carrie Greene, Chair of the Mount Greylock Regional School Committee to the Board. Ms. Greene stated that she has been speaking with Bond Counsel and told the Board that the Town only needed to vote for debt exclusion at the ballot and the next voting opportunity, which is presidential primary day is on March 1st. She stated that if this is done on that day it will save the Town the set up and cost of another Town vote. Ms. Greene stated that residents would need to register twice to vote, once for the school and once for the presidential primary. Ms. Greene stated that vote only has to be a simple majority vote. A Special Town Meeting could be called to explain the issue to the Town residents. Mr. Ericson stated he was surprised that there only has to be a simple majority vote and thinks Town Counsel should look into this. Ms. Greene stated that Town Counsel should talk with Bond Counsel and she can give contact information to the Board. Ms. Greene stated that if the vote was on March 1st there would be two separate ballots to be voted on that day. Mr. Sayers thinks that a double ballot will be confusing and it should be separate elections or someone should be present to direct residents at the voting booths. Mr. Ericson stated the Town would probably get more voters during the primary vote. Ms. Greene stated that no decision needs to be made tonight and she was simply passing information along to the Board. Mr. Sieloff asked Ms. Greene if lowering the cost of the project would again be reviewed at the January school meeting. Ms. Greene stated that there would be no further local cuts but that the building authority is reviewing the proposal and the final cost should be set by the middle of January. Ms. Greene stated that they are hopeful that the number will come in under the line item during each phase of the project. Mr. Sieloff asked about the location of Superintendent's office. Ms. Greene stated that the Massachusetts School Building Authority does not reimburse for the Superintendent's office and it will now be housed at another location to be determined at another date. Mr. Sieloff asked if there has been any research of other entities contributing to the cost of the project. Ms. Greene stated that they are looking for ways to cut costs and are also approaching third parties for substantial financial support. Mr. Ericson stated that the money should be pulled out of the Furniture and Equipment budgets now rather than later. Mr. Ericson handed out Minutes from the Building Committee meeting where he recommended to exclude about \$300,000 and gave his suggestions to cut costs. Ms. Greene stated that Williamstown Elementary came in under budget and it can be done and Ms. Greene said that Mr. Ericson's suggestion is unrealistic and now is not the time to make these cuts. Mr. Sayers hopes that Building Committee is listening to the Board and he believes it is overpriced and will see how the Town votes. [#3]

2016 Selectmen License Approvals

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with Licenses for their approval relative to Liquor, Entertainment, Common Victualler, Class II Used Car Dealers, Motor Vehicle Junk Class III, and Golf and Driving Range. Motion 15-192. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the 2016 All Alcohol and Wine and Malt Restaurant Licenses as listed in a Memorandum from the Town Secretary to the Board of Selectmen dated December 14, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Motion 15-193. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the 2016 All Alcohol Package Store Licenses as listed in a Memorandum from the Town Secretary to the Board of Selectmen dated December 14, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Motion 15-194. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the 2016 Common Victualler Licenses as listed in a Memorandum from the Town Secretary to the Board of Selectmen dated December 14, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Motion 15-195. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the 2016 Used Car Dealer's License – Class II as listed in a Memorandum from the Town Secretary to the Board of Selectmen dated December 14, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Motion 15-196. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the 2016 Entertainment Licenses as listed in a Memorandum from the Town Secretary to the Board of Selectmen dated December 14, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Motion 15-197. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the 2016 Golf Driving Range and Miniature Golf Range Licenses as listed in a Memorandum from the Town Secretary to the Board of Selectmen dated December 14, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. [#4]

Proposed Narragansett Causeway Project (Harbormaster report)

Harbormaster Lee Hauge came before the Board to discuss the project. Mr. Hauge stated that the proposed plans for the causeway project have been reviewed with MASSDOT and he gave the Board a brief synopsis of what the project will likely look like. Mr. Hauge stated that he made suggested changes to MASSDOT and they stated they would take his suggestions into consideration with the new design. Mr. Hauge stated that DPW Director Decelles was present at their meeting and he had no concerns with what MASSDOT was proposing. Mr. Hauge stated that it will take approximately 1 ½ years to complete the project and a temporary bridge will be installed until work is complete. Mr. Ericson asked about traffic control during construction. Mr. Hauge stated it was not discussed but may be necessary during certain times during the project. [#5]

Street Light Request from local residents to add light to 22 Balance Rock Road

Mr. Ericson stated that he will be further investigating this issue. Mr. Ericson stated that the Energy Committee has a meeting on Wednesday and is proposing guidelines for the Town to address street light issues. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Ericson if he would be able to make a specific determination at the next meeting. Mr. Ericson stated that he could. Mr. Sieloff stated that he spoke with a representative from Eversource regarding upgrades to the street lights in front of the Olde Forge Restaurant. Mr. Sieloff stated that one of the two lights have been upgraded and asked Mr. Ericson to look to see if this the upgrade is sufficient or would they like other pole changed as well. Mr. Ericson stated that he will follow up on this. [#6]

Approve 2016 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a proposed 2016 meeting schedule for their review and approval. Mr. Sayers stated that he heard that Patriot's Day was to be eliminated as a holiday. Mr. Sieloff stated that he has not heard anything about this. Mr. Ericson stated that he would like the time of 6:00 p.m. to be larger and bolder so that residents are aware that meetings no longer begin at 7:00 p.m. Motion 15-189. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the 2016 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. [#7]

Mr. Sieloff advised the Board that neither he nor the Town Secretary would be able to attend the meeting on December 28th and asked the Board to approve changing the date to December 21st. Motion 15-190. Motion by Henry Sayers to change the Board of Selectmen's next meeting from December 28th to December 21st, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0.

Heavy Vehicle Use/Temporary Access Permit - \$10,000 Surety Bond requirement for contractors working within the Town. Mr. Sayers stated that he would like to table this item until Mr. Goerlach is able to attend meeting. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would add this to the upcoming Agenda. [#8]

Approve Beth Greenblatt Contract

Mr. Sieloff presented the Board with a draft contract for their review. Mr. Sieloff informed the Board that Town Counsel is working on this contract and he will place it on the next Agenda. [#9]

Proposed Police Advisory Commission Bylaws

Mr. Sieloff presented proposed Bylaws to the Board for their review and approval. Mr. Sieloff stated that a new clause was added wherein Commission members are required to complete mandatory State Ethics and Open Meeting Law training and provide certificates to the Town Clerk as required by State Law. Motion 15-191. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Police Advisory Commission Bylaws as presented, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. [#10]

Discussion on property issues on roads off Narragansett Avenue

Mr. Sieloff stated that he would like to table this item until the next meeting for Mr. Goerlach to discuss.

Proposed additional custodian responsibilities

Mr. Sieloff stated that the Health Agent told him that the building needs to be professionally cleaned and maintained on a regular basis. Mr. Sieloff recommended to the Board that the Town's current custodian now clean the Police Department as part of her duties beginning January 1st. Mr. Ericson believed that Police Department employees should clean up their own building. Mr. Sieloff urged the Board to consider this proposal to keep the facility clean. Mr. Ericson would like to bring this back at the next meeting.

Proposed election ballot or survey letter to Town residents

Mr. Ericson presented Mr. Sieloff and the Board with some suggested changes. Mr. Ericson asked how this would be delivered to residents. Mr. Sieloff stated it would be mailed at a cost of approximately \$1,200. Mr. Sieloff asked the Board if they would like to continue this to the next meeting for Mr. Goerlach to attend. Mr. Sieloff stated that there is a professional survey company who could be retained to review the questions to make sure they are not biased for an approximate cost of \$500. Mr. Sayers thought this was a good idea and would like to get this to the company as soon as possible as there is limited time before the mailing. Mr. Ericson agreed. Mr. Sieloff stated that he would talk to Mr. Goerlach tomorrow to get his opinion on the text before sending it out to the company for review. [#11]

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

None.

Selectmen's Items

Mr. Sayers stated that a sign was placed by the MASSDot on North Main Street pointing to Mount Greylock. Mr. Sayers stated that MASSDot should have asked for permission from the Town before installing this sign. Mr. Sieloff stated that he will talk to the DPW Director and follow up.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Sieloff updated the Board as to the status of clean up issues at the Dollar General. He stated that the fence around the dumpsters has been fixed and film was placed over the windows to soften the light to the outside of the building and a landscape company has cleaned up the overgrown weeds in the parking lot. Mr. Sieloff stated that they are looking at signage on the right of way in front of the building. Mr. Tinkham stated that the glare of flood lights on the side of the building is blinding. Mr. Sieloff will check into this to see if it can be adjusted. Mr. Tinkham stated that sale items are placed outside during the weekends. Mr. Tinkham stated that the original permit stated that this would not be done. Mr. Ericson asked if this would be in the Minutes of this meeting when the permit was issued. Mr. Tinkham said probably not in enough detail. Mr. Tinkham stated that a performance bond should be obtained for projects of this nature in the future. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Tinkham to speak with him in the morning about this issue. Mr. Sayers stated that the Town needs to be business friendly as possible on these issues.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of November 16, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Regular and Executive Minutes of November 23, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of December 1, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Motion made by Henry Sayers to approve the Minutes of December 3, 2015, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Sayers, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Footnotes:

- [#1] Lanesborough Elementary 6th Grade Solar Request Letter
- [#2] Facility Use Application – Child Resources of the Berkshires
- [#3] Mount Greylock School Building Committee Minutes
- [#4] 2016 License Renewal Memorandum
- [#5] Proposed Narragansett Causeway Drawings
- [#6] Street Light Request – Bull Hill Road & Guidelines from the Energy Committee
- [#7] Proposed 2016 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule
- [#8] Proposed Heavy Vehicle Use/Temporary Access Permit
- [#9] Proposed Greenblatt Contract
- [#10] Proposed Police Advisory Commission Bylaws
- [#11] Proposed Election Ballot or Survey Letter to Town Residents