

2017 - Minutes of January 9, 16 Meetings

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes January 9, 2017

6:30 PM: Open Meeting
Quorum present: Curt Wilton (CW), Chair; Earl Moffatt (EM); Peter Skorput (PS). Also present: Admin Asst Mark Webber. Press present: Local Yokel.

Board reviews and approves previous meeting minutes.

Board reviews and approves weekly warrants.

7:00 PM: Chief of Police Marc Portieri gives his first monthly report to the Board (outline attached). Chief reports that transformation is going smoothly and that he's made it a point to circulate and be seen around the community. Chief, under the direction of Officer Frank Murphy, conducted physical agility tests for 3 current part time officers to gauge their ability to pass a similar required physical test to gain entry into the full time police academy. One of the officers – Cam Forest – performed exceptionally well and as a result, the Chief recommends him for enrollment in an upcoming full time academy, either in the spring or fall of 2017. Board notes that although the Board supports a full time department, the Town has not had great recent experience sending officers to the full time academy and thanked the Chief for conducting this initial screening; not done in the past. CW asks the Chief to research methods that other departments use to reasonably assure that once the Town sponsored recruit makes it through the academy that he remains as a full time officer and not jump to another department. Chief notes that Officer Forest has already expressed a desire to remain in W. Stockbridge. Board agrees to sponsor officer Forest and thanks the Chief for attending the meeting.

Other Business/Action/Discussion Items:

- Board discusses scheduling a Special Town meeting to address two specific items: 1) an amendment to the zoning bylaw proposed by the Planning Board which addresses the Downtown Business District and 2) the proposed amendments the Berkshire Hills Regional School District Agreement as approved the BHRSD School Committee. Additional housekeeping items may be added. A tentative date of February 27, 2017 is set for the meeting, which has a posting deadline of February 10th.
- As procedurally required, CW makes a motion to refer the proposed zoning amendment back to the Planning Board for the purpose of holding public meetings prior to the Special Town Meeting. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.
- CW, as Chairman, signs Ethics Commission Disclosure Forms for PS and states that doing so is a legal requirement to allow PS to act as both a Selectman and Fire Chief as he receives compensation for both positions. CW notes that this requirement was stated by town counsel at a Board meeting several months earlier and CW thanks PS for following up.
- Board discusses scheduling a joint meeting with the Town of Richmond Board of Selectmen at a date to be determined in February. AA states that he had a recent meeting with the Richmond town administrator who stated that Richmond is interested in opening discussion on shared services, specifically ambulance and related public safety topics. Board would welcome discussions and agrees to work on a mutually acceptable date for a joint meeting.
- CW informs updates the Board on the Shaker Mill Dam spillway wingwall repairs. He has contacted Foresight Engineering, Maxymillian Construction and the W.S. Conservation Commission and is working on a schedule and plan to repair the recent damage.
- Board discusses a letter received from the Office of Dam Safety regarding potential inadequacy of the Shaker Mill Dam spillway in the event of a catastrophic storm event. AA, after speaking with the Town's engineer who conducts the

required biennial dam inspection, notes that no action is required and that every community across the state with a dam received the letter.

- Board discusses a joint letter received from the towns of Sheffield and New Marlboro inviting the W.S. Board to a meeting in Sheffield on January 23rd to discuss opportunities for shared services. Board notes that although West Stockbridge may be at the edge of geographical practicality with Sheffield, they'd be interested in participating in any discussions.
- Following a discussion, Board moves the previously scheduled Rent Control Board hearing from January 23, 2017 to January 30th to accommodate the Sheffield invitation.
- Board officially accepts copies of two studies related to West Stockbridge Fire Services as approved and funded at the May annual town meeting. Copies had been provided earlier to the Board and now that they've had time to review them, the reports are now public documents. CW would like to set a future date for a more in depth discussion on the reports; no date set.
- CW provides a list of surplus Highway Department equipment that he requests be put out to bid for disposal. The items are no longer in service. Board agrees to put out a legal notice inviting bids.
- PS asks if anything has been done on filling the vacancies on the Town's Cable TV Commission. CW suggests that PS take the lead on this subject and investigate what the Commission's duties should be and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

8:15 PM: CW asks those present for public comments on any topic. Hearing none, CW makes a motion to close the meeting. EM seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Meeting minutes approved by:

Curt Wilton, Chair

Earl Moffatt

Peter Skorput

Date: _____