

2017 - Minutes of July 10, 24, 31 Meetings

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes July 10, 2017

- 6:00 PM: Open Meeting.
Quorum present: Peter Skorput (PS), Chair; Curt Wilton (CW); Bernie Fallon (BF). Also present: Admin Asst Mark Webber (AA).
Press present: Local Yokel.
- 6:05 PM: CW makes a motion to enter executive session per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to discuss collective bargaining with non-union personnel and to return to open session upon its completion. BF seconds the motion. Voice vote taken: PS, aye; BF, aye; CW, aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 7:00 PM: Board re-convenes open meeting session upon conclusion of executive session.

Other Business/Action/Discussion Items:

- Chief of Police Marc Portieri introduces part-time police officer candidate Christopher Jackson to the Board for hiring consideration. Mr. Jackson resides in Connecticut and has a full-time job there but works as a part time police officer in Tolland, MA and is fully credentialed. He'd give up his Tolland position if hired in West Stockbridge. He is a licensed EMT as well. He'd be available for a limited number of shifts per month. Following a brief discussion, CW makes a motion, based on the Chief's recommendation, to appoint Mr. Jackson as a part-time police officer. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.
- Board and residents have a general discussion on pedestrian safety on Lenox Road. Resident Peter Rothstein expresses concerns for he and his wife, along with many others, who walk up and down the street. Speeding cars and trucks combined with a narrow roadway and limited shoulder make it dangerous for walkers. BF recommends that the Town increase efforts to slow down speeders on Lenox and other Town roads. BF suggests installing electronic speed warning signs and increasing police presence. CW says that the Highway Department will review and update signage on Lenox Road as necessary. Chief Portieri states that he will increase police patrols in the area and that his Department, along with Highway, are already researching electronic sign options. CW adds that Lenox Road has a bona fide large truck ban in place, which took considerable effort to get approval and it needs to be enforced by police.
- In response to several resident inquiries regarding the final fiber optic buildout status of Charter/Spectrum, CW recommends calling in Charter/Spectrum government relations contact Anna Lucey to an upcoming meeting to discuss current and future status of that build out. AA will contact and set up a meeting.
- Friends of Williams River supporters, including John Masiero, Peter Thorne and Tom Norton, address the Board regarding their interest in reviving discussions on establishing a multi-use recreational trail on National Grid land running from the center of Town to the Housatonic line along an abandoned rail bed. They note that the same discussion was held several years ago but lost steam when several abutters objected. Following discussion, Board instructs AA to contact Town Counsel to see if they have prior experience and contacts with National Grid for similar situations. CW makes a motion to support the project. BF seconds the motion. Vote taken, 2-0 in favor. PS states that he will abstain from this vote and future discussions because he is an employee of a direct abutter to the National Grid property.
- Board reschedules the upcoming Rent Control Board hearing continuation to either July 31 or August 7th depending on availability of the owners, town counsel and tenants' association.
- Board concludes discussion on Town public restroom weekend and cleaner discussion. A lump sum for daily cleaning is agreed to and the employee will be treated as a sub-contractor and not a Town employee.
- Cable Commissioners address the Board and review a draft PEG Access Coordinator job description and duties. Commissioners have held a few meetings and are anxious to get the local access channels up and running. Commissioners state that they are largely in agreement with the draft Access Coordinator document.

- BF congratulates CW, as Highway Superintendent, on his response to pothole repairs on Route 41. CW notes that he negotiated additional work with MassHighway, which included a full pavement job on Rte. 41 in the vicinity of Exit 1, which was not in the original scope of work.
- For future meeting discussions, BF would like to discuss updates and improvements to the Town website and the setting of long term goals for the Town.
- CW responds to concern expressed about a sidewalk from the Town sidewalk on Center Street connecting the newly place visitor's information building, adjacent to Merritt Way. CW states that he told the owner, Mr. Merritt, that although a special permit was approved for the building relocation, there was no discussion with Town officials about connecting access to the Town sidewalk and running that connection across Town property. CW adds that the Town paid a considerable premium for the new sidewalks to ensure handicap compliance and the connection sidewalk does not come close to meet those standards and that if ignored, the Town would face liability.

8:30 PM: There being no additional business to come before the Board, PS makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. CW seconds the motion.
Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Meeting minutes approved by:

Peter Skorput, Chair

Curt Wilton

Bernie Fallon

Date: _____