

2017 - Minutes of December 4, 11, 18 Meetings

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes December 4, 2017

6:30 PM: Open Meeting
Quorum present: Peter Skorput (PS), Chair; Curt Wilton (CW); Bernie Fallon (BF). Also present: AdminAsst Mark Webber (AA).
Press present: Local Yokel; Berkshire Record.

Board reviews and approves previous meeting minutes as presented.
Board reviews and approves weekly warrants.

7:15 PM: PS opens Public Hearing as scheduled to discuss the annual renewal of alcoholic beverage licenses and auto class II and III licenses.

AA states that although there is no requirement that a public hearing be held to act on the renewal of annual Town issued licenses, it is good practice to do so. AA adds that the Selectmen have two essential criteria to consider when deciding on renewals: whether complaints on specific licenses have come directly to the Board in the past year on any license holder activities and; whether real estate taxes due the Town are current. AA provides a list of the real estate tax status of each license holder as furnished by the Town Collector and notes that no written or spoken complaints stated at Selectmen meetings have been heard over the previous twelve months.

PS opens up the hearing to those present and asks if anyone has comment on any of the license renewal under consideration.

Resident Bob Thibeault asks for clarification of allowed vehicle locations for Troy's Garage Class II and Class III licenses. AA reads the current license descriptions as follows: Class II (used vehicles) "at 7 Albany Rd and east side of Albany Rd across from Troy's Garage. All vehicles shall be kept in a neat and orderly manner". Class III (junk vehicles) "all vehicles and parts thereof shall be properly screened from public view at 7 Albany Road only".

Mr. Thibeault then states that most of the vehicles on the river side of Albany Road haven't moved in years and should be considered junk not used.

Mr. Thibeault then refers to Town zoning bylaws regarding auto junk yards and that they aren't permitted anywhere in town with or without special permit. PS responds that junk yards are different from auto junk licenses in that junk yards are for salvage and recycling. Auto class III licenses permit the holder to keep junk vehicles in the normal course of repairing autos.

Resident Joe Roy asks the legal definition of a used car as opposed to a junk car. AA responds that town counsel was recently asked that specific question and MGL Ch 140 does not specifically address the question.

BF states that the D'Aniello's are free to operate their business as they choose and the business has been in successful operation for several decades. BF adds that the owners will clean up the appearance of their business on their own. BF adds that Troy's is part of the town's climate and is utilized by many residents.

CW states that if the Board does not receive official complaints on any of the annual licenses during the past year then he will sign them.

Hearing no other questions or comments, PS closes the public hearing.

Other Business/Discussion/Action items:

- Fire Chief Peter Skorput issues his monthly report to the Board (attached). CW asks how many currently licensed EMT's does the Department have. PS responds: 2 and notes that he predicts that one or more will be taking the upcoming EMT certification course.
- Board will hold its annual tax classification hearing on December 6, 2017 at 6:00 PM.

- AA provides an update on the Moscow Rd area National Grid land sale to the Town. Per National Grid, the Town has hired a professional surveyor to provide a plan dividing the approximately 1.75-acre downtown parcel from the approximate 40-acre National Grid owned property of which it is attached. Sale discussions are continuing between town counsel and National Grid. On the Wambach tax title property now owned by the Town, AA asks the Board to place a minimum bid amount for the yet to be scheduled auction. Based on back taxes due at the time of the tax taking (\$16,581), the Selectmen approve a \$20,000 minimum to cover legal expenses and back taxes. AA will speak to town counsel to review and set up an auction sale.
- Board discusses a letter received from Berkshire Hills Regional School Supt. Peter Dillon seeking one Selectman and one Finance Committee member to sit on a committee to discuss future building options for the Monument Mt. high school property. AA notes that 2 Finance Committee members have said they'd be willing to serve. CW notes that he served 13 months recently on the BHRSD regional agreement committee and would prefer that one of the other Board members serve on the new committee. PS and BF will figure out which will join the committee.
- BF reviews his recent efforts to improve general communication and sharing of information, notices and ideas among residents and Town officials. BF provides a PowerPoint (attached) summary of communication ideas and resident responses to preferred methods of receiving and providing information. Board thanks Bernie for his efforts.
- PS informs the Board on his recent meeting with the Richmond Board of Selectmen. Initially set up to discuss ideas on shared services between the 2 towns, the meeting focuses on the immediate challenges facing the Richmond/West Stockbridge ambulance service. PS states that Richmond is going to push forward with and attempt to improve service under the current program with no major changes. PS notes that it's getting increasingly difficult to provide licensed coverage during the day for both firefighting and emergency response.

8:00 PM: There being no additional business to come before the Board and no takers on Citizen Speak time, PS makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. BF seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Meeting minutes approved by:

Peter Skorput, Chair

Curt Wilton

Bernie Fallon

Date: _____