

**Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
March 13, 2017**

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

Board reviews and approves previous meeting minutes as presented.  
Board reviews and signs payroll and vendor warrants.

6:50 PM: CW opens the regular portion of the meeting.

Board signs 2018 election caucus. Annual caucus will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

AA notes that the Town's auditors have been working here over the past week and will return towards the end of March to complete their FY 2016 audit report.

AA provides the Board with an update on the condition of the Interchange 1 solar project. MA DOT has been in contact with the solar contractor (Ameresco). MA DOT states that the site will be cleaned up in the spring and that screening possibilities will be entertained by the contractor once the project is completed.

EM reports to the Board on last Thursday's meeting with Richmond Selectman Manzolini, Richmond Administrator Mark Pruhinski, Mark Webber and Earl Moffatt. The two-hour meeting discussed a wide range of possible sharing opportunities between the two towns. The intent of the meeting was to lay the groundwork for a future full two town Board of Selectmen meeting. Among the topics discussed were: sharing a town administrator; providing W.S. transfer station access to Richmond residents who now only have one day a week curbside service; ways to improve fire and ambulance response time and coverage; Council on Aging sharing and expansion opportunities and; wastewater personnel. It is noted that the two towns have long standing sharing and cooperative arrangements, including: Richmond Ambulance; shared Highway Department personnel and equipment and; Richmond/West Stockbridge Community Health. EM notes that the two administrators will flesh out potential sharing details prior to scheduling a full two town Board meeting.

Board continues its discussion with Fire Chief Peter Skorput and recommendations from the Municipal Resources Institute (MRI) operations report. Following review, a revised new Fire Department member application is approved. PS explains the distinctions between the W.S. Fire Department and the W.S. Fire Rescue Service. While only members of the Department can be members of the Service, the Service is considered a separate entity with its own tax id status and rules of organization. PS states that the Service accepts gifts and does fund raising to supplement the Department's operations. The Department is a Town entity. Peter notes that, as a Strong Chief, he makes all appointments, including officers. EM asks how and if training can be improved. Peter responds that training does take place. Larry Morse is the Department training officer and he sends out notices to members when trainings are scheduled.

CW notes that it is important to improve record keeping and documentation on training and all phases of the Department's operations. CW encourages Peter to continue to seek new recruits. CW asks Peter about Report recommended protocols on simultaneous notification of Richmond Fire when a significant event takes place in West Stockbridge such as structure fire or car accident. Peter said he spoke with the Richmond Chief and agreed to simultaneous notification. Richmond does not want to be called on simple alarm cases. Peter adds that he sent an email to County Dispatch informing them of the call protocol change. Resident Bob Powell asks what would happen if Chief Skorput was suddenly unable to act as Chief. Peter responds that Larry Morse would run the Department although he would be unable to assume the role on a long-term basis because of work restrictions.

8:30 PM: With not additional business to come before the Board and no questions or comments from those in attendance, CW makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. PS seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

*Meeting minutes approved by:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curt Wilton, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Earl Moffatt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Skorput

Date: \_\_\_\_\_