

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

March 10, 2015

The Board of Selectmen met in the Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room, Town Hall, as scheduled with Thomas Alonzo, Chair; Paula Bertram, Vice Chair; Jamie Toale, Clerk, Robert Ebersole, Phyllis Luck and Town Manager Kerry Speidel present. The meeting opened at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Board:** Ms. Luck reminded all of the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast at the Senior Center tomorrow morning and they are selling May baskets already.

Mr. Alonzo announced the Boys and Girls Club of Lunenburg will be holding their ten year anniversary party on June 26, 2015 from 4- 7 pm. They also rescheduled *Are You Smarter than Our Sixth Grader?* to Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Lunenburg High School Auditorium. Admission is a donation accepted at the door. Sponsorship information is on the website at [www.bgcluboflunenburg.org](http://www.bgcluboflunenburg.org).

Mr. Alonzo announced the Citizens Party Caucus on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Turkey Hill Middle School Cafeteria. He announced the following offices for the 2015 Annual Town Election:

Moderator- 3 years, Selectmen- 3 years, Board of Health (2)- 3 years, Assessor- 3 years, Sewer Commissioner (2) - 3 years, School Committee Member - 3 years, Park Commissioner, (1) for 1 year and (1) for 3 years, Commissioner of Trust Funds - 3 years, Cemetery Commissioner- 3 years, Library Trustee (3) - 3 years, (1) - 1 year, Planning Board- (1)- 5 years, (1) -2 years, (1) -1 year, Housing Authority- 5 years.

There was no comment from the public.

Ms. Speidel reported she sent emails to the Public Access Cable committee members and two of them are interested in serving on the Cable Advisory Committee. She added with three of the Selectmen on the committee it comes to five members. She did find out that Bill Hewig at Kopelman & Paige handles the cable license negotiation process. She has not spoken with him yet but has exchanged some emails with him. He is aware of the timetable for the town. The discussion will be continued at next week's meeting. She informed the Board that PACC members Rhonda Lisio and Steve Walker would be on the Cable Advisory Committee.

**Motion: B. Ebersole**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Luck**

**To appoint Steve Walker, Rhonda Lisio, Tom Alonzo, Paula Bertram and Jamie Toale to the Cable Advisory Committee**

**Vote: All in Favor**

**Discussion/Review of FY'16 Budget**

Ms. Speidel stated that Governor Baker has released his budget. There were a couple of things that were of note. In terms of local aid, Chapter 70 will receive an increase of 2.4% and Unrestricted General Government Aid will have a 3.6 % increase, more than she had anticipated. It also included the 40S payment which she is not sure if that will stay or not. The Cherry Sheet charges overall were about what we were expecting. Ms. Speidel stated the biggest issue is that we are not going to see anything else from the state before we make a presentation at town meeting. Health insurance renewal has increased 10.9%; she had projected 7%. We do not have a preliminary assessment from Monty Tech yet. They are presenting to the Finance Committee on Thursday night. It may possibly be \$48,000 more than listed on the preliminary budget.

Mr. Alonzo asked if there was any news on FEMA application for the multiple snowstorms. Ms. Speidel reported the blizzard in January was certified and we will get FEMA reimbursement. However there were three other snowstorms and MEMA has asked towns to compile their costs for all four storms, but submit itemizations for each storm. The total costs the town incurred during those storms is around \$300,000. We have the potential to get 70% of the total amount reimbursed from FEMA. The Governor also filed legislation to allow towns to amortize the cost over two years. Ms. Speidel did not believe the town would choose this option. Ms. Bertram asked if we couldn't extrapolate the amount for 40S paid last year and apply the formula. Ms. Speidel stated there is a formula but it is based on what the actual expenditures were paid last year. We don't have all of that data. She added the FY'16 budget recommendation has the FY'15 40S payment in it because under her proposal we would take that same amount. But the Governor has another payment in that she did not anticipate so we potentially could have two payments available to us in one fiscal year. If this is so, one payment should be for capital and the other for nonrecurring expenses.

Minutes of October 7, 2014 were presented and signed. Payroll deduction warrant in the amount of \$487,168.37; Payroll warrant in the amount of \$705,849.91 and the Accounts Payable warrant of \$386,626.77 were presented and signed.

Mr. Alonzo announced the Board had a 7:30 pm appointment with the Planning Board to discuss storm water management. DPW and Conservation Commissioners will also be attending. This meeting will not be televised.

#### **Committee Reports-**

**Board of Health**-no report since last meeting; **Building Reuse Committee**- no report, next meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup>; **Capital Planning Committee**- no report; **Finance Committee**-Mr. Toale reported last week they reviewed budgets for Council on Aging/Senior Center, Public Schools, and Public Library. Next week they will review DPW and Monty Tech's budgets.

Mr. Alonzo inquired if the Library was open again. Ms. Speidel replied it was.

**Library Board of Trustees**- no report, **MPO**-they are meeting tomorrow,

**Planning Board**-Ms. Bertram reported they met last night and it was mainly discussion about the village district bylaw, some changes were made and they voted on the draft bylaw. One of the largest changes was allowing construction of single story construction on parcels more than five acres.

There was discussion about tying the two articles (Architectural and Village Center. District bylaws) together, but no decision was made. There is another Planning Board meeting tonight to discuss Village Center District bylaw. Ken Chenis reported on the Montachusett Joint Transportation Commission (MJTC) meeting. He spoke on behalf of the town advocating an increase in Chapter 90 funding as well as incorporating into the requirements for roadways, funding a road preservation component. There is an entire process for road construction vs. road preservation. The process to get federal funding is very cumbersome. Ken is advocating for that component and a number of committees support his recommendations. The Planning Board is meeting with the Historical Commission on Thursday regarding the Architectural Preservation District. (APD).

Mr. Ebersole stated on the Town website/Planning Board page, under the Director's Page is the Village Center District bylaw draft and map and the Architectural Preservation District draft bylaws. He urged everyone to go there and read it. He expressed concern that both articles are not tied together. If the APD is not ready for ATM he hopes they will delay both articles until they can be presented together. Ms. Bertram stated the Village Center District draft actually has a delay component written into it. **PACC**- Mr. Ebersole reported they discussed their budget last night. **School Committee**-Ms. Luck reported there was a presentation by the School Calendar Advisory Committee on adolescence sleep requirements. It suggests they should start their day later. The issue with that is does everyone start at the same time, what are the transportation cost issues? There is a workshop Thursday at Passios Elementary to discuss the One on One Computer Initiative and the process to be used for naming the new school. There will be a televised school budget hearing on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Luck added that Ms. Speidel met with the MART representatives this morning and we should be ready for next week's meeting with the final route and price.

**School Building Committee** meets tomorrow. **Sewer Commission-** no report . **Town Manager Report-** no report

There was no further public or Board comment. Next meeting is March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Board exited to the workshop meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine M. Peterson

Executive Asst. to the Town Manager