

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES**

July 14, 2015

The Board of Selectmen met in the Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room, Town Hall, as scheduled with Jamie Toale, Chair; Robert Ebersole, Vice Chair; Thomas Alonzo, Clerk; Paula Bertram, Member and Town Manager Kerry Speidel. Phyllis Luck, Member was not present. The meeting opened at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Alonzo reminded those present that the Lunenburg Water District is hosting a special meeting, requested by citizen petition, on Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>; 7:00 p.m. at the Lunenburg High School to discuss the extension of the water district to encompass the northwest area of Lancaster. He encouraged all registered voters within the LWD to attend that meeting.

Ms. Bertram announced there is an informational meeting regarding the Summer St. construction project on Wednesday, July 22, at 7:00 PM at the Lunenburg High School.

**Failure to Elect Vacancies on Library Board of Trustees**

The Board moved on to the meeting with the Board of Library Trustees to fill two vacancies due to failure to elect. Library Trustee Chairman Richard Mailloux called their meeting to order and came forward to report they had met with the three applicants last week. The first candidate was Donna Saiia of 32 Sandy Cove Road. She is passionate about reading and has her own business. For these purposes, she stated circulation and getting people into the Library is critical; she believed her background was suited for the position.

The second applicant was Kiirja Paananen of 35 Meadow Lane. She stated she was approached by Library staff who asked if she was interested in serving on the Board. She has a degree in comparative literature and believes it is important to have a variety of materials available to the public. She has participated in many events at the Library and intends to run for reelection next May. The third applicant was Joy Ruth Cohen of 64 Great Pond Road. She moved here in February. She has served on other Boards before and she enjoys reading in various forms; aloud to children and seniors. She believes the library can be the hub of the community and needs to serve all members of the community, including seniors. She was not aware this position will be up for reelection in May and stated "we'll see," regarding running for election next year.

Mr. Alonzo thanked all three applicants for coming forward. He motioned to nominate Ms. Cohen to one of the vacancies. Mr. Toale echoed Mr. Alonzo's statement and added that before taking any other motions that there are other committee positions open for all citizens to volunteer. Mr. Mailloux stated it was wonderful that three people came forward and all are well qualified. He nominated Ms. Paananen for a position. Ms. Bertram then nominated Ms. Saiia for a position. Mr. Toale stated there will be a combined vote of the two Boards in the order of the nominations given. He began the vote with Ms. Cohen who received votes of 5 for and 4 opposed and Ms. Paananen, whose received 6 votes for and 2 votes opposed. There was ensuing discussion on the voting procedure due to some confusion. Mr. Toale stated he was willing to revote again in order of nominations made. Mr. Alonzo motioned to rescind the previous votes due to confusion over the process. Ms. Bertram seconded. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Alonzo motioned to appoint Joy Ruth Cohen to the Board of Library Trustees. Ms. Bertram motioned to appoint Donna Saiia. A motion was made from the floor by a Library Trustee to nominate Ms. Paananen. Votes resulted in Ms. Saiia (8 for, 1 abstention) and Ms. Paananen (5 for, 4 opposed) to be mutually elected to the vacancies. Mr. Toale asked both newly elected trustees to see the Town Clerk to be sworn in and thanked Ms. Cohen as well. Mr. Toale thanked the Library Trustees as they exited the meeting.

**Appointments:**

Jane Rabbitt of Townsend Harbor Road presented to request to be appointed to the Council on Aging. She stated she likes working with the elderly and wants to give back to the community. She attended a COA meeting and has some ideas for the council; specifically bringing in “younger” seniors to participate in activities.

**Motion: R. Ebersole**

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

**To appoint Jane Rabbitt to the Council on Aging with a term to expire June 30, 2016**

**Vote: All in Favor**

Kenneth Jones, of 38 Upland Avenue presented to request to be appointed to the Conservation Commission. He is familiar with land management practices and has previously served on the commission. The Commission does support his appointment although they did not get a chance to formally interview him.

**Motion: R. Ebersole**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: T. Alonzo**

**To appoint Kenneth Jones to the Conservation Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2018**

**Vote: All in Favor**

**Current Business:**

**Unitil Filings:** Ms. Speidel reported on a meeting she had with Unitil representatives, John DiNapoli and Cindy Carol, concerning two filings. The first petition to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) was for a gas and electric distribution standard rate increase. If approved, the average electric bill will increase by \$4.99 and the average gas bill will increase \$13.68 per month. She did mention to the Unitil representatives that the number one complaint received from residents was the high rates. They obviously receive those complaints as well. This typically takes ten months for review by both the DPU and Attorney General’s Office.

The second filing was for grid modernization plans; this is something that DPU has required all four of the electric utilities to file. Unitil is planning on filing August 1<sup>st</sup>. DPU asks these utilities to look at specific objectives such as reducing the effects of electrical outages, enabling the integration of solar power and other distributed energy resources, optimizing the demand for electricity by sending better price signals, improving workforce and infrastructure productivity and to provide for smart meters that can support prices that vary by the time of the demand. Unitil will be addressing those five items. The Board can ask other items to consider in their plan. Ms. Speidel did request that street lights have some sort of self-reporting system that signals to the utility company that the light is out. The Board provided some questions to Ms. Speidel to ask Unitil regarding grid modernization, time of use rates, and associated costs. She asked if the Board wanted to file as an intervener in the rate case. The Board did. The topic will be continued at the next meeting.

**Municipal Community Compact**

Ms. Speidel reported the Governor and Lt. Governor recently announced a Community Compact Cabinet which would allow the governor to work more closely with leaders from all municipalities. The Cabinet champions municipal interests across all executive secretariats and agencies, and develops, in consultation with cities and towns, mutual standards and best practices for both the state and municipalities. In addition, the Commonwealth will offer incentives to communities for entering into a Community Compact, including prioritizing Commonwealth technical assistance resources to help reach your chosen best practice(s). Extra points on certain grants and a grant program specifically for Compact communities are also incentives included for participation in the program. Ms. Speidel asked the Board to consider some of the items included in the compact literature while looking at their own goals. Some cities and towns have already joined, including the City of Gardner. The Board was hesitant to apply at this time and wanted to research further. Ms. Speidel noted there is no deadline to apply.

**Warrants**

The following warrants were presented for signatures: (2) FY’15 Accounts Payables of \$123,136.29 and \$140,412.86; Payroll in the amount of \$501,463.86 and Payroll deductions in the amount of \$14,332.63.

**Action File Issues;** Mr. Ebersole reminded that a bylaw review committee needed to be organized.

Committee Reports:

**Board of Health** – no report; **Building Reuse Committee**- no report ; **Cable Advisory Committee**- no report; **Capital Planning Committee**- no report; **Conservation Commission**- no report; **Finance Committee**- no report; **Library Board of Trustees**- no report **MART Advisory**- no report **MPO**- no report; **Planning Board**- met last night and approved Hannaford Supermarket to have an outside seasonal display area, there was also an application approved by ZBA for 10 Mass Ave for an used car lot containing 8 cars; more information is needed and the hearing was continued to July 27<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Board voted last night not to exercise the Right of First Refusal on the White Street property.

On another topic, Ms. Bertram stated Ken Chenis of MJTC had talked about under the UPWP that Lunenburg is partnering with them on locating storm water structures with a GPS mobile device. The town already has this from 2007, so she is not quite sure what we are having MJTC doing now. Ms. Speidel will follow up on this.

**PACC**– no report; **School Committee**-no report **School Building Committee** – no report; **Sewer Commission**- – no report **ZBA** – no report

**Town Manager/Department Reports**- Ms. Speidel requested the Board sign the White Tail Crossing road plan that was previously approved.

School Building Committee Appointments:

**Motion; B. Ebersole**

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

**To appoint Mike Mackin and tom Alonzo to the School Building Committee**

**Vote: All in Favor**

Public Comment:

Maryellen Ramstack of 44 Cortland Circle asked if there was any more information regarding Unitil and the residential solar system installation dilemma. She added there is a rumor circulating that another megawatt solar system is being installed. She expressed concern as she has neighbors and friends who want to hook up residential solar systems into the Unitil system and this is still not resolved. She stated Lunenburg is unique as having this problem and it is Unitil that is causing these problems. Now Unitil is going to increase rates. They have had an incredible profit this year and we are getting nothing. She also stated she heard a Green Community Task Force member is involved somehow with the megawatt installation and this concerns her. Mr. Alonzo stated the Green Community Task Force only makes recommendations. Unitil is not involved in any solar installation. Anyone who has to install solar systems has to work with Unitil. He added that the two previous megawatt installations certainly did influence capacity but a third one would be a onetime upgrade that allows others to join in the system. There would be no more cap or denials of residential solar systems after that. Ms. Ramstack expressed there could be a conflict of interest with this Green Task Force member. Mr. Ebersole explained the Conflict of Interest Law details to Mrs. Ramstack. She thanked the Board and exited the podium. Mr. Toale announced the next meeting is July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion: B. Ebersole**

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

**To adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.**

**Vote: All in Favor**

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Peterson  
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager