

Town of Brimfield  
Board of Selectmen  
Town Hall, 21 Main Street  
Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2018

Present: Chair; Michael Miller, Vice Chair; Harold Leaming, member; Paul McCarthy, member; Paul Vandal, member; Michele-Lee Shea.  
recording; Carol Camerota  
Others: Police Chief Kuss, Fire Chief; McCarthy, Accountant; Marie Arsenault, Town Clerk; Bob Sullivan, Trail; Richard Costa and William Simonic, Congregational Church; George Adams,

Cable recording: S. Costa

(Miller) call to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Payroll & Warrants:**  
Signed by Board

**Minutes:**  
Review and approve meeting minutes of March 5, 2018.  
Table

**Review & Action:**

Trail Committee funds transfer:

Trail members Dick Costa and William Simonic came before the board requesting a line item in the budget for the Trail Committee. (Miller) misunderstood previously and thought it was a onetime request. The board could vote to transfer \$2,000 from Thames which has a balance of \$69,293.72 or Norcross gift account that has \$17,253.80.

M. Arsenault said trail has a special revenue account. Basically the money would be used as seed money for grant matching. Trail is looking for town support and a budget line item. The funds would be spent on a porta john at the trail parking lot. Finance can put in a line item call "Trail Committee" in the amount of \$2,000 that is included in Article #4 raised and appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting.

**Old Business:**

Revisit-Car show and Police detail:

(McCarthy) expressed that he has some reservations about the look of favoritism with car show and police detail. If it ends up being long term does it show support for the Church. (Leaming) explained that the car show is not run by the Church. Donations are made to nonprofits and the Church will be the beneficiary this year. He has seen many car shows without police detail. Cars don't leave at the same time and are extremely organized.

Chief Kuss explained that the Hitchcock Academy had been the beneficiary for many years and detail has been there since the beginning. It had more to do with pedestrians crossing Rt. 20. Trade was made for rooms in the Academy used for training classes in exchange for detail at the car show. Depending on who the promoter was would determine who the beneficiary would be and last year it was the church.

G. Adams responded that this will be the last year for the car show and he doesn't want to pit the Church against another nonprofit. The proceeds of the car show last year went for windows in the fellowship hall. This year would be the driveway. The church is a historical building in town. He does not want problems and the church will pay if needed. (McCarthy) understands how much the church does for the town, and reiterated that he didn't want it to look like favoritism.

The board questioned the Chief on when police detail is needed. The Chief responded that they are there for the safety and security of participants. The tree lighting had a fire engine that was coming through the intersection. He just wanted to be transparent and let the board know there was a change of beneficiary of public funds.

D. Moriarty appreciated the board addressing this issue. The car show would be more than happy to pay for the detail. He also mentioned again that the proceeds for many years went to the Hitchcock Academy. The car show committee is dissolving and it's important that the board understands that 100% of the proceeds go to the beneficiary. It is essential for a police officer to be there for safety. There have been had 2 officers on for 8 hours. (Shea) and (McCarthy) were in agreement that they are needed. (Miller) said since it's the last year it should be left the same, but in the future have the conversation about when detail police are needed.

Acknowledge disclosure for Electrical Inspector:

(Leaming) explained the reason why this disclosure was filed in case there was an appearance of conflict. The Electrical Inspector has an alternate but works at Tantasqua and also works with his students in Brimfield for the town.

Sr. Tax Work Off for Denise Dupont-COA Van Driver:

**Motion #18-147:** by (Leaming) move to approve Denise Dupont as a Sr. Tax worker for COA as a van driver, seconded by (Shea), all in favor.

COA Director brought in another application for a driver today. She has lost 2 drivers and needs to replace them ASAP.

**Motion #18-148:** by (Leaming) move to approve Michael Ahern as a Sr. Tax worker for COA as a van driver, seconded by (McCarthy), all in favor.

Parking Clerk appeals:

The previous Tax Collector use to be the Parking Clerk. The Treasure/Collector is currently accepting payments however does not want to hear appeals. The Selectmen are the default hearing authority. (Leaming) asked if the town had a clerk would they receive a percentage of the fines. The Chief advised against that and that it would be better to have a stipend. The board was in disagreement about whether to get a parking clerk or to remain the hearing authority. For now the board will continue to hear appeals and the Treasurer/Collector will accept the fines.

Cable Contract:

(McCarthy) questioned how Charter determines what channels Brimfield gets. A board member will look into this.

Review Draft Warrant:

(Miller) reported that Finance is not in full support of Article #19 for Building Repair and would like a list of what the needs are. Discussion of submitting a reserve fund transfer to Finance should a major repair be needed and the funds were not available. (McCarthy) was in favor of having the money available for maintenance of the buildings and not waiting until it becomes an emergency. (Miller) also commented on the Sr. Center needing air conditioning but because they are renting space in the Congregational Church, the church is not a municipal building.

Old Article #23 from the Building Committee will be taken out.

Article #7 for the revolving flea market account cannot exceed \$150,000. (Miller) explained that the town can keep \$50,000 but the law states it can only keep \$10,000. M. Arsenault said several years ago it was voted from \$10,000 to \$50,000 to raise the cap that covers deficit.

Municipal Building Article will need bond counsel for the proposition 2 ½.

The Town Clerk will check on the statutes and changing positons from elected to appointed. He added there will be a larger pool of people to draw from when a position is appointed as opposed to elected.

Finance will need to add a line item for Trail. More discussion of Parking Clerk fines and how appeals should be handled. Whether it should be one person or the BOS. Statue states there should be a phone number to call and a place to appeal.

Sign Farmer Series Pouring License for Brimfield Winery:

Brimfield Winery has received approval from ABCC for their Farmer Series Pouring License and the Selectmen as the Local Licensing Authority can now issue a license. The Board signed.

Annual Common Victualler Licenses for:

**Motion #18-149:** by (Leaming) move to approve Annual Common Victualler for Say Cheese, Teresa Goulette, Shrewsbury, MA and Harmon's Clam Cakes, Steve Liautaud, Kennebunkport, ME, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Annual Owner Operator License for:

**Motion #18-150:** by (Leaming) move to approve Annual Owner Operator Licenses for Brimfield Barn, David Schultz, 48 Palmer Road and Francesco's, Francesco Ferrentino, 45 Palmer Road, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

**Old Business:**

Flea Market email regarding fees and applications:

Table to next meeting.

The Caucus will be held Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Phones:

The new Mitel VOI phone system is being installed in town buildings.

(McCarthy) Updated the board on Trant's. He will meet with DEP soon.

Solitude agreement for Lake Sherman:

Table until next meeting.

**New Business:**

(Shea) gave full disclosure because she is the clerk for Planning Board. Planning Board is looking at putting a binding question on the ballot to propose a ban on marijuana. (Leaming) replied that if the town voted yes last year then that would restrict the town. Brimfield did and then might not have the option to ban. More clarification is needed. The moratorium is only until September.

There will also be a binding question regarding solar. A special town meeting will be held in September for these ballot questions.

(McCarthy) asked why old Warrant actions from last year's town meeting were not on the website. This would come from the Town Clerk.

The BOS will meet with Finance at the next meeting to discuss the preliminary budget.

ACO: (Leaming) would like to meet again with the Animal Control Officer as he thinks it was unresolved.

**Public Access:**

(Miller) commented on being blocked from comments on the Brimfield Community page on Facebook. If someone is attacking the board the board should be able to respond.

(McCarthy) Personnel Policy regarding social media on a future agenda.

**Motion #18-151: by (Miller) to Enter into Executive Session: M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a) #4 To discuss the deployment of or strategy regarding security personnel or devices, e.g., a sting operation and adjourn meeting from there at 8:21 p.m.**

(Miller) wants the public to know this session will only be about security decisions  
Roll call votes as follows:

(Miller)-Yes      (Leaming)-Yes      (McCarthy)-Yes      (Shea)-Yes      (Vandal)-Yes

*2 min. recess*

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Selectmen

March 26, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Carol Camerota*

Recording: Carol Camerota

ACCEPTED: *Michael Miller* DATE: *3-26-18*

Documents Utilized for this meeting

**MATERIALS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE**

1. Email from G. Adams
2. Appointment letter
3. Annual Common Victualler's
4. Owner Operator Licenses
5. Draft Warrant