

Board of Selectmen Minutes  
Meeting – February 26, 2013

DRAFT

**Present:** Selectmen – Mark Gilmore, Carolyn Shores Ness, Elizabeth Clarke  
Town Administrator – Bernie Kubiak

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, to approve minutes of meetings held on January 23, 30, and February 13, 2013. After discussion the motion was amended to approve only January 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup> minutes. The motion passed.

**Public Comment:** none

**Selectmen's Comments/Announcements:** April 6, 2013 at 9:15 am people will gather at the home of Ava Gibbs for the annual River, Hillside and Pine Nook Roads clean-up.

Ms. Clarke announced that the public forum tentatively scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> has been canceled. No new date was announced.

There are a number of vacancies of committees and boards. Anyone interested should send a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen.

**Board of Health Comments/Announcements:** Keep washing your hands. It's the easiest things one can do to keep viruses away. With the increase of stomach virus and colds possibly keeping a social distance is a good idea, as well.

**Appearances before the Board/ Hearings:**

**Police Department:** Present – Chief John Paciorek, Jr.

Chief Paciorek reported that he wishes to fill a full-time vacancy created by the retirement of one of his officers, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. He received eight applications which he has narrowed down to one candidate: Brian Ravish, a 19 year veteran currently employed as a Sergeant on the Bernardston Department. **A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, to accept the Chief's recommendation and appoint Brian Ravish to a full-time position.** Discussion items revolved around placement of Ravish on step 8 of the salary scale, which would be a slight increase for him, but a reduction in cost for the Town. **The vote was unanimously in favor of the appointment.**

**Ambulance Service Proposal:** Present – Matt Russo / Chief Paciorek

Mr. Russo was present to discuss the Emergency Medical Services program and the proposal he recently made to the Finance Committee. He said the regionalization of ambulance service is taking longer than originally anticipated. Since he didn't know whether or when regionalization might take place, he presented a plan that includes options for meeting the needs of Deerfield in the meantime. There was discussion about training some police officers as EMTs as the officers are frequently the first responders to the scene. Mr. Russo explained the three levels of medical responders: Basic, Intermediate, and Paramedic, noting the amount of training for each level. When asked, Mr. Russo said he thought the selected program could begin in October with a goal of having paramedic coverage 24/7 within three

years. In discussing the regional plan, he said Deerfield would likely be the lead community, as it is the largest; currently it is the only town with full-time persons on staff.

The Board of Selectmen indicated that the ambulance service is a priority for the Town and encouraged that a way be found to make it work.

**Discussion/Decision Items:**

**Change town election date:** A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, that in accordance with the provision of Section 2 of Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2013, and after consultation with the Town Clerk, to change the date of Annual Town Election to coincide with the date of the Special State Primary on April 30, and further, pursuant to said Chapter 2, the last day for filing nomination papers with the Board of Registrars for said local election be March 13, notwithstanding the provisions of G.L. Chapter 53 section 7, and that the remainder of the election calendar for said Town Election shall be set as required by statute. I further move that the hours of the Town Election be changed to coincide with the Special State Primary hours of 7am to 8 pm. The vote was unanimous.

**ZBA Appointments:** A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and unanimously voted to appoint William McGoldrick to the Zoning Board of Appeals. In a second motion made by Ms. Ness and seconded by Ms. Clarke, and unanimously voted, to appoint Benjamin Wadham to the alternate position on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**One Day Liquor License:** A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and unanimously voted, to approve a single day liquor license for February 28, 2013, 5:00 – 9:00pm, with the license period February 27 to 29.

At this point Ms. Clarke made a motion that the Board go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Police Union, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position as declared by the Chair. The Board will reconvene in open session. Roll call vote: Gilmore –Y, Ness – Y, Clarke – Y.

At the conclusion of the executive session the Board did not reconvene in open session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Phelps