

Board of Selectmen Minutes
Meeting of May 22, 2013

Present: Selectmen - Mark Gilmore and Carolyn Shores Ness
Town Administrator – Bernie Kubiak

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM. Mr. Gilmore took a moment to thank those who responded to the anticipated storm related emergency which did not materialize.

Minutes: put on hold

Public Comments: none

Selectmen's Comments/Announcements: Ms. Ness reminded of the parade on Memorial Day. She said that following annual town meeting, someone requested an idea of what the selectman's job entails. She has not had a chance to respond except to say last year she traveled 5,670 miles and attended 219 meetings. Mr. Gilmore said he attended about half that number of meetings, but probably traveled about the same amount of miles.

Board of Health Comments/Announcements: Now that there's been rain it's important to check for standing water. Dusk to dawn vigilance for mosquitoes and checking for ticks are recommended.

Hearings/Appearances before the Board:

6:40 pm – **Fuel Storage Hearing** – 239 Greenfield Road

Present: Greg Gardner, Bill Swasey (fire chief)

Mr. Gardner presented his plan to install a 1,000 gallon double wall fuel tank on his property to hold diesel fuel for use by his company. Mr. Swasey made a couple of recommendations including the addition of a roof over the tank and a spill bucket for the nozzle which Mr. Gardner was willing to do. The site is behind a building. A motion was made to close the hearing; and following a brief deliberation **a motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and unanimously voted to approve the site.**

Regional Ambulance Proposal: Present: Matt Russo, Bernie Kubiak

Mr. Kubiak said this presentation is an introduction to the public of a plan to create a regional ambulance service which provides a fully staffed 24/7 response paramedic ambulance to meet emergency medical needs for residents now and in the future. The communities in this plan are Whately, Sunderland, and Deerfield, because these are the towns from which data has been collected.

Mr. Russo discussed the many facets of this plan, explained the increasingly critical shortage of manpower, and ways in which regionalization could provide better service to all three towns. A central location for the regional service would be the South Deerfield Fire Station with a back-up second ambulance in Sunderland. Costs were part of this discussion.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the participating towns would be prepared and reviewed by Counsel. There would be an oversight committee with at least two representatives from each town. Former Selectman, John Paciorek voiced his opinion about the composition of the governing body, noting that there should be an uneven number of members.

Someone asked if a comparison of the regional plan vs. Deerfield alone has been done. The answer was, yes. It would cost Deerfield more to upgrade the service on its own than it would to participate in the regional plan.

A discussion of possible situations followed. It was eventually agreed that there are many issues that will have to be worked out. A lot of effort has gone into designing a service to meet the needs. There has been some frustration that it has taken so long to get to this point. A draft plan will be sent to the Prudential Committee in time for discussion at the June 13th meeting.

Mr. Gilmore made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ness, and voted, to endorse the process of pursuing a paramedic level ambulance service. The Board will address the MOU timeline at its next meeting.

FCAT: canceled

Police Department: Present: Chief Paciorek

Stillwater recreation area - The Chief spoke of his plans to provide increased police coverage at Stillwater Bridge. On days when the temperature is 80 ° or more he plans to assign additional patrols to the area. The intent is to show “tourists” there is interest in their compliance with regulations. He is considering whether to use part-time or overtime officers. There were suggestions about working with DCR, Fish & Wildlife, and other agencies to control the area.

Building issues - The department has two air conditioners, one of which has required some repairs that have it working but will need another \$1,000 to complete the job. He was advised to consult Kevin Scarborough, who handles building maintenance issues.

Canine grant - There is a \$2,500 canine grant available, should there be interest in the department having a police dog. The grant is for 3 years only. The Chief said it was not a priority for him. The Board was in agreement that taking on a canine is a big commitment.

Road closures - The Town does not have a formal road closure policy. Mr. Gilmore said previously, upon request parties involved (EMS, Fire, Police, etc.) are consulted; the Board then makes a decision and announces the road closure. Closure requests at this time are for Albany Road during graduation and Park Street for a road race and some summer concerts.

Discussion/Decision Items:

Liquor Permits: A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted, to approve the request of Deerfield Academy for one day liquor licenses for dates between June 13 – 16, 2013.

DCTV/FCAT: A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted, to approve a request from Doug Finn for \$1,145 in equipment for the TV station.

Reserve fund transfers – 1. A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted, to approve a transfer of \$2,356 to the Memorial Day account for the purchase of bronze medallions for veterans graves. Mr. Gilmore said this expense has been handled by veterans’ organizations in the past and he would like to see this happen again so that taxpayer monies are not used for this purpose.

2. A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted, to approve a transfer of \$451 to the Maturing Debt Principal Account.

Special election – Mr. Kubiak asked the Board to set a date for a Special election. He said the election can be held 72 days following official notification by the Selectmen to the Town Clerk that a vacancy exists. Ms. Ness was in favor of having the election on the Monday after Labor Day, September 9th. The date seemed agreeable, however, no vote was taken.

Interim Administrator: Mr. Kubiak reported that the Interim Administrator will be present as a part-time consultant during the last two weeks of June.

OPM compensation change: Shawn Patterson, the OPM on the Public Works building project, has requested that his compensation be reduced from \$1,000 per week to \$400, effective June 1st. The Board thought this had been discussed and accepted previously, however, just to be sure, **Ms. Ness made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted to accept the reduction in compensation for the OPM.**

Bikes Belong Grant Application: A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Gilmore, and voted, to sign a letter of application for a grant entitled “Bikes Belong.” If received, it will be used to make improvements to the downtown area. The Board is grateful to Daren Gray for finding the grant and Alyssa Larose (FRCOG) for preparing the application.

Mr. Gilmore then made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ness to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps