

Board of Selectmen Minutes  
Meeting – April 23, 2014

**Present:** Selectmen - Mark Gilmore, Carolyn Shores Ness, David Wolfram  
Interim Town Administrator - Kayce Warren

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Deerfield Town Hall, 8 Conway Street.

**Minutes:** In a motion made by Ms. Ness, and seconded by Mr. Wolfram, minutes of meetings held on April 9, 10, and 17 were approved.

**Public Comment:** Representatives of the Thayer Street neighborhood were present to report on a meeting with Shawn Patterson, the Highway Director, and Kevin Scarborough, foreman regarding concerns about the new public works building and activities at the site. A spokesperson said a report detailing the results of the meeting had been sent to the Board. She was prepared to continue the discussion, but Mr. Gilmore requested this discussion be held until later in the meeting.

**Selectmen's Comments/Announcements:**

- Ms. Ness thanked the River Road clean-up group for another successful event; she also praised the highway department for picking up and disposing the trash collected.
- The Massachusetts Selectmen's Association Regional Meeting will be held on May 5, 2014. Ms. Ness will attend.
- Old Home Day will be May 17, 2014.
- Annual Town Meeting will be next Monday, April 28, 2014 in the auditorium of Frontier Regional High School at 7:00 pm.

**Board of Health Comments/Announcements:** Ms. Ness reminded everyone to look out for ticks.

**Hearings/Appearances before the Board:**

- **Board of Assessors** - Present: John Coderre

Mr. Coderre reported, due to the unexpected resignation of David Rohrs, that following annual elections he will be the only certified assessor on the board. Bruce St. Peters is not running for re- election. The board will consist of Mr. Coderre, a new uncertified assessor, and an open position. Any new assessor that is elected will need to become certified in order to participate in assessing activities. Until that can happen there will not be two certified assessors as required to set the tax rate and take other actions. The local course for certification is usually held at UMASS in August. To resolve the situation, the suggestion was made that Mr. St. Peters be re-appointed to the position that will be vacant. Mr. Gilmore stated that the Board of Selectmen is in favor of re-appointing Mr. St. Peters to the Board of Assessors as soon as the position becomes open.

- **Continuation of Fuel Storage Hearing** – Present: Shawn Patterson, Kevin Scarborough, plus interested persons

Conversation about the previous meeting of the residents and highway persons was discussed. Ms. Ness talked about plans for the landscaping design that would include quality trees and other plants. There was conversation about the many ways in which the Town had provided notice of the project in response to insistence by the abutters that neighborhood had not been adequately informed. To a

complaint about outside lighting, Mr. Gilmore stated that lighting was designed with safety in mind and that it would be adjusted.

Turning to the purpose of the hearing, the fuel system that is being installed, people generally felt Mr. Scarborough did a good job of explaining the safety features of the system. Mr. Gilmore declared the hearing closed. **A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and unanimously voted, to approve the permit for fuel storage at the site, 9 Merrigan Way.**

Ms. Ness took some time to discuss rain gardens that will be used in place of retention ponds to manage the rain water run-off, eliminating standing water where mosquitoes breed. Mr. Scarborough also explained the protective barrier of trees and fences that will put in place. He also noted there would be a test of generators for a short period once a week.

- **Solar** – Present: Charles Jenkins (Synergy Energy LLC) and Graham Noll (Real World Consulting, Inc.) Mr. Jenkins provided background information about his company. He said the goal is to invest money in Massachusetts and “make it stick” by drawing upon local talent for projects. He noted the diversity of the company with wind power, agricultural digesters, recycling, and water sampling technology. He said the lion’s share of Synergy projects is solar. The Board expressed interest in learning more about use of solar for the benefit of the Town.

- **Rail road** –Present: Shawn Patterson

Mr. Patterson said he has been trying to reach the railroad regarding repairs to the road at the Elm Street rail crossing to no avail. He said that Channel 40 would be airing a report. Ms. Ness said she had been contacted by the Valley Advocate; possibly it was for the same issue.

### **Discussion/Decisions Items:**

- **SCEMS** – Community Challenge Grant – Present: Zack Smith

The Town is the recipient of a Community Challenge Grant that will provide some funding to Deerfield for its portion of the set-up of the new South County Emergency Medical Service. As soon as the funding is released, 65% will be available for use. **A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and unanimously voted, that Mr. Gilmore and Ms. Warren be authorized to sign the appropriate paperwork.**

- **STRAP Grant** – **A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and unanimously voted, that Mr. Gilmore and Ms. Warren, be authorized signatories for the \$952,463 STRAP grant (MassWorks) for a project on River Road.** Weston & Sampson Engineering is in charge of the project.

- **Filming** – A motion was made by Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Ms. Ness, and voted, to approve a request to do filming in Deerfield as long as it is done in coordination with the Police Chief and Highway Superintendent.

- **Budgets** – Mr. Gilmore questioned the affordability of the recreation program. He said he was more concerned about supporting senior housing which he sees as an important need. He also questioned the need to spend \$165,000 in CPC funds for playground equipment which he feels doesn’t need replacing. It appears the plan for replacing the equipment is to accommodate special needs students who participate in the School Choice Program. Mr. Wolfram suggested a discussion with the schools

about the real cost of School Choice. The need to hire additional staff to work with the school choice students with special needs seemed to him to exacerbate the issue. This conversation needs to begin in the spring before promotion of the program begins.

The Board will meet prior to the Annual Town Meeting on April 28, 2014, and possibly on April 30<sup>th</sup> if needed. Voting will be on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The next regular board meeting will be on May 7, 2014.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted, to adjourn the meeting with the signing of the warrant. (#W14-22, Payroll: \$252,619.74, Vendors: \$631,650.21, totaling: \$884,269.95)

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Phelps