

Board of Selectmen Minutes  
Meeting October 8, 2014

Present: Selectmen – Carolyn Shores Ness, David Wolfram  
Interim Town Administrator – Kayce Warren

Absent: Mark Gilmore

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Ness at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall at 8 Conway Street.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the September 24, 2014 meeting were approved, as amended.

**Public Comments:** Kevin Scarborough, Superintendent of Streets and Sewers announced that there will be an Open House at the new highway department facility on October 18, 2014 from 8: am to noon.

Several residents of Thayer Street, led by Susan Laford, were present with questions and comments about their new neighbor- the highway department. The residents are concerned about the negative effect of activities related to use of the building on the neighborhood and progress being made to alleviate them. Ms. Ness said the Town has every intention of meeting what was promised ( trees, fencing, etc); she clarified some of the issues that remain to be resolved before these things can be done. The Town has not assumed ownership of the building yet, as the punch list has not been completed.. Until some drainage issues among other items have been corrected to the Town's satisfaction, funds amounting to a quarter of a million dollars are being withheld. This was enlightening information for the persons present who requested that they be kept informed of progress.

**Selectmen's Comments/Announcements:**

**Board of Health Comments/Announcements:** Volunteer training night is October 21<sup>st</sup>. October 26, 2014 is the date of the drive through drill. It will be held at Yankee Candle Corporate Headquarters from 10: am to 1: pm.

The Board of Health has received a response from Kinder Morgan regarding the Northeast Expansion Project. The Board will review it and render a decision on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The BOH hearing will be at 6:30 pm that evening.

**Hearings/Appearances before the Board:**

- The scheduled hearing on Pan Am Railway's availability of tier classification RTN #1-16603 was tabled until a later date.

**Discussion/Decision Items:**

- **Highway Dept.:** Present – Kevin Scarborough  
River Road is progressing well. Beginning October 16 & 17 River Rd will be closed from 6: am to 4: pm and reopen at night. Information about this is being well published and residents in the area have been advised.

Mr. Scarborough reported that the drainage issue at 111 Sugarloaf St and Sunderland Rd. has been resolved. Material from Mr. Killeen's property is no longer flooding his neighbor's yard.

**New Highway employee** – Curtis Gray, of Colrain was interviewed for a temporary equipment operator position and found to be an excellent candidate. A motion was made by Ms. Ness,

seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and voted, to appoint Curtis Gray as an employee through the winter season.

**Downtown initiative** – Ms. Ness reported she has been contacted about the availability of technical assistance funds up to as much as \$10,000 for downtown projects. Mr. Scarborough was quick to respond that he could use assistance in creating designs to improve the accessibility of sidewalks in the downtown area. He advised he is also looking into ways to make exterior doors on town buildings more ADA friendly.

**Bus stop** – Ms. Ness requested that an appropriate place for an FRTA bus stop be identified. The Board will then send a letter to FRTA (CC: to Steve Kulik) requesting a “Bus Stop.”

No progress by MassDOT on getting permits for drainage work on RT 5& 10 (Greenfield Rd). This is the area where flooding of the highway occurred during heavy rains.

**CIC Grants:** The BOS was asked to support several Community Initiative Challenge applications:

- 1) A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and voted, to support the application for a grant to study what to do about the declining student population and surplus space in school buildings.
- 2) A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and voted, to support a request for an expansion plan for the regional animal control service. It seems to be working well.
- 3) A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and voted, to support an Emergency Medical Services application for real-time disaster mapping apps for first responders.
- 4) A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and voted, to support the continuation of the Tick born disease network for another year.

**2014 State Election Warrant:** Following a motion by Mr. Wolfram, seconded by Ms. Ness, and unanimously voted, the election warrant for the November 4<sup>th</sup> election was signed by the Board.

#### **Town Administrator’s Report:**

- **Electricity supply** - After discussion of the current HCOG electricity supply contract, which would provide a fixed price, the Board decided to table the decision in favor of seeking more information. Mr. Wolfram felt that the fixed price rate being offered was too high. Distribution costs needed to be identified. He suggested with utility companies such as WMECO raising their rates the “end game” was to support the pipeline.

There is a letter from the New England pipeline coalition advising of a “Stop the Pipeline” summit in Fitchburg on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ABCC** – An advisory has been issued by the ABCC permitting a change of hours to allow earlier opening time from 11:am to 10: am. The procedure for establishments to follow was detailed in the notice.

**Massachusetts Selectmen’s Association Fall Conference** is October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**SCEMS** - A motion was made by Mr. Wolfram, seconded by Ms. Ness, and unanimously voted, to appoint the following per diem EMTs: Daniel Constantine, Joseph LaCourse, Matthew Marshand, Anna Martin, Tim Putman and Michael Mahar.

Mr. Wolfram wished to send condolences to Chief Swasey on the passing of his Mother.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to adjourn with the signing of warrant # 15-08 totaling \$ 312,161.58.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Phelps