

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes – December 15, 2014

Attendance: Selectmen- Carolyn Shores Ness, David Wolfram
Town Administrator – Kayce Warren

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes: Ms. Ness made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and voted, to approve the minutes of the October 22, meeting of the Board of Health. A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and voted, to approve the minutes of November 5, 2014.

Public Comment: none

Selectmen's Comments/ Announcements: Ms. Ness announced that the Rec. Department is offering an ice skating program at Eaglebrook from December 7th to February 15th.

Board of Health Comments/ Announcements: She also announced that Chief Paciorek, who serves as the Police Chiefs' representative to the DHP and MEMA task force on Ebola gave a presentation on how ebola quarantine would work.

Hearings/ Appearances before the Board:

- **Assessors Tax Classification:** John Coderre, Skip Sobieski, Bruce St. Peters
Mr. Coderre reported that the tax rate for FY'15 is \$14.94, a \$1.23 increase. For the average homeowner this is an increase of \$318. Mr. Coderre said the Board of Assessors voted to recommend the Town adopt a single tax rate. **In a motion made by Ms. Ness, and seconded by Mr. Wolfram, the Board voted to accept the recommendation that the Town continue to have a single rate for taxation.**

Discussion/Decision Items:

- **Legislation for royalties on gas for export:** Present - Attorney Cristobal Bonifaz, David Gilbert Keith
Attorney Bonifaz said, at the request of the Board of Selectmen, he has been working on a bill to correct misunderstandings which will be forwarded to Representative Kulik. Mr. Keith said he was present because he is unhappy about being lied to. These gentlemen explained that Kinder Morgan, which is just a transportation gas company, has misled people into thinking that it can take land by eminent domain to bring natural gas, most of which is intended for export, through the area. The proposed 42 inch pipeline is much larger than the 20 inch line sufficient to provide gas that could be used in New England, making it appear that the intent is to export gas, the price of which is not controlled by FERC. Proposed legislation would require that in addition to payment for land taken, royalties be paid to landowners for all of the gas that passes through the pipeline not

destined for use in the area. Selectmen plan to submit the proposed bill to state legislators including: Rosenberg, McGovern, and federal legislators Warren and Markie, as voted in a motion made by Ms. Ness and seconded by Mr. Wolfram.

- **Regional Animal Shelter Agreement** – A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and unanimously voted, to sign the agreement. Ms. Ness said this program has been successful for Deerfield.
- **Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Assoc.** Request for Transient Vendor Permit Waiver – This request is for the September Craft Fair. A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and voted, to approve this annual request.
- **Liquor License approvals** - A motion was made by Mr. Wolfram, seconded by Ms. Ness, and unanimously voted to approve the renewal of liquor licenses for 2015 as presented. Compliance checks are made by the Police Department.
- **Sewer abatements** – In the transition from one software to another, some incorrect charges were made which now need to be abated. A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and voted to approve abatement of the incorrect charges which total \$390.00.
- **HCOG electricity contract** – Due to an oversight, a motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, to sign a contract to include the new DPW facility in the contract previously signed by the Board for electricity.

Town Administrator's Report:

The director of the Senior Center has applied for an Outreach Coordinator. It would provide funding for 15 hours for six months. An extension may be available.

A letter to the Western Mass. Regional Library requesting an extension of a month to do due diligence has been sent.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted, to adjourn with the signing of Warrant # 15- 18 and since the board will not meet again until the new year, authorization to sign payroll and vendor warrants for the end of December upon completion and at the convenience of board members.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps

Document list:

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 25 – Eminent Domain
Sewer Accounts abated

