

**Board members present:** John R. LaCourse, Chairman; Selectman W. James Griswold and Selectman Lombardo.

**Others present:** Town Administrator; Diane L. Guimond, Maria Barth, Henry Brackett, Atty Bill Tanguay, Allan Dennis, Howard Colter, Blaine Cox, Bill Henze, Town Secretary; Dawn Hayes.

1. Chairman LaCourse Called the meeting to Order at 6:00 pm.
2. Resident Maria Barth of 41 Birch Hill Road expressed concerns about the speed limit on Birch Hill (a dirt road). Many families walk, jog, ride horseback, and walk dogs along this road, while vehicles are speeding by. She requests a 25 MPH sign be posted to slow vehicles and improve safety.

Chairman LaCourse recommends she submit a petition to the Town Administrator from residents in the area. It will then be submitted to the Chief of Police to determine what action may be needed.

3. Town Administrator, Diane Guimond requests the signature of the Board on abatements for properties owned by Jean Howe and Daniel Moskey, and a supplemental warrant for Liang Zhr.
4. Howard Colter and Blaine Cox of the Oyster River Cooperative School District are reaching out to the community regarding school budgetary concerns. They will be meeting with the public later this evening at the Mast Way Elementary School. The budget is up about 2%. If the budget gets voted down at the polls, it will increase 1.4% per RSA 43 by default.

Chairman LaCourse asks what the warrant articles are going to be. Mr. Colter responds; there will be a Capital Improvement Budget to upgrade facilities, a Technology Improvement Plan and another warrant article pertaining to bargaining agreements with custodians and secretaries. In addition there will be a warrant asking voters to appropriate \$50,000 in funds into a reserve for special education students.

Selectman Lombardo asks what is the estimated fund balance at the end of the year. Mr. Cox responds that it varies greatly anywhere from \$400,000 to \$17,000 at the lowest.

Chairman LaCourse asks if there are any retirement incentives to reduce personal. Mr. Colter remarks that there was a onetime retirement incentive last year of \$20,000, with certain conditions and criteria for eligibility.

The school district has an agreement with Barrington to accept 40 tuition students. Chairman LaCourse asks if the tuition covers the actual cost of educating each of those students. Mr. Howard states that tuition is \$12,000, and the actual cost of

that student is about \$1,000. However, they do have the cap of 40 students as not to impact staffing, class size etc.

School Advisory Board member; Bill Henze remarks, that the amount per student that has been reported to the state is \$13,977.85, which is more than the amount that the Barrington students are being brought in at. He is concerned that the cost of operating the High School is escalating while the enrollment is declining. He would like to see the High School made into a regional school.

School Advisory Board member; Henry Brackett remarks that with enrollment being down there should be a re-evaluation and a re-design making things more cost efficient. The savings gained could be put towards programs such as full day kindergarten. This would result in a better school district all around.

Selectman Griswold points out that members of the Lee community are tense about enrollment dropping and the budget increasing, without the consideration of reduction in staff. He thinks an explanation will be needed at Town Meeting.

5. Chairman LaCourse motions to enter into a Non Public Session with Attorney Bill Tanguay, for a legal matter. Selectman Lombardo seconds. Non Public Session ends. Chairman LaCourse motions to seal the minutes. Selectman Griswold, seconds.

6. Town Administrator; Diane Guimond asks for the Boards approval to close Town Offices at 2:00 pm on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. The Board agrees with the condition that notification is well publicized.

7. Town Administrator; Diane Guimond reviews the Burns Security quote of \$9,000. Chairman LaCourse would like to see all of the town buildings be updated at once. Should we come up short, monies from contingency fund could be used.

Selectman Lombardo motions to use \$3,000 that has already been allocated, whatever funds are available from the IT department and the balance from the contingency fund. Chairman LaCourse, seconds.

8. At 7:20 pm Selectman Lombardo departs to attend another meeting.
9. Chairman LaCourse states the new Lee Community Planning Coordinator job description is nearly complete. Selectman Griswold will make minor changes. He will then forward it to the other Board members and then the Town Administrator. It will then be forwarded to Laurel Cox.
10. Selectman Griswold requests that the Town Administrator report on the amount of the bond required for the Town Center project. He would like to know the exact impact on the tax rate.
11. Selectman Griswold recommends the Board invite the Advisory Budget Committee to come before the Board before the Public Hearing on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

12. **Approval of Minutes:** Chairman LaCourse motions to accept the minutes of December 8, 2009. Selectman Griswold, seconds.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by:

---

Dawn Hayes, Town Secretary

Minutes accepted by:

---

John R. LaCourse, Chairman

---

W. James Griswold

---

Joseph P. Lombardo  
Lee Board of Selectmen