

Board members present: Chairman John R. LaCourse, Selectman W. James Griswold and Selectman Frank DeRocchi.

Others present: Belinda Gleason, Lynn Hersom, Judy MacDonald, Sean O'Connell, Robert Watson, Fred Marshy, James Trombley, Maryann Robinson, Teresa Poor, Paul Poor, Jody Crotty, William Crotty, Kathy Ferrara, Tom Corrow, Richard Trembley, Rick Stevens, Fred Biederman, Joyce LaPierre, Linda Kahn, Corine George, Carolyn Mason, Peter Mason, AC McNally, Ann Wright, Annemarie Gasowski, Paul Gasowski, Krista Butts, Tom Loureiro, Peggy Dana, Phil Stetson, Red MacDonald, Derek Doucette, Paul Spencer, Laura Scheibel, Suzanne DeRocchi, Carla Corey, Thom McCan, Sylvie Butler, Andy Lelio, Kurt Aldag, Kimball Thompson, Warren Hatch, Michael Rousseau, Denis Pelletier, Tom Lave, Hannah Lave, Amy Daskel, Janet Sullivan, Robert Turner, Pat Roop, Naida Kaen, Heather Kustra, Gary Kustra, Joseph Lombardo, John Hubbard, James Gardner, Sandy McDonough, Mike McDonough, Jere Beckman, Erick Sawtelle, Robert Smith, Peter Hoyt, Town Administrator Julie Glover, Town Secretary Dawn Hayes.

1. Chairman LaCourse called the meeting to Order at 6:00 pm.
2. Chairman LaCourse opens the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm. Attorney Sean O'Connell representing the track, submits 107 letters of support for the record. Mr. O'Connell states the 2012 application has been submitted with 23 race dates, 3 test and tune dates, and a limited number of rain dates.

Resident Carla Corey speaks in support of the track and states, since it was here first you should be able to deal with one night of noise.

Resident Albert McNally speak on behalf of Veteran's in the area in support of the track.

Resident Ann Wright speaks against Tuesday night racing, stating the races are late and loud. She further opposes the Super Modified and parking on Rt 125.

Track Manager Bob Watson advises the Board this year's request for a Tuesday night racing is on July 3rd. Racing that night will be limited, it will be a patriotic celebration including fireworks.

Resident Tom Loureiro states the tracks attorney has misrepresented the data that was collected with respect to noise. As an attorney himself, he knows of no environmental regulation that measures noise from somewhere off of the source.

Resident William Crotty speaks in support of the track. However, he is opposed to Saturday night racing. Further, Mr. Crotty does not want the track to close due to special dates being denied.

Resident Lynn Hersom speaks in support of the track. Ms. Hersom states she has attended the track since she was young and would like her son to enjoy the same experience she has had.

Resident and Race Track Ad Hoc Committee member Andy Lelio assisted in taking sound measurements. Measurements were taken from the 'green' area in Tamarack Rd. Further he states, if there will be no PASS racing this year – that is significant, as last year the measurements taken when that class ran, were among the loudest all year.

Track Manager Bob Watson states that on Tuesday, July 3rd, they will be running the Iron Man Division and having fireworks and hope to end at 9:30 pm.

Resident and Race Track Ad Hoc Committee member Andy Lelio thanks the track for limiting the rain dates. Mr. Lelio further states the track was purchased in 1986 by Mr. MacDonald and was a racetrack that was limited by ordinance and still is today.

Resident Mike McDonough speaks in support of the track and notes that the track Provides significant relief to the tax base in Lee with an assessed value of \$1,100,000. Further noting that the track is limited to 184 hours of operation making it a huge undertaking to try and support that tax base.

Resident Linda Kahn requests the track stick to the restrictions that are already in place. Further asking that homeowners rights be honored.

Resident Kimball Thompson speaks in support of the track and notes, if you listen more closely – you can hear people having a good time.

Track Manager Bob Watson asks if the houses on Tamarack Rd get a break on their taxes?

Resident and Race track Ad Hoc Committee member Andy Lelio states, yes 38 properties receive noise abatements totally \$4,676 annually.

Resident Belinda Gleason speaks in support of the track. Ms. Gleason states she lives near a business that makes noise and she has to put up with it 7 days a week until 11:00 pm.

Resident Joyce LaPierre speaks in support of the track. She has recently lost her job and does not want to see any business taken away from the track.

Resident Cathy Ferrara supports the track, she does hear the noise, but can live with it. Further stating the motorcycles on Rt 125 are more of a burden than the track.

Resident Arthur Bradbury speaks in support of the track. He notes as a small business owner he has 50 weeks make a living, if he had only 184 days to do that – there would be no way. He doesn't want to hear whining from people about noise.

Resident Terri Poor speaks in support of the track, explains that she lives across from a junkyard that makes noise and is not restricted by ordinance.

Resident Kurt Aldag states it has never been an issue of wanting to close the track, the issue is the noise and it gets very loud. Mr. Aldag further states it is not too much to ask to follow the ordinance.

Resident Tom Laue states he was part of the original committee to form the ordinance, it was done by consulting with the track at that time. Mr. Laue further states that the track has to put up with the ordinance.

Resident Laura Scheibel has been in town for 50 yrs and states her evenings are intruded on and the noise is very unpleasant.

Resident Krista Butts speaks in support of the track and brings her kids to the racetrack almost every Friday night to enjoy the entertainment.

3. Chairman LaCourse closes the Public Hearing at 6:55 pm. He encourages everyone to review the report of the Race Track Ad Hoc Committee, located on the Town of Lee's website. Chairman LaCourse describes the charge of the committee and that the current section of the ordinance (21A) doesn't have a good way to enforce the db levels. Re-writing 21A will help develop a standard measuring scenario. Chairman LaCourse states he believes there has been an honest effort on behalf of the track to bring the noise level down.

Selectman DeRocchi states he was happy to see the rain dates moved to September; the Tuesday night race being on 4th of July eve was a good decision.

Selectman Griswold is please with the proposed schedule. Initially Selectman Griswold would have opposed the Tuesday night race since it is the night before the 4th of July. Further Selectman Griswold encourages the track to notify people of when noisier races are coming.

Track Manager Bob Watson recommends residents sign up for the tracks twitter list for updates on races, rainouts and alerts.

4. Chairman LaCourse accepts the letter of support for the track as part of the record. Chairman LaCourse motions to accept the schedule and application as submitted by the racetrack. Selectman Griswold, seconds. All agree. The 2012 License to Operate a Race Track is granted to Lee USA Speedway.
5. Town Administrator Julie Glover presents the draft town warrant, including three petition warrant articles. Chairman LaCourse reads petition warrant articles aloud.

Chairman LaCourse motions not to recommend article #3 regarding artificial turf at Little River Park. Selectman Griswold, seconds. All agree.

Selectman Griswold motions not to recommend petition warrant article #4 regarding Noble Farm as a conservation easement. Selectman DeRocchi, seconds. All agree.

Chairman LaCourse motions to recommend petition warrant article #5 regarding rescinding SB2. Selectman Griswold, seconds. All agree.

Chairman LaCourse explains warrant article # 6 and the work of the Race Track Ad Hoc Committee. Chairman LaCourse motions to recommend warrant article #6 regarding section 21A of the Race Track Ordinance. Selectman Griswold, seconds. All agree.

6. The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #8 regarding the appropriation of \$6,500 for an electronic circulation system at the Library.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #9 regarding the appropriation of \$100,000 for the Library/Community Center Capital Reserve Fund.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #10 regarding the appropriation of \$29,000 for the purchase of a new police cruiser.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #11 regarding the appropriation of \$18,000 for the purchase of a new code enforcement vehicle.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #12 regarding the appropriation of \$16,640 for Phase III of the playground equipment at Little River Park.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #13 regarding the appropriation of \$50,500 for the paving of the gravel section of Old Mill Rd.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #14 regarding the appropriation of \$60,000 to be deposited into the Highway Department Road and Bridge Capital Reserve Fund.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #15 regarding the appropriation of \$50,000 to be deposited into the High Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #16 regarding the appropriation of \$35,000 to be deposited into the town Building/New Building Capital Reserve Fund. (based on recommendations of the Energy Committee of adding \$15,000 for energy improvements)

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #17 regarding the appropriation \$15,000 to be deposited into the Fire pond/Cisterns Capital Reserve Fund.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #18 regarding the appropriation of \$40,000 to be deposited into the Fire Truck/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

The Board agrees to recommend warrant article #19 regarding the appropriation of \$20,000 to be deposited in the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

In reviewing the Advisory Budget Committee recommendations, the Board agrees to reduce the Town Administrators salary from \$70,000 to \$60,000; increase Town Meeting expenses to \$900; increase Supervisors of the Checklist expenses to \$4,000; increase Town Report expenses to \$4,000; increase Temporary Help expenses to \$5,000, increase Assessing Firms expenses to \$43,000, increase Other Government/Contingency Fund expenses to \$60,000; increase Transfer Station/CFC Removal expense to \$200; increase Transfer Station/Porta Potty expense to \$700; reduce to Oyster River Youth Association expense to \$22,600.

7. Town Administrator Julie Glover advises the Board that Chief of Police has requested \$6,000 for Taser equipment. Selectman DeRocchi recommends writing a warrant for this request. All agree.

8. The Board discusses the matter of using funds from the Capital Reserve account to pay off one of the bonds; renegotiate the other bond. Chairman LaCourse refers to a vote on the matter during a previous meeting.

Selectman Griswold motions to evaluate the information regarding the bond and create a warrant article to pay off the Transfer Station. Selectman DeRocchi, seconds. All agree.

9. Selectman Griswold motions to use \$200,000 from the General Fund to reduce the tax burden. Chairman LaCourse, seconds. All agree.

10. Town Administrator Julie Glover advises the Board, under SB2 a default budget needs to be prepared.

11. The Board discusses wage increases for next year. Selectman DeRocchi notes last year's increase of 1.5% cost the town approximately \$23,000. Selectman Griswold states he would be interested in giving a little more this year. Selectman DeRocchi states he would support 1.5 %. All agree to add 1.5% (to increase salaries) to the Operating Budget for all regular full time and part time employees.

12. Chairman LaCourse discusses the IT position. Town Administrator Julie Glover suggests a month to month contract with Back Bay Networks for the time being. Selectman Griswold motions to accept a month to month agreement for \$2,720 per month for IT services with Back Bay Networks. Selectman DeRocchi, seconds. All agree. Chairman LaCourse notes IT will be under the directorship of the Town Administrator.

13. Chairman LaCourse discusses warrant article #2 and the commercial zone changes and the development of a light commercial zone. The Planning Board will submit final wording to the warrant article after their meeting on January 17th.

Bob Smith of the Planning Board reviews warrant article #2 and the considerations made by the Planning Board in preparation of this warrant article.

14. The Board discusses warrant article #7 regarding the budget amount and the default budget amount. Town Administrator Julie Glover clarifies that the Board's intent is to accept the Advisory Budget Committee recommendations on all items with the exception of those discussed at this meeting. The Board agrees.
15. The Board discusses the matter of having a back-up Welfare Director. Chairman LaCourse request the Town Administrator research the matter and bring a recommendation to the Board.
16. Town Administrator Julie Glover advises the Board that the Part Building Maintenance position has been filled. Three candidates were interviewed, the position went to Jane Murch (who had been filling in as temporary help).
17. Town Administrator Julie Glover advises the Board she has met with the Heritage Commission and they have agreed to start work on the 250th Anniversary plan.
18. Town Secretary Dawn Hayes advises the Board that resident Brad Giles has offered to volunteer for a position with the Town of Lee. Chairman LaCourse recommends the Town Administrator look into the matter.
19. Town Secretary Dawn Hayes submits a vacation request for Chief Murch for the Board's signature.
20. Town Secretary Dawn Hayes submits the Minutes of January 3, 2012 for the Board's signature and approval. Selectman Griswold motions to accept all minutes presented. Selectman DeRocchi, seconds. All agree.
21. Resident and Race Track Ad Hoc Committee member Andy Lelio thanks the Board, Town Administrator and Town Secretary for quickly preparing the warrant article for modification of section 21A of the Race Track Ordinance.

Further, Mr. Lelio requests the Board to accept the many letters of support for the track even though they have been submitted after the deadline. Selectman Griswold motions to accept the letters of support. Selectman DeRocchi, seconds. All agree.

22. Resident Paul Gasowski discusses Noble Farm and the decisions that will be made regarding it, will be critical for our town. Mr. Gasowski further states, that it should not be an all or nothing scenario, there are other options for the property.

23. Chairman LaCourse motions to enter into a Non Public Session at 8:46 pm per RSA 91-A:3. II (e). Selectman Griswold, seconds. All agree. Present in Non Public, Chairman LaCourse, Selectman Griswold, Selectman DeRocchi, Town Administrator Julie Glover and Town Secretary Dawn Hayes.

Chairman LaCourse motions to seal the Minutes. Selectman Griswold, seconds. All agree. Chairman LaCourse motions to end Non Public at 8:55 pm. Selectman Griswold, seconds. All agree.

24. Selectman DeRocchi discusses tax delinquent mobile home owners. Selectman DeRocchi expects the owner of Pine Knoll may be requesting a meeting with the Board to discuss various matters regarding the mobile home park (how to handle delinquent taxes, disposal of old mobile homes, etc.)
25. Chairman LaCourse requests the Town Administrator look into some past recommendations of the Welfare Director that were presented to the Board, as they would like to readdress them.
26. The Board discusses Selectman coverage at the poles tomorrow during the primary.
27. There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Minutes transcribed by:

Dawn Hayes, Town Secretary

Minutes accepted by:

Chairman, John R. LaCourse

W. James Griswold

Frank J. DeRocchi
Lee Board of Selectmen