

Board members present: Selectman Bugbee and Selectman LaCourse

Others present: Town Secretary Denise Duval and Town Administrator Julie Glover.

1. Selectman Bugbee calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asks if the Select Board accepts the Agenda as presented. It does.
2. Selectman Bugbee opens the meeting up to public comment.

Chuck Cox, 36 Captain Smith Emerson Road, would like to refer to the Select Board minutes from September 28th where Selectman LaCourse does not see any need for more conservation land purchases unless it is something spectacular. The TA asked Selectman LaCourse based on his budget comment his thoughts on putting forward a change in the way the land use change tax is distributed. Selectman LaCourse stated that that would be his recommendation. Mr. Cox states that right now it is 50% for conservation and 50% for the general fund. In 1989 there was a warrant article with regards to the funds coming from the land use change tax and Mr. Cox spoke on behalf of endorsing the article. He felt it was appropriate that for land coming out of current use to build a fund to protect other land from development. Currently in 2011 there are 68 towns that put 100% into allocation for conservation easements. There are 65 towns that put 50% and there are only 3 towns that do not have any money going to conservation easements out of that fund. He would encourage the Board to think very hard before changing this.

Mr. Cox has seen some of the preliminary results of the Master Plan Survey and the interest in conservation, rural character is very high. That has not changed over the years. Lee does not have people that want to add more development.

Mr. Cox announces that there will be an informational session regarding the Powder Major Forest & Farm Conservation on Saturday, October 31th from 9-10:30am and from 10:30 – noon there will be a hike on the land; hosted by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests.

3. Clara Kustra, 132 Wadleigh Falls Road, is speaking on behalf of the planning committee for the 250th Celebration. At the Lee Fair they introduced the souvenirs for the 250th and they were well received and the sales have been encouraging. The 250th Celebrations Committee will be coordinating with the Fair Committee next year with regards to fundraising for next year. They want to thank the Library for hosting an array of souvenirs for them. The 250th website is up at lee250.com. They will be consistently updating it.

Jan Allen states that the anniversary of when Lee became a town is January 16, 1776; therefore they will be using that date as the 'kickoff event'. They will be looking into a larger venue than the safety complex such as the school. There will be a middle school band and readings and hopefully a Proclamation presented by Governor Hassan. They would like the Selectman to host the event; details to follow. There will be cake!

Laura Gund, Cartland Road, is here to talk about the parade. They had a parade meeting that morning where they worked on developing a parade application that they need to get on the websites. She states that they are ready to take applications at any time. There has been quite a bit of interest expressed already. The parade will begin at the recycling center and travel down

Mast Road past Little River Park and turning into Furber Drive to finally disband. They will be floats, walking groups, bicyclists, old cars, fire trucks, horses, marching band, and a bagpipe band. They hope that the recycling center can be closed on July 16th during this event. The official request will come later. Further festivities will follow at Little River Park.

Souvenir sales have gone well except for the wooden nickels. The mugs and hats are very popular. They will be ordering hoodie sweat shirts due to popular demand.

Naida Kaen has offered to assist the committee with seeking the Proclamation of January 16, 2016 as Semiquincentennial Day throughout the State of New Hampshire.

4. a) TA Glover reminds everyone that the tax rate was set at \$29.25 per thousand. The Select Board voted to put \$450,000 of the unassigned fund balance towards reducing the tax rate. She presents the Tax Warrant for a majority signature of the Board. The Tax Collector will then run the tax bills this week which according to Ms. Reinhold is the earliest rate setting in 9 or 10 years.
- b) During the Solar array project discussions with Durham there were also discussions regarding solar exemptions for home owners. TA Glover has heard that there may be a petition warrant article in the works to put this forward in the spring; so after some research she is presenting a draft solar exemption warrant article. TA Glover also requests to reach out to the Lee Energy Committee for their input on this. The Board agrees to move forward on this.
- c) Bedrock Gardens has donated a variety of bulbs that were left over from the Lee in Bloom project. Annie Gasowski is looking for permission to plant these bulbs around town properties such as the Safety Complex, Transfer Station, Little River Park, Library and the Museum. Selectman Bugbee suggests including Bill Stevens and Selectman LaCourse wants to include the Conservation Commission.
- d) TA Glover asks the Board how they would like the Honorary Boston Post Cane presented to Harold Ward's family. Selectman Bugbee thinks it would be appropriate if his relatives are contacted and schedule a time for the Board to present it to them. Selectman LaCourse agrees.
- e) TA Glover reminds the Board that the ORCSD is having a budget meeting on 11/5/15 in the Public Safety Complex from 8am – 1pm. The School Board confirmed that this is a public meeting and the Select Board is welcome to attend. Selectman Bugbee states that he will be there.
- f) TA Glover states that the health insurance rates are going up 8.61% effective 7/1/2016. The Town will still see a savings over the plan we currently have; just not as much as was anticipated. TA Glover reminds the Board that at the last meeting it was discussed providing a Flexible Spending Account for the employees for some assistance due to the changes. TA is looking for guidance as to what to do about the FSA; does the Board want to put it in place for January 1st. If it does then TA would need to act quickly because the new plan is going into effect 1/1/16. The Health Trust presentation to the employees is this Wednesday from 2-4 pm at the Public Safety Complex. TA Glover explains to Selectman Bugbee that the premiums are going down as of 1/1/16 but the copays are going up. Selectman LaCourse remembers talking

about having these cards that would last through the development so it would bring all of the grandfathered people up to speed. TA Glover states that the way the FSA works the Town can be the sole contributor and pay the \$6.25 per month card fee for each employee. If the Town does not contribute and just the employees are contributing then the Town would only pay the card fee for those who participate. The savings are there in this fiscal year. In FY16 the estimated savings is \$28,632 in the health premium. TA Glover says that she inserted \$500 in her example stating that she did not know if that was an amount that was talked about prior. TA Glover states that even if the Board does not want to have the Town contribute to the FSA she would highly recommend that the Board at least put it in place because the employees will be experiencing higher copays than they have been accustomed to. Selectman LaCourse asks the TA if this is basically a benefit for the employee. TA Glover says yes it is pretax dollars. Selectman LaCourse says he doesn't see why the Town of Lee should be paying for this at this point. TA Glover states that this was a discussion that the Board had during a couple of meetings in recognition of the copays going up and the grandfathered employees having to start pay on their premiums on July 1st. TA Glover states that the FSA does not need to be put into place January 1st. It can wait until July 1st. TA states that for the people who are already paying the premium, their premium will go down as of 1/1/16. The copays will go up. Selectman Bugbee's thought process was he wanted to hold the employees harmless. He sees the savings in the premium already and is trying to calculate costs. TA Glover states that the problem is without delving into HIPPA protected information they are not going to know for each individual employee what the impact is going to be. It was also discussed in a prior meeting that the TA's extra cost would be about \$200 year while for others it could easily be \$1000. TA cautions the Board to be careful not to get back into a grandfather situation by only giving certain individuals the benefit. The five people who are grandfathered will not start paying until July 1, 2016. Selectman Bugbee would like to start this January 1st, with \$200 then move to \$400 on July 1st, and making it lower after that. Selectman LaCourse agrees.

5. Selectman Bugbee moves to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Selectman LaCourse, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**
6. Selectman Bugbee moves to accept the Select Board Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2015. Selectman LaCourse, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**
7. Selectman Bugbee moves to accept Manifest #8 and Weeks Payroll ending October 25, 2015. Selectman LaCourse, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**
8. Selectman Bugbee wants to propose that the Lee Library Community Center sign is taken down. Selectman LaCourse agrees. Selectman Bugbee moves to remove the sign on the Bricker property that says new Lee Library Community Center. Selectman LaCourse, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**
9. Selectman Bugbee moves to enter into Non-Public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) Police and Fire Chief Evaluations at approximately 6:55 pm. Selectman LaCourse, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.** The Board returns to Public session at 7:24 pm. The minutes are to be sealed.

10. Selectman Bugbee motions to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Selectman LaCourse, seconds. All in favor.
Motion Carries.

Minutes transcribed by:



Denise Duval, Town Secretary

11/9/15


Date

Minutes accepted by The Lee Select Board:

Carole Dennis, Chairwoman



Scott Bugbee



John LaCourse