

**AGENDA**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:**

**2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** February 14, 2011

**3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN CONSIDERATION:**

A. Fund for Williamstown (Liz Costley)

B. Zoning Bylaw Amendments for Town Meeting Warrant (Planning Board)

C. FY10 Financial Audit (St. John and Fohlin)

D. Accept Resignation of Sarah White from the Municipal Scholarship Committee

E. Water and Sewer Warrant - \$191,982.61

**4. LICENSES AND PERMITS:**

A. Taconic Golf Course, 19 Meacham St, Gregory Canales, Manager, Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverage Club License, Common Victualer, and Live Music permit.

**5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**6. PETITIONER'S REQUEST:**

**7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**8. ADJOURN:**

**Next Selectmen meeting – Monday, March 14, 2011**

**MINUTES**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Ronald Turbin, Chairman, Tom Costley, Jane B. Allen, David A. Rempell

**Absent:** Thomas E. Sheldon

**Others Present:** Anne McCallum, Michael Card, Andrew Groff, Janet Saddler, Pat Dunlavey, Chris Winters, Charles St. John, Donna Estes, Liz Costley, Andrew Hogeland, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

**1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Turbin congratulated the Mount Greylock Regional High School Boys and Girls Nordic Ski Team for their 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive MIAA championship, Jason Pilot and Jeremy Galib for being All Transcript MVP's, and Josh Hadley for attending All-State wrestling semi-finals.

**2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** February 14, 2011 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the February 14, 2011 minutes. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN CONSIDERATION:**

**A.** Fund for Williamstown – Ms. Costley spoke about the Fund for Williamstown, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. She said this year, in the Fund's fifth round of grant making, \$25,000 will be available to the community. On-line applications can be found on the Berkshire Taconic website and are due by April 9, 2011. In the past, grants have funded the Broad Brook softball field, a new camera for WilliNet, an outdoor projector for Images, Sundays at 6, Meals on Wheels, Java Jive sound equipment, Habitat for Humanity and many others. Ms. Costley thanked the selectmen for their support.

**B.** Zoning Bylaw Amendments for Town Meeting Warrant (Planning Board) – Members of the Planning Board presented a draft of proposed zoning changes that would amend the Williamstown Zoning Bylaws, chapter 70, of the Code of the Town of Williamstown. Mr. Winters spoke about the proposed changes to the code regarding multi-family dwellings. The first change would delete the 1,000 feet separation requirement, and the second change would delete the language about only 2/3 of the dwellings being able to be multi-family. Changes would give special permitting authority to the Zoning Board of Appeals and would also allow new multi-family dwellings in the rural residential 2 zones. Mr. Costley and Mr. Rempell agreed that this change is important for economic development.

The second proposed zoning bylaw change was presented by Ms. McCallum and would allow first floor residences in the village business district along Water Street. Because the southern part of Water Street is mostly residential, this section would be allowed to have first floor residences. But because the northern section has more commercial businesses, the storefronts would need to be maintained and residential areas would be located in the rear. Ms. McCallum also stated that the proposed change would not allow current buildings to be turned into single family homes.

The third zoning bylaw change was presented by Andrew Hogeland and Michael Card and recommends new wording to the town's storm water management bylaw to address conditions that do not require a building permit. Changes to the bylaw would establish standards so as to minimize impact of development off-site and downstream. Mr. Hogeland said almost everything in the amendment is phrased in an advisory way so as not to force people into filing unnecessary or complex plans. The regulations would kick in if 50 cubic yards of fill were used or if 20,000 square feet of coverage were removed. Plans would be filed with Inspection Services, and Inspection Services would be responsible for approving the plans and enforcing the code. Mr. Costley moved that Selectmen forward the Zoning Bylaw Amendments to the Planning Board for public hearing. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on changes on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. Zoning Bylaw Amendments are located in the Inspection Services Department.

- C. FY10 Financial Audit (St. John and Fohlin) - The auditors from Adelson Moynihan Kowalczyk were unable to attend this evening's meeting so Mr. Fohlin reviewed the FY10 Audit Report. According to the auditor's management letter, the auditors found no faults and issued no warnings on the town's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2010. Mr. Fohlin said they did sample testing of our procedures that included confirmation of our bank accounts to check compliance with the open meeting law. He said the town continues to maintain its Moody's AA2 bond rating with the town's borrowing capacity as high as \$55 million. Mr. St. John noted that the town has seen a decrease in assets partly due to future unfunded obligations in compliance with GASB regulations. These obligations pertain to what the expected funds would be to support future withdrawals for retiree expenses. Mr. St. John stated that the town is required to account for post-retirement benefits in an accounting way but does not have to fund this amount. Last year, the amount to provide for the retiree benefits was \$645,000. This amount includes health insurance and hasn't changed much over the past three years. Ms. Allen referred to an article in the March 2011 Beacon, a publication of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, which states that 50 of the largest cities and towns in Massachusetts are facing a \$20 billion liability for retiree health care benefits. Mr. Fohlin said the town has some control over its future obligations in its hiring practices. He said a number of town employees will be retiring and will not be replaced. Further information regarding the auditor's report can be found in the Finance Department or Town Manager's Office.
- D. Accept Resignation of Sarah White from the Municipal Scholarship Committee – Mr. Rempell moved to accept the resignation of Sarah White from the Municipal Scholarship Committee with thanks. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- E. Water and Sewer Warrant - \$191,982.61 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$191,982.61. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. LICENSES AND PERMITS:**

A. Taconic Golf Course, 19 Meacham St, Gregory Canales, Manager, Renewal Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverage Club License, Common Victualer, and Live Music permit. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the renewal for the Taconic Golf Course, 19 Meacham St., Gregory Canales, Manager, for a seasonal all alcoholic beverage club license, common Victualer license and live music permit. Tom Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. A copy of the license is located in the town manager's office.

**5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** See attached. Manager's report is also on the town's website.

**6. PETITIONER'S REQUEST:** None

**7. OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**8. ADJOURN:** The next Selectmen meeting is Monday, March 14, 2011. Mr. Costley moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane B. Allen, Secretary