

**AGENDA  
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011  
7:00 P.M.**

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:**
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** Special Meeting January 20, 2011 and January 24, 2011
- 3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN CONSIDERATION:**
  - A. FY12 Budget Proposal
  - B. Water & Sewer Warrant - \$120,407.93
- 4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**
- 5. PETITIONER'S REQUEST:**
- 6. OTHER BUSINESS:**
- 7. ADJOURN:**

**Next Selectmen meeting – Monday, February 28, 2011**

**MINUTES**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011**  
**7:00 P.M.**

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

**Others Present:** Charles Fox, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Turbin recognized Williamstown resident Sue Mead's off-road motorsport win in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He congratulated the Mount Greylock Men's Cross Country Nordic Ski Team for coming in first in their League and having eight of the top ten finishers. And he congratulated the Mount Greylock Women's Nordic Ski Team for winning their League and having four of the top seven finishers.
  
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** Special Meeting January 20, 2011 and January 24, 2011  
Mr. Sheldon moved to approve the January 20, 2011 minutes. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Costley abstaining. Mr. Sheldon moved to approve the January 24, 2011 minutes. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried 3-0-2 with Mr. Costley and Mr. Turbin abstaining.
  
- 3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN CONSIDERATION:**
  - A.** FY12 Budget Proposal – Copies of the FY12 proposed budget were distributed with the Selectmen's packets prior to the meeting. Mr. Fohlin stated that Chapter 14 of the Code of Williamstown requires that the Town Manager prepare and submit for the Finance Committee a budget for the ensuing fiscal year and that Selectmen see the budget beforehand. The FY12 budget includes anticipated expenses for town operations and the general fund as well as preliminary estimates for the Transfer Station, Sewer and Water Enterprise funds. Budget information for the Williamstown Elementary School and the Mount Greylock Regional High School District was not available in time for the preparation of the budget book. Mr. Fohlin said final determination of the budget will depend on the amount of state aid the town receives. Presently, state aid to Williamstown is at the lowest level since the year 2000. Mr. Fohlin said that in the initial budget deliberations a budget deficit of \$121,000 was projected. To address the deficit, wage and salary freezes have been placed on all municipal employees for the second time in three years, the Council on Aging Outreach Worker will not be replaced, and there will be a personnel reassignment. The budget was drafted before information was received from Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District (McCann) stating that Williamstown's preliminary state-mandated minimum contribution in FY12 will increase by \$124,381 from \$190,349 to \$314,730. As a result of the increase in the McCann assessment, there is now only \$20,000 more than in the FY11 budget that needs to be divided among MGRSD, WES and municipal operations and this is providing that McCann assessments for transportation and capital do not increase as well. To achieve a balanced budget, appropriations for both the Elementary School and Mount Greylock will need to be reduced to FY11 amounts and an additional \$50,000 will need to be cut from the municipal budget. Mr. Fohlin said the proposed budget doesn't suggest an override or any increases in water and sewer rates or transfer station rates. The tax rate is projected to be \$12.98.

Ms. Allen asked if the Hoosac Water Quality Budget will be the same number as last year. Mr. Fohlin said we are waiting for a vote of the Commissioners. Ms. Allen asked why there was an increase in the McCann budget. Mr. Fohlin said although Superintendent Brosnan gave us a heads up, we haven't gotten their budget yet. He added that McCann always funds their budget at the state required minimum using the state formula. We should have their budget after the McCann School Committee votes on it. Ms. Allen asked about Williamstown's health insurance increase. Mr. Fohlin said the increase is 5.3%. He said we are in good shape being part of the Berkshire Health Group (BHG) and that town hall employees pay 25% of the premium as opposed to some other towns that pay 80 or 90% of the premium. Most of the town employees are on the lowest priced plan. Ms. Allen asked about the Governor's plan to offer towns the opportunity to join GIC. Mr. Fohlin said he was able to look at the GIC plans because his wife is a teacher in Pittsfield. He said for some communities that joined the plan, it was salvation because those communities were almost bankrupt because they were self insured. He believes that Blue Cross/Blue Shield will come up with a plan similar to the plans offered by GIC for BHG. Ms. Allen asked if the town is benefiting from the addition of a local meals tax and the increase in the percentage of the hotel/motel tax. Mr. Fohlin said revenues are up from 4 to 6% for the hotel/motel tax increase and, although it is too early to know the revenues for the new local meals tax, he is optimistic about the revenues to date.

Mr. Sheldon pointed out some discrepancies in the numbers on pages 5, 6, 9 and 79. Mr. Fohlin said he would look at them with Mr. St. John tomorrow and go over them at the next meeting.

Mr. Turbin asked what Transfers and Free Cash meant. Mr. Fohlin said Transfers are money paid from Enterprise Funds to General Fund to cover management costs. Free Cash is surplus revenue at the end of the fiscal year. Sources of surplus revenue are revenue collections, such as excise tax, that exceed expectations and unspent department appropriations. A copy of the proposed FY12 budget is located in the Town Manager's office.

- B. Water & Sewer Warrant - \$120,407.93 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the Water and Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$120,407.93. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** See attached. Town Manager's reports are also on the Town Website. In addition to the manager's report, Mr. Fohlin said it was reported by Highway Superintendant Scott Park that last Saturday's storm was extremely difficult for plow drivers because of the slippery dirt roads. Dirt roads are not salted because they would turn to mud. Five trucks went off the road that night and three of them had to be towed by a towing service.

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

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**7. ADJOURN:** Mr. Costley moved to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next selectmen's meeting is Monday, February 28, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane B. Allen, Secretary

JBA/kp