

**AGENDA
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:**
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** November 8, 2010, Special Meeting November 18, 2010
- 3. LICENSES AND PERMITS:**
 - A. 2011 License Renewals #1 - attached**
- 4. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN CONSIDERATION:**
 - A. Population Estimates for Seasonal Liquor Licenses 2011**
 - B. FY12 Revenue Estimates**
 - C. Bee Hill Road Discussion**
 - D. Pownal Biomass**
- 5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**
- 6. PETITIONER'S REQUEST:**
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS:**
- 8. ADJOURN:**

Next Selectmen meeting – Monday, December 13, 2010

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2010
7:00 P.M.

Present: Ronald Turbin, Chairman, Thomas E. Sheldon, David A. Rempell, Tom Costley

Absent: Jane B. Allen

Others Present: Dan Gendron, Charles Fox, Adam Filson, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Turbin congratulated Mr. Fohlin, his staff and other town committees for their hard work in the submission of the Green Communities Application. He also congratulated the Mount Greylock Regional High School's football and cross-country teams for their high standings in the county.

- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** November 8, 2010 and Special Meeting November 18, 2010 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the November 8, 2010 minutes. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Costley moved to approve the November 18, 2010 minutes. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 3. LICENSES AND PERMITS:**
 - A. 2011 License Renewals #1 – attached –** Mr. Turbin read the list of establishments requesting renewals. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the list as presented. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 4. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN CONSIDERATION:**
 - A. Population Estimates for Seasonal Liquor Licenses 2011 –** Selectmen took no action.

 - B. FY12 Revenue Estimates –** Mr. Fohlin presented the town's five-year financial plan. He said that at this point in time, he is reporting on revenues and he would like this information to be disseminated to the schools as soon as possible. Mr. Fohlin expects FY12 to be down anywhere from 5-10%, leaning more toward 10%, positioning the town to expect another tight budget. He said that we are estimating the town will get an additional \$88,000 in taxable revenue from the Sweet Brook and Sweet Wood properties now that they have lost their tax exempt status. Motor Vehicle tax revenue has been steady and reliable so far. He said he will have a better idea of the numbers in February. Mr. Fohlin reported the hotel motel tax revenue is holding steady and after the first quarter meals tax revenue numbers we've seen, we anticipate the numbers will be lower than the DOR suggested. Mr. Fohlin concluded that until we receive more information, from the state, we are seeing the town's revenue continues to be flat.

 - C. Bee Hill Road Discussion –** Mr. Costley started the conversation stating that he does not believe the road to be unsafe in response to the discussion brought up by Paul Harsch at the November 8, 2010 selectmen meeting. Mr. Harsch had requested that Selectmen block the roadway to through traffic. Mr. Costley reported that since 2004 there have been five accidents on the road, having none in the last two years. He said it is a beautiful road and thinks that the residents on that road want it the way it is. He said that people drive cautiously on Bee Hill Road even though it's not ideal but it's adequate.

Town Resident Dan Gendron asked selectmen if they could give him amounts of the town's costs related to the Bee Hill issue/litigation in regard to the economic development of Bee Hill Road in particular Mr. Fox's subdivision. Mr. Sheldon became acting chairman, while Mr. Turbin recused himself because he and his family are abutters listed in the law suit. Mr. Gendron asked if the Board could issue an amicus brief to the judge in the Foxwood case. Mr. Rempell said he is concerned about the long-term growth in Williamstown and the message the legal issues surrounding the project send to potential developers and businesses. In response to Mr. Gendron's questions regarding costs, Mr. Fohlin said that the town and board had received his request and will try to get the information out to him before Thanksgiving. Mr. Fohlin told Mr. Gendron that in regard to an amicus brief, the selectmen are not a party to this suit. Town Counsel had been consulted and suggested that it would be inappropriate. It would however be appropriate for the Planning Board to submit the brief. Mr. Gendron said he hoped there would be a compromise on this issue and he gets upset when he sees money being spent on legal fees instead of on the schools.

D. Pownal Biomass – Chairman Turbin reported that he attended a joint prehearing conference in Montpelier, Vermont regarding a request from Beaver Wood Energy to obtain preliminary approval to begin limited construction activities at their site in Pownal, Vermont. Mr. Turbin said Beaver Wood Energy is asking for the preliminary approval to begin the limited construction before December 31 so the project can qualify for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. The Board discussed how it could file an opposition to the permit as the Public Service Board proceedings become more formalized. Mr. Rempell proposed the Board should submit the same letter they sent to the Pownal Selectmen in October to the Vermont Public Service Board. Mr. Turbin said the Town should take a legal approach in filing the opposition because he doesn't know if the letter is the legal equivalent to the opposition. Mr. Turbin said he would speak with the attorney retained by the Bennington-Berkshire Citizens Coalition about the possibility of assisting the Town in filing opposition to the permit. Mr. Costley moved that Chairman Turbin speak with Attorney Tarrant to discuss the process and costs to the Town if we were to use his services and also to call a Selectmen meeting for Monday, November 29 for Mr. Turbin to report back to the Board on such questions. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached report and it can also be found on the Town website.

6. PETITIONER'S REQUEST: None

7. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Turbin asked selectmen to think about whether they will go to the MMA conference in January.

8. ADJOURN: Mr. Costley moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next selectmen meeting will be Monday, November 29, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. and then on Monday, December 13, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Sheldon,
Secretary pro tempore

TES/kp