

AGENDA
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
7:00 P.M.

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:**
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** September 27, 2010
- 3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN CONSIDERATION:**
 - A. Green River Road "Share the Road" Letter to MADOT
 - B. November 2, 2010 State Election Warrant
 - C. Mount Greylock School District Borrowing
 - D. By-law Compliance Discussion (Fohlin, Card, Kennedy)
 - E. Water & Sewer Warrant - \$263,735.22
- 4. LICENSES AND PERMITS:**
 - A. Request from Lickety Split, 69 Spring St., Robin Kanelos, Manager, for a Common Victualer License.
 - B. Request from Jonathan Baker, 280 Cole Ave. (The Spirit Shop), for a one day Wine & Beer license for the Paresky Center, Williams College, on Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 10:00 PM to 2:00 AM.
- 5. PETITIONER'S REQUEST:**
- 6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS:**
- 8. ADJOURN:**

Next Selectmen meeting – Monday, October 25, 2010

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
7:00 P.M.

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

Others Present: David Langston, Carrie Greene, Michael Card, Jeff Kennedy, Jonathan Baker, Laylah Ali, Charley Stevenson, Laura Bentz, Pam Weatherbee, Peter Fohlin

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Turbin extended congratulations to Carolyn Burch for having the library at the new Youth Center named in her honor.
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** September 27, 2010 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the September 27, 2010 minutes. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN CONSIDERATION:**
 - A.** Green River Road “Share the Road” Letter to MADOT – Mr. Costley made a motion for Chairman to sign letter to Peter Niles, District Highway Director, requesting that “Share the Road” signs be installed on Green River Road. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sheldon informed the board that over 270 signatures had been obtained in support of the request and would be included with the letter.
 - B.** November 2, 2010 State Election Warrant – Mr. Costley made a motion to accept and sign the November 2, 2010 State Election Warrant as prepared by the Town Clerk. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - C.** Mount Greylock School District Borrowing – Mr. Langston, a member of the MGRHS School Committee, explained that the wording of the original capital debt motion was rendered invalid when, in May 2010, the voters of Lanesborough declined to exclude capital debt from Proposition 2 1/2. The School Committee passed a revised motion on September, 29, 2010. Mr. Costley moved not to schedule a special town meeting to act on the borrowing for heating system and locker area repairs. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - D.** By-law Compliance Discussion (Fohlin, Card, Kennedy) – Mr. Fohlin gave the board a “current events overview of laws in Williamstown” after which he and Building Inspector Michael Card and Health Inspector Jeff Kennedy discussed with the board the laws in general and, more specifically, how these laws govern recent concerns raised by residents about political signage, play structure at Green River Farm, building code enforcement, and unsightly properties. Mr. Fohlin noted that America is a nation of laws and, for Williamstown, the sources of the regulations are the U.S. Constitution, the Massachusetts Legislature, and the Williamstown Town Meeting. Mr. Fohlin also reminded the selectmen that “The Village Beautiful” is not a by-law.
 - E.** Water & Sewer Warrant - \$263,735.22 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$263,735.22. Mr. Costley seconded and motion passed unanimously.

4. LICENSES AND PERMITS:

- A.** Request from Lickety Split, 69 Spring St., Robin Kanelos, Manager, for a Common Victualer License – Mr. Sheldon moved to approve Common Victualer License for Lickety Split. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- B.** Request from Jonathan Baker, 280 Cole Ave. (The Spirit Shop), for a one day Wine & Beer license for the Paresky Center, Williams College, on Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 10:00 PM to 2:00 AM – Mr. Rempell moved to approve one day Wine & Beer License for Jonathan Baker (Spirit Shop) for Senior Event at Paresky Center on October 23, 2010. Mr. Costley seconded and motion carried unanimously.

5. PETITIONER'S REQUEST: About two dozen residents attended the meeting to express their concerns about biomass plant being proposed by Beaver Wood Energy Co. for Green Mountain Racetrack site in Pownal, Vermont. Spokesperson for the group was Layla Lei. Ms. Lei explained that the proposal is for a 250M\$ plant that will operate 24/7 and require 70-100 tractor trailer loads of wood/day. She informed the board that we are “already behind the curve” in expressing concerns as the Pownal Board of Selectmen and Bennington County Regional Commission are scheduled to vote on the project on Monday, October 18. Final approval for the project will be issued by the Vermont Public Service Board.

Among residents concerns are scale of project, air quality, water, waste, traffic, and deforestation/reforestation. Residents want to know more about the science regarding biomass, the licensing process, and the history of the company.

Also voicing concerns about the project were Charley Stevenson, Laura Bentz and Pam Weatherbee. Ms. Lei also read a statement of concern from Williamstown Resident and Tufts Professor of Environmental Studies William Moomaw (statement attached).

After a lengthy comment and question and answer session, Mr. Rempell made a motion to send two letters. The first letter will be sent, as soon as possible, to the Pownal Board of Selectmen and will inform them of Williamstown's concerns and ask that the vote be postponed until more information is available. The second letter will be sent to the Bennington County Regional Commission and cc'd to other neighboring communities, as well as, Massachusetts state officials. In addition to expressing Williamstown's concerns, the second letter will ask for information about the science regarding biomass, the licensing process, and the history of the Beaver Wood Energy Co. Mr. Costley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The letters will be drafted by Ms. Lei, Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Costley and Mr. Fohlin.

6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached report. Reports are also located on the Town Website.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Turbin reminded selectmen of meeting of Berkshire County Selectmen on October 21, 2010.

8. ADJOURN: Mr. Costley moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Rempell seconded and motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen meeting is Monday, October 25, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane B. Allen, Secretary