

**MINUTES**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**January 12, 2009**  
**7:00 P.M.**

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

**Others Present:** Al Bressette, Tim Kaiser, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

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

**2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** December 8, 2008 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the December 8, 2008 minutes. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

**4. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A.** Ms. Allen opened the public hearing at 7:05 PM for a request from Verizon New England and Massachusetts Electric Company to locate poles and wires on Main and South Streets to realign and support the existing communication system in accordance with a Town of Williamstown road realignment project – Plan Verizon No. 6AAY49-2, dated November 21, 2008. Mr. Bressette, Verizon's Right of Way Manager explained that in order to prepare for the Town's road realignment project for the rotary, poles and wires on Main and South Streets need to be realigned and shored up to support the existing communication system. Mr. Bressette said the project will probably be in Verizon's February schedule. Mr. Rempell moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the plan for Verizon's realignment project noted in Plan 6AAY49-2. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**B.** Ms. Allen opened the public hearing at 7:10 PM for a request from Verizon New England and Massachusetts Electric Company to locate poles and wires on Main Street and Cold Spring Road to realign and support the existing communication system in accordance with a Town of Williamstown road realignment project – Plan Verizon No. 6AAY49-1, dated November 21, 2008. Mr. Bressette, Verizon's Right of Way Manager explained that in order to prepare for the Town's road realignment project for the rotary, poles and wires on Main Street and Cold Spring Road need to be realigned and shored up to support the existing communication system. Mr. Bressette said the project will probably be in Verizon's February schedule. Mr. Kaiser noted that the relocation of one pole numbered T.1/E.5 needed to be amended from a westerly direction to a northerly direction. Mr. Bressette agreed and said it was Verizon's error and he would correct this on the petition and on the map. Mr. Costley moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the plan for Verizon's realignment project noting the amendment of the location of T.1/E.5 from a westerly to a northerly direction. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **5. LICENSES AND PERMITS:**

### **A. Common Victualer Licenses – New**

Spirit Shop Deli Station, 280 Cole Avenue, Tracy Baker, Owner  
Hot Tomatoes, 100 Water Street, John England, Owner

Mr. Costley moved to approve the Common Victualer licenses for the Spirit Shop Deli Station and Hot Tomatoes. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **6. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**

**A. Non-resident Request for Cemetery Lot** – Mr. Rempell moved to approve a request for two graves at Eastlawn Cemetery for Mr. C. William DeMyer of New Ashford. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**B. Community Preservation Act** – Selectmen received a letter from the Town of Kingston Board of Selectmen requesting support in filing legislation that would amend MGL, Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act to allow community preservation funds to be utilized for Green Energy Initiatives. After a short discussion, selectmen agreed to forward the letter to the Community Preservation Committee for their input. Mr. Rempell, a member of the Community Preservation Committee will bring the matter up at their next meeting.

**C. Spring Street Parking Regulations** – Mr. Costley proposed allowing 15 minute parking on Spring Street across from Tunnel City Coffee Roasters between the entrance and exit of the Spring Street Municipal Parking lot. He said that the spaces would allow customers to run into the coffee shop and pick up a coffee legally rather than parking in the space illegally. Mr. Rempell was concerned that changing the area from no parking to 15 minute parking might cause traffic jams as people wait for spaces and could also make it difficult for people leaving the parking lot to see traffic coming up the street since that section of Spring Street is two-way traffic. Mr. Kaiser agreed that sight lines might be a problem.

Mr. Costley moved to change the area, a 40 foot section of 56 feet (leaving 8 feet on each side), between the entrance and exits of the Spring Street Municipal parking lot, from no parking to 15 minute parking. Mr. Steege seconded with the motion passing 3-1 with Mr. Rempell voting against. Selectmen agreed to try the new parking regulation on a trial basis and revisit it if it becomes a problem.

**D. Water & Sewer Warrant - \$276,999.32** – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$276,999.32. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**E. 2009 Town Election Calendar – Set Dates and Times for Warrant, Election and Annual Town Meeting** – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the 2009 Town Election Calendar as presented by the Town Clerk with Town Election Day, May 12 from 7am to 8pm at the Williamstown Elementary School and the Annual Town Meeting, May 19, 2009 at 7pm at the Williamstown Elementary School. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 7. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** See attached.
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Rempell reported that he, Mr. Turbin and Ms. Allen will attend the MMA conference on January 23 and 24. Governor Patrick is expected to speak about state financial issues.

Mr. Steege said he is pleased to see new businesses opening in Williamstown, in particular the former Getty Station, now open as an automotive repair station.

Mr. Costley suggested the Board handle Conservation Restriction application requests differently in that the Board notifies the public once it has received the applications that the Board may need additional time to consider the applications and in some cases do site visits if necessary. Mr. Rempell appreciated Mr. Costley's bringing up the subject noting that selectmen could be viewed as obstructionists and that each time land is put into a conservation restriction, the land is taken off of the tax rolls and it is permanent.

Ms. Allen said that past practice has limited the Board's ability to do their homework and that the Board should feel they can table the request if needed. Past practice has also shown petitioners that selectmen will act and approve the request at the meeting.

Mr. Rempell said the issue of changing this process should change the culture of these requests.

Ms. Allen noted that Anne Skinner, Chairman of the Cable Television Advisory Committee sent a letter to Time Warner requesting materials prior to holding a public hearing in February on the beginning process of renewing the cable television license.

Ms. Allen updated the Board on the Mount Greylock Regional High School District Financial Agreement between Lanesborough and Williamstown. She said a committee was formed and the first meeting will be held in Lanesborough on January 29th. The participants are Town Managers Peter Fohlin and Paul Boudreau, Finance Committee Chairs Elaine Neely and Bill Stevens, and Selectmen chairs Jane Allen and William Prendergast.

Mr. Fohlin said there is an existing committee working on administrative and operational issues for the Mount Greylock Regional School District comprised of Mr. Fohlin, Ron Tinkham and David Langston. They will be interested in the outcome of the financial agreement progress.

- 9. ADJOURN:** Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, January 26, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Steege  
Secretary pro tempore

