

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 13, 2009
7:00 P.M.

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

Others Present: Mary Kennedy, David Carver, Kathy Thompson, Arthur Lafave, Chris Lemoine, Tim Kaiser, Susan Schneski, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN’S OPENING STATEMENT:** None
- 2. SELECTMEN’S MINUTES:** September 28, 2009 – Ms. Allen moved to approve the September 28, 2009 minutes. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried 3-0-2 with Mr. Rempell and Mr. Turbin abstaining.
- 3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN’S CONSIDERATION:**
 - A.** State Ethics and Conflict of Interest Law – Town Clerk Mary Kennedy summarized a memo distributed in the selectmen packets explaining mandatory ethics training requirements for all public officials and employees. A copy of the memo is attached to the minutes.
 - B.** Church Corner LLC (St. Raphael’s) Grant Agreement – Mr. Rempell moved the selectmen sign the Church Corner LLC Grant Agreement as presented. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Carver, acting as Grantee for Church Corner LLC signed the grant agreement.
 - C.** Cemetery Capacity and Rates – At their September 14, 2009 selectmen meeting Ms. Allen stated the Finance Committee has asked the Board of Selectmen, acting as Cemetery Commissioners, to update the Cemetery rates and their capacity. Cemetery Superintendent Chris Lemoine submitted reports listing availability for the Town’s three cemeteries: Eastlawn – annual average sales at 34.4, graves lots available at 1463 with an estimated lifespan of 42.5 years. Southlawn – annual average sales at 9.3, grave lots available at 576 with an estimated lifespan of 62 years. Westlawn – annual average sales at 3.7, grave lots available 12 and estimated lifespan of 3.2 years. Discussion included possibility of expansion. Mr. Lemoine said that lands abutting the cemeteries are “boggy” and not suitable for graves. Mr. Fohlin added that there are other Town-owned parcels that could be used such as the Lowry property and Burbank land. Ms. Allen suggested the Town should consider the rates if a new cemetery is opened to include a perpetual care fund. Current cemetery funds for perpetual care are \$10,000 annually and are not significant.

In addressing the rates, Mr. Lemoine submitted a survey taken in April 2009 of surrounding municipal cemetery rates for resident lot, non-resident lot, interment weekday and Saturday, cremation weekday and Saturday, ground thawing, and disinterment. Selectmen discussed the rates as submitted and made suggestions regarding proposed increases. Mr. Sheldon moved to table rate increase suggestions and place the issue on the next meeting agenda on October 26 or the one after on November 9. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- D.** Chapter 90 Final Report and Funds Request – Mr. Rempell moved to sign the Chapter 90 Final Report and Funds Request for the completion of the Field Park Rotary Reconstruction in the amount of \$827,000.00 and for the Chapter 90 Final Report and Funds Request for the completion of the Engineering-Redesign intersections for rotary traffic pattern in the amount of \$47,600.00. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rempell asked about the rumble strips on the rotary in regard to bicyclists. Mr. Fohlin said that openings had been designed for 8 feet of entry and exit. He said the rumble strips are on the left side of the road where he doesn't expect bicyclist to ride.

4. PETITIONER'S REQUEST - None

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached

- 6. OTHER BUSINESS –** Mr. Rempell asked about the timetable for real estate tax bills. Mr. Fohlin explained that the town has been working with the Dept. of Revenue and as of today, they satisfied with our new values verbally but have not put that in writing. He said residents should see marginal changes in values.

Ms. Allen said she felt this was a very special meeting as we had the opportunity to sign off on the rotary project as completed and also sign an agreement for Affordable Housing Community Preservation Funds for the Church Corner, LLC. She thanked Mr. Carver and the Church Corner LLC Committee for all of their hard work and also thanked Mr. Kaiser and Mr. Fohlin for their attention to the details of the project.

- 7. ADJOURN:** Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, October 26, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Sheldon, Secretary