

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 10, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Present: Ronald Turbin, Vice Chairman, Jane B. Allen, Thomas Sheldon, David Rempell

Absent: Tom Costley, Chairman

Others Present: Justin Adkins, Robert Peck, Lynne Hood, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Turbin congratulated the Cal Ripken 12 and Under players and coaches for their Western Mass win. Also, Ian Brink won the Home Run Derby.
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** July 27, 2009 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the July 27, 2009 minutes. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried 3-0-1 with Ms. Allen abstaining.
- 3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**
 - A. Linden Street Block Party – Justin Adkins, organizer of the Linden Street Block Party submitted a request with resident signatures to close off Linden Street on Saturday, August 15 from 2 – 9 pm for a neighborhood block party. Ms. Poirot stated the Police Chief had no problem with the request. Ms. Allen said the Chief requires that tables and grills must be on one side of the street to allow passage for emergency vehicles. Mr. Adkins invited the selectmen to attend and bring a dish to share. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the request to close off Linden Street on August 15 from 2 – 9 pm for a neighborhood block party. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - B. Sister City Proposal – Former Williamstown resident and Williams College coach Robert Peck and his wife Lynne Hood came before the Board to propose that the selectmen consider and support a sister-city relationship with the English speaking municipality of Bluefields, Nicaragua on the Atlantic coast. Mr. Peck said he saw this as an exchange of ideas and people with endless possibilities. Mr. Peck selected Bluefields because of his work there with Williams College students, his contacts with local organizations and his friendship with the Mayor of the town. Mr. Peck said Bluefields has a population of 50,000 versus around 8,000 in Williamstown but feels there are many similarities between the two towns. Mr. Fohlin said the town may well be as big in other aspects such as its cosmopolitan makeup and its world-class college. Mr. Peck said he would be willing to bring people together to create the partnership but then step aside. Mr. Peck said there are two ways to set up the partnership, for one, by joining Sister Cities International with the town paying dues of \$250. The organization facilitates sister-city programs and has a website that guides towns in setting up a program. The other way is for the town to accomplish this independently, using guidelines from the Sister Cities program that can be found at their website. Selectmen supported Mr. Peck's idea and suggested that he form his group. Mr. Peck said he knows of a local elementary school teacher and some former winter study groups and faculty from Williams College who are already interested. Mr. Peck asked that the request be placed on the town's website to contact him at 802-823-4646 or at Robert.R.Peck@williams.edu. Mr. Rempell moved that the Board support the

continuation of the Sister-City planning group. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Allen and Mr. Sheldon raised the issue of the agreement being brought before the Board again prior to an agreement being reached.

- C. Green Communities Application – Mr. Fohlin explained that the Town is one of eleven towns seeking a state Green Communities Grant and asked that the Vice Chairman sign a letter similar to the one signed at the last selectmen meeting. This letter to the Green Communities Division Planning Assistance Program but the difference in this letter is that the request has become regional. Each grant provides \$10,000 of technical assistance to help towns achieve “green” community status. The grant money should help pay for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission’s technical assistance. Mr. Rempell moved that Vice Chairman Turbin sign the letter as presented. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- D. Non Resident Request for Cemetery Lot – Ms. Allen approved a request from Devin and Kerina Pharr to purchase a total of two burial plots at Eastlawn Cemetery adjacent to their parents’ plot. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- E. Water and Sewer Warrant –Mr. Rempell moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$127,857.39. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONER’S REQUEST: None

5. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT: See attached

6. OTHER BUSINESS: None

7. ADJOURN: Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, September 14, 2009 – 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Sheldon
Secretary

TES/kp