

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 11, 2008
7:00 P.M.

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

Others Present: Carol DeMayo, Sean McKenzie, Philip McKnight, Dick DeMayo, Anita Barker, Kyle Johnson, Tim Kaiser, Chuck St. John, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT: Mr. Rempell recognized the Registrars of voters and the election workers. He also reminded residents of the Milne Library's "Williamstown Reads and Eats" program.

2. SELECTMEN MINUTES: January 28, 2008 – Mr. Turbin moved to approve the January 28, 2008 minutes. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. PETITIONER'S REQUEST: None.

4. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:

A. Fund for Williamstown (Carol DeMayo) – Mrs. DeMayo updated the Board on the First round of grants for 2008. She said 9 grants had been approved (one to an individual and 8 to non-profits) Grants went to programs such as the arts, social services, education and environmental projects. Some programs in particular were for a youth softball field at Broadbook School, Habitat for Humanity, and Williamstown Youth Center. Mrs. DeMayo said they are ready for a second round of grants. Applications are available at www.BerkshireTaconic.org and at Town Hall.

B. Williams College Green Party Bicycling Advocacy Demonstration – Feb. 29 – Sean McKenzie on behalf of the Williams College Green Party requested that selectmen grant use of Williamstown roads for a bicycling advocacy demonstration to be held on Friday, February 29 at 3 p.m. He expects anywhere from 10 to 100 participants. Chief Johnson said he did not have any issues with this event as long as the participants followed the rules of the road. Ms. Allen moved to approve the request. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. OSRD By-law (McKnight) - Mr. McKnight asked the Board to review and pass the draft OSRD By-law to the Planning Board who will then hold public hearings on the proposed by-law. At the conclusion of those hearings, the Planning Board will present the finished by-law to the Board for inclusion on the annual town meeting warrant. Mr. Turbin moved to pass the by-law to the Planning Board. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. FY09 Proposed Budget – Mr. Fohlin gave a Power Point presentation of the Draft FY09 Budget. He said the budget goals are to live within our means (no override), maintain and improve infrastructure and maintain quality services. The draft showed a 2.5% increase in local property taxes, a decrease of 14.4% in new growth, an increase of 12.8% in free cash, a 35.4% increase in hotel/motel excise and an increase of only 0.8% in state aid. Mr. Fohlin included a history of state aid from FY01 through FY09. The

difference in aid in FY01 and FY09 is only \$221,751, increasing by only 10% in 8 years. Mr. Fohlin said the state has proposed to eliminate \$157,779 in lottery aid and use \$157,779 in gaming proceeds for lottery gap. Mr. Fohlin stated that he can only hope that the town will receive full funding from the lottery and then next year receive funding from gaming proceeds.

Mr. Fohlin explained the increase in Public Safety (+5.6%) is due to the need to purchase a new cruiser. The increase (+4.3%) in Human Services is due to a part-time outreach worker in the Council on Aging moving to full time status and the 4.2% increase in Inspection Services is due to the rising cost of advertising.

Mr. Fohlin explained changes in the Enterprise Funds that the water rate will increase 14 cents and the sewer rate is expected to increase by 5 cents. Transfer stickers and bags costs will stay the same.

In conclusion Mr. Fohlin stated that state aid from casino gaming is still uncertain. We still don't know what the legislature will do. He added that we do know that March 31 is the deadline for annual town meeting warrant articles, the town election is May 13, and the annual town meeting is May 20.

E. Non Resident Request for Cemetery Lot – Carolyn and Dieter Wittkowski of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania have requested to purchase two graves at Eastlawn Cemetery. Cemetery Superintendent Chris Lemoine indicated that there are two grave sites available. Ms. Allen moved to approve the request. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

F. American Lung Association of Massachusetts 2nd Annual Charity Bicycle Ride – June 21 & 22 – Chief Johnson stated he has no problems with this request. Ms. Allen moved to approve the request from the American Lung Association of Massachusetts to hold their charity bicycle ride on June 21 and 22. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Pro-Am Bicycle Road Race – May 3 – Chief Johnson stated he has no issues with the request. Ms. Allen moved to approve the request from The Berkshire Cycling Association to conduct their Pro-Am Bicycle Road Race through Williamstown. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

H. Accept Resignation of Ellen Bernstein from Cable Television Advisory Committee – Ms. Allen moved to accept Ellen Bernstein's resignation from the Cable Television Advisory Committee with appreciation. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

I. Accept Resignation of Jack Nogueira from Affordable Housing Committee - Ms. Allen moved to accept Jack Nogueira's resignation from the Affordable Housing Committee with appreciation. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

J. Water and Sewer Warrant – Ms. Allen moved to approve the water and sewer warrant for the sum of \$126,744.43. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

K. Accept Anti-trust Settlement – Milne Library – Mr. Turbin moved to accept an anti-trust settlement for the Milne Library. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried

unanimously.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached

6. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Turbin said he received a brochure on town clocks in case anyone was interested in looking at it. Ms. Allen commended the School Union Committee who worked for a few years to make the School Union Superintendency happen.

7. ADJOURN: Mr. Turbin moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is on February 25, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Costley
Secretary

TC/kp