

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 14, 2008
7:00 P.M.

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

Others Present: Mary C. Kennedy, Kathy Poirot, Peter Fohlin

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT: None

2. SELECTMEN MINUTES: December 10, 2007 – Ms. Allen moved to approve the December 10, 2007 minutes. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. PETITIONER'S REQUEST: None

4. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:

A. Town Clerk Fees – Marriage Intentions – Ms. Kennedy requested the Board increase the marriage intention fee from \$10 to \$25 to reflect fees in surrounding towns. The \$25 fee will include one certified marriage certificate that will be mailed out at the time the marriage license is recorded. Mr. Turbin moved to approve the increase for marriage intentions from \$10 to \$25 to include one certified copy of marriage effective January 15, 2008. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

B. 2008 Town Election Calendar – Set Dates and Times for Warrant, Election and Annual Town Meeting – Mr. Steege moved to approve the dates and times as presented by the Town Clerk and Board of Registrars. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Water & Sewer Warrant – Ms. Allen moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$291,866.84. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Fohlin reported that Wednesday, January 16th is the last day for residents to register to vote or change party affiliation for the presidential primary to be held at the Elementary School from 7 am to 8 pm. The Town Clerk's office will remain open until 8 p.m. The census has been mailed out to all residents. Those who have not received a form should contact the Town Clerk.

In Inspection Services, Andrew has been assisting Mike with the OSRD bylaw and is currently preparing the minutes from the January 8th Planning Board meeting, where Development plans for Buxton School and 384 Main Street were passed and a modification to the proposed Foxwood Lane subdivision was passed. There is a ZBA meeting on January 31st, there is one item on the agenda, several special permits for a new Williamstown Medical Associates building.

Also some year end statistics for 2007.

Building

464 Permits Issued, this is 61 permits ahead of 2006

Total Est. Cost of Work: \$52,824,659.51

Total Fees Taken In: \$122,528.72

8 New Houses Built: Total \$3,836,170, including one \$1.6 Million home off of Hancock Road.

Planning & Zoning

Zoning Board of Appeals

30 ZBA Applications received

1 Administrative Appeal, Denied.

2 Variances, Both Withdrawn.

28 Special Permits: 2 Withdrawn, 26 Granted.

11 Special Permits were Home Occupations.

Planning Board

10 Approval Not Required Plans signed

Development Plans approved for:

- 384 Main St.
- Williams College Book Storage

1 Preliminary Plan of Subdivision filed, later withdrawn

Ryan Contenta -Building: performing progress inspections, reviewing plans and building permit application.

Jeff Kennedy has been subpoenaed to appear as a witness for the plaintiff in Kathleen Morris vs. John Duquette d/b/a Berkshire County Construction. A wetlands enforcement order was issued when Berkshire County Construction excavated a wetland and its buffer zone at Ms. Morris' residence, 136 Luce Road.

The Board of Health is reviewing a draft regulation governing Food Establishments operating in the Town of Williamstown. The regulation will cover new and upgraded restaurant application procedures, installation and maintenance of grease traps, and incorporates the State regulation to allow for local non-criminal disposition enforcement.

The State has removed regulation and authority for the licensing of massage therapists and establishments from local BoH control, and transferred it and the application fees to itself. All Williamstown applications had been received prior to the letter from the Division of Professional Licensure, and were approved by the Board of Health for the 2008 season. Holders of current local massage licenses will have until May 10 to apply for the State License.

The Police Department reported -

Motor Vehicle –

Accidents: There have been twenty (20) motor vehicle accidents reported to the department. Three (3) involved hit & run; three (3) involved deer; two (2) involved damage to MV by falling objects; one (1) involved two MVs backing into each other; two (2) involved single MVs off the road; two (2) involved property damage by snow plows; three (3) involved roadway, with two personal injuries; two (2) involved parking lot incidents; one (1) involved a rear-end collision; one (1) involved a one-car roll-over with personal injury. Four of these accidents resulted in traffic citations to vehicle operators.

Enforcement: One hundred forty-eight (148) motor vehicle stops were conducted from December 20 to date. During this time, one hundred forty-eight (148) citations were issued, resulting in ten (10) civil charges, three (3) arrests, four (4) complaints, and one hundred thirty-one (131) warnings. A majority of these MV stops are the result of the GHSB initiative as mentioned in our last report.

Arrests – Since the last report, nine (9) individuals were charged criminally for the following:

12/21/07	A&B
12/25/07	Assault; A&B on Police Officer; Malicious Destruction of Property +\$250; Resist Arrest
12/27/07	Violate Abuse Prevention Order
12/29/07	Speeding; MV Lights Violation; Unlicensed Operation of MV
12/29/07	MV Lights Violation; Operate MV with License Suspended for OUI
12/30/07	Operation MV with Registration Suspended; Uninsured MV
01/05/08	No Inspection/Sticker; Operate MV with Registration Suspended
01/06/08	Unlicensed Operation of MV; Fail to Stop for Stop Sign; Fail to Stop for Police; Possession of Class D Drug
01/07/08	Speeding; Operate MV with License Suspended

Training – Sgt. David Lemieux and K9 Officer Mike Ziemba attended an “Active Shooter” training hosted by the North Adams Police Department at the McCann School on Thursday, December 27. The training was conducted by the Massachusetts State Police and provided the officers with realistic scenarios for dealing with an active shooter.

Dispatch – Six-hundred thirty-three (633) calls for service were received at the Dispatch Center from Thursday, December 20, 2007, to Thursday morning, January 10, 2008:

Police	546
Ambulance	71
Fire	16

Press Release(s) – No media announcements were made by the Police Department during this reporting period.

The Highway Department reported that it had been out 26 times as of December 31st with 1000 work hours. Scott Park reported Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District launched its new website at nbswmd.org.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Turbin thanked the Board for sending him to the Mass. Municipal Association Annual meeting. He attended the open meeting law workshop and smart growth workshop. Mr. Rempell read an e-mail from Jim Hodgkins who thanked one of the DPW drivers for checking on him as he was clearing snow. Mr. Hodgkins was thankful to know that if he needed help from the plow driver, he would have received it. Mr. Rempell announced that Jim Kolesar would speak at the January 28th meeting on long range planning for the Mt. Greylock Regional High School financial plan. He suggested the Board go to the high school website and read it before the meeting.
7. **ADJOURN** – Mr. Turbin moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next meeting is January 28, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Costley, Secretary

TC/kp