

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 8, 2008
7:05 P.M.

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

Others Present: Al Bessette, Mark Amuso, Jeanette Kopczynski, David Backus, Tim Kaiser, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Ms. Allen thanked Mr. Fohlin for his creativity in having the special town meeting preceding this selectmen meeting.
2. **SELECTMEN MINUTES:** August 25, 2008 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the August 25, 2008 minutes. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **PETITIONER'S REQUEST:** None.
4. **PUBLIC HEARING:**
 - A. **7:05 p.m. – Public Hearing** for a request from Verizon New England and Massachusetts Electric Co. to place one jointly owned pole numbered T.45S/E.85S on the Southerly side of Oblong Rd. at the intersection of Oblong Rd. and Woodcock Rd. to provide lateral support for existing pole T.45/E.85, located at that intersection. (A. Bessette) Chairman Allen opened the public hearing. Mr. Bessette told the Board that the current tree guide in place is not in good shape and is a safety concern. Therefore, Verizon plans to remove the tree and place a support pole across the street to connect guy wires. Mr. Turbin moved to grant the petition. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
5. **LICENSES AND PERMITS:**
 - A. Request from Sweetwood CCRC for a One Day Wine & Malt Beverage License on October 4, 2008 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for a Fundraiser for VNA & Hospice of Northern Berkshire (Mark Amuso) - Mr. Rempell moved to approve the request. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - B. **Request from The President & Trustees of Williams College for One Day Liquor Licenses, Robert Volpi, Manager:**
 1. Wine and Malt Beverage License on Friday, September 19, 2008 from 6:30-8:30 pm for a Career Mentor Reception at the WCMA Rotunda – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the request. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 2. All Alcoholic Beverage License on Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 5:30-7 pm for a Class of 1954 Mini Reunion at Dodd House Main Dining Room – Mr. Costley moved to approve the request. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Wine and Malt Beverage License on Saturday, September 20, 2008 from 12 noon to 4 pm at Weston Field for Williams College Home Football Game (Service to end of the third quarter)
4. Wine and Malt Beverage License on Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 12 noon to 4 pm at Weston Field for Williams College Home Football Game (Service to end of the third quarter)
5. Wine and Malt Beverage License on Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 12 noon to 4 pm at Weston Field for Williams College Home Football Game (Service to end of the third quarter)
6. Wine and Malt Beverage License on Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 12 noon to 4 pm at Weston Field for Williams College Home Football Game (Service to end of the third quarter)

Mr. Rempell moved to approve the President & Trustees of Williams College requests for wine and malt beverage licenses on September 20, September 27, October 11, and November 1, 2008 from 12 noon to 4pm, service ending at the end of the third quarter for Williams College football games. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:

A. Williamstown – Lanesborough School Union #71 (Backus) – Mr. Backus, current chairman of the Williamstown Lanesborough School Union #71 School Committee, reported as of July 1, 2008, entered into a school union agreement with Lanesborough and now shares a Superintendent, Administrative Assistant, Special Education Director and Business Manager for a savings of about \$105,000 per year. The time the administrative staff will split between towns is 60% Williamstown and 40% Lanesborough and other than sharing time and cost, the schools are still operating in the same manner. Mr. Backus said that the Union School Committee will meet several times a year. The budget and bylaws passed June 26, 2008 can be found on the www.williamstownelementary.org web page. The next school Union Committee meeting is September 30 at 7 p.m. at the Lanesborough Elementary School. Mr. Steege asked if this new union offered any student benefits. Mr. Backus said there would be no change in the quality of education but there is potential for more coordination of educational outcomes in their transition to Mount Greylock High School. Mr. Rempell asked what the school would do with the savings. Mr. Backus said the savings allowed for a cushion for utilities, etc.

B. Water and Sewer Warrant – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the water and sewer warrant for the sum of \$193,290.90. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Water Street PWED Application – Mr. Fohlin reported the Town plans to apply for a Massachusetts Public Works Economic Development (PWED) grant, due September 15, for improvements to sidewalks, the roadway and streetscape on Water Street. He said there are three segments to the Water Street project, starting with the east side sidewalk from Linear Park bridge to the Cable Mills parking lot at an approximate cost of \$360,000. The second layer would involve installing a sidewalk on the west side of

the street, starting at the corner of Heating Plant Drive and ending just past Hobson's Choice. The third layer of the project would be to widen Water Street to allow for parking on both sides of the street. Mr. Fohlin said this would change the nature of the neighborhood entirely, slowing down traffic and make the street safer. Mr. Kaiser said the project is in its pre-design stage, so the town doesn't have the costs for the second and third segments. Mr. Costley asked if there were other sources of funding. Mr. Fohlin said that Representative Olver's office has been contacted and federal funding is being explored. Mass Highway will definitely have to be on board for widening the road to allow parking since the road is a state highway. Mr. Costley said the project would make Cable Mills and other establishment more accessible because of the improved sidewalks. Selectmen agreed this project has been a long time coming.

7. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Costley reported there are two open seats on the Mt. Greylock Regional School District Committee. Heather Williams is running for re-election and the other seat doesn't have a candidate. He suggested that residents, who are interested in election to the vacant seat, make their intentions known to the selectmen and the League of Women Voters so that they could be written in on the November ballot. He added the League of Women Voters would like to present candidates in a forum. Mr. Rempell added that if there weren't any write-ins on the November ballot, the sitting members of the Mt. Greylock Regional School District and the Board of Selectmen will need to appoint someone.

Mr. Turbin announced the Metropolitan Planning Organization, a part of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, will select an alternate on October 16. He volunteered to attend.

Ms. Allen reminded residents of upcoming events in Williamstown to include, the Community Chest Fun Run on September 13, starting at 10 a.m. and the Amble & Scramble hosted by Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation on September 10.

9. ADJOURN: Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next selectmen's meeting is on September 22, 2008 at 7 p.m. and will include a joint election with the Housing Authority to fill a seat vacated by a resignation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Turbin, Secretary