

Minutes of Meeting –January 4, 2023; meeting called to order at 6:00pm. Present: Ed Lane; Warren Archey; Marybeth Mitts. Absent: Dave Roche; Neal Maxymillian.

MOTION by EL, seconded by WA to approve the Minutes of December 21. 3/0 vote.

Citizens Open Forum: Kate Vaughan had noticed the agenda item regarding sending a letter to the FCC regarding the health effects of wireless infrastructure and wanted the Board to know that she has drafted a letter for the Planning Board, but it is merely a draft at this point. She cautioned the Board in sending a letter to the FCC.

Consent Agenda: MOTION by EL, seconded by WA to accept a monetary donation to the police department; accept a donation and monetary donations to the Community Center. 3/0 vote.

MOTION by EL, seconded by WA to submit a petition to the Land Court to deregister the property located at Laurel Lake Cross Road, owned by Lenox and Lee, a portion of which is under agreement with Edith Wharton Restoration, Inc., and authorize the Chair of the Select Board or the Town Manger to execute any and all petitions and/or other documentation with the Land Court to effect said deregistration. 3/0 vote.

The Board briefly discussed whether to send a letter to the FCC and Federal/State officials relative to health effects of wireless infrastructure as requested by some residents. EL stated that he feels we should do something, but would rather wait until there is a full Board present. Both MM and WA concurred, and MM suggested that those residents interested should send letters themselves.

Edith Wharton came before the Board seeking amendments to their current A/A General On-Premises license for their property located at 2 Plunkett Street. The clerk read the legal notice as it appeared in the newspaper. MOTION by EL, seconded by WA to open the public hearing. 3/0 vote. Attorney Egan and Susan Wisler from Edith Wharton were present to answer any questions. Attorney Egan stated that The Mount is willing to abide by the 11pm hour to cease liquor sales that was instituted for one-day licenses if the Board would like. Wayne Lemanski questioned what leverage the Town would have without The Mount seeking one-day licenses which could be denied if there were any issues. He stated that he would have no problem if the 11pm time were implemented on the A/A license, and suggested that an 11pm time be placed on their entertainment license as well. MOTION by EL, seconded by WA to close the public hearing. 3/0 vote. MOTION by EL, seconded by WA to continue the public hearing until their January 18, 6pm meeting. 3/0 vote.

The TM gave a brief overview of his preliminary FY24 budget. He explained that per the bylaw, it is required that he submit a proposed budget to the Board at their first meeting in January, although the real process begins in February once the Governor's budget is released and BHG rates are known. He went on to state that the preliminary budget currently stands at \$32.8M, a 4.4% increase over the approved FY23 budget. He stated that the schools operating budget, public safety and a reduction in general government are some of the major items affecting the new budget. In addition, he is projecting a capital budget of \$1.7M. EL mentioned that the liaisons to the various departments will need to set up times to meet with the department heads.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Minutes Taken By: _____	Minutes Accepted By: _____
Mary Ellen Deming	Clerk
Director of Administrative Services	Board of Selectmen