

Minutes of Meeting –January 18, 2023; meeting called to order at 6:00pm. Present: Ed Lane; Dave Roche; Neal Maxymillian; Marybeth Mitts. Absent: Warren Archey.

MOTION by MM, seconded by EL to approve the Minutes of January 4. 2/0 vote with DR and NM abstaining.

Consent Agenda: MOTION by EL, seconded by NM to approve a sandwich board sign request for the Lenox Library Association; accept monetary donations to the police department; accept monetary donations to the fire department. 4/0 vote.

Citizens Open Forum: Courtney Gilardi informed the Board that the Pittsfield City Council is working hard to learn about the health effects of wireless infrastructure, and hopes that the Board will be interested in documentation that she presented to them. She then asked the Board about sending a letter to the FCC and federal/state officials since time is of the essence. DR stated that he and the TM are working on a letter but want to discuss the issue with the Planning Board prior to sending anything out. Diane Sheldon thanked the Board, and in particular MM, for the recommendation about sending letters to our legislators.

Edith Wharton came before the Board on January 4 seeking amendments to their current A/A General On-Premises license for their property located at 2 Plunkett Street. The issue of amending the closing time from 1am to 11pm was discussed, and the Board agreed to continue the public hearing until their January 18 meeting before making any decision regarding changing the closing time. EL stated that it makes sense to amend the liquor and entertainment licenses to end at the same time. MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to close the public hearing. 4/0 vote. MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to approve the issuance of an annual A/A General On-Premises license to Edith Wharton Restoration, Inc. d/b/a The Mount for property located at 2 Plunkett Street, Kelsi Polk, Manager with a closing time of 11pm, and further to amend the current entertainment license held by Edith Wharton by instituting an 11pm end time for all entertainment. 4/0 vote.

MOTION by MM, seconded by EL to open the National Grid public hearing. 4/0 vote. Donald Taggart from National Grid was present to request permission to construct a line of underground electric conduit on Old Stockbridge Road. With no questions from the Board, MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to close the public hearing. 4/0 vote. MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to approve the request as submitted. 4/0 vote.

MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to approve a change of manager on the A/A Hotel License held by Lenox Collection LLC for property located at 16 Church Street d/b/a Church Street Inn to Luigi Iasilli. 4/0 vote.

MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to approve a change of DBA on the A/A Restaurant License held by Brava Bar, LLC for property located at 27 Housatonic Street d/b/a Brava Bar to Ombra. 4/0 vote.

FY24 Budget: The TM informed the Board that the Finance Committee had met on Tuesday evening and that the bulk of their discussion centered around the \$900,000 increase in the school budget, and that they do not want to see the town side of the budget reduced because of this increase. NM stated that he is comfortable with the changes made on the town side to help cover the increase in the school budget request. He is encouraged that the FinCom sees the budget the same way, but he wants to make sure that the real problems at the schools get fixed. DR stated that he wants to see the tax rate stay manageable, and thanked the department heads for keeping their budgets on track. NM suggested that maybe the Board should wait until the new superintendent is hired to do the big ticket items. EL stated that the school department needs to cooperate with the town and be part of the process. MM agreed that it makes sense to wait and see what the new superintendents' thoughts are.

By roll call, DR, MM, NM and EL voted to go into Executive Session at 6:36pm to discuss strategy with respect to ongoing litigation (GE EPA Housatonic Rest of River Permit). NM stated that he would recuse himself from the Executive Session.

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