

Minutes of Meeting – February 15, 2023; meeting called to order at 6:00pm. Present: Dave Roche; Neal Maxymillian; Marybeth Mitts. Absent: Warren Archey; Ed Lane.

MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to approve the Minutes of February 1. 3/0 vote.

Citizens Open Forum: Arthur Oliver stated his frustration with short-term rentals and how it is now causing people who have occupied apartments for many years to suddenly get evicted and have to search for new housing. The Board agreed that policing the number of days that these units are rented is difficult. MM mentioned that hopefully there will be 65 new housing units built within the next 15 months which should help with the tight housing market. Courtney Gilardi questioned when the Board would be sending letters out to the state regarding health issues and cell towers. The Board explained that they are waiting for the Planning Board to complete their letter so that the Town is consistent with their views on the issue. Dan Schenker asked for an update on a noise ordinance. The TM stated that an ordinance had been passed at the Special Town Meeting, but there still needs to be work on this issue. Sonya Bykofsky asked to be placed on a future agenda regarding communication issues. She suggested that all board vacancies be announced rather than only the elected positions. MM stated that she mentions vacancies at meetings all the time, and that there is a form available in several locations for individuals to fill out and submit to the office.

Consent Agenda: DR placed a HOLD on the Chamber's use of Lilac Park for the Jazz Stroll (to amend hours) and for the Solicitation Request. MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to approve a one-day W&M license to Jillian Pastori for 2/25 from 4-11pm at Ventfort Hall; appoint Gabriela Sheehan to the Lenox Cultural Council; allow the Chamber of Commerce to use Lilac Park on 6/10 and 11 from 10-4 for the Spring Art Walk, 9/9 and 10 from 10-4 for the Fall Art Walk, 9/15-17 from 11am-7pm for the Jazz Stroll (hours amended from 12-6pm) and 9/23 from 10-5 for Apple Squeeze; allow the Community Center to use Lilac Park on 4/8 from 10-noon for the Easter Egg Scramble; accept a monetary donation to the community center. 3/0 vote. Xavier Conway came before the Board to explain his request to distribute solar information. DR explained that Lenox as a "no knock" policy and does not grant these requests. MM suggested that Mr. Conway contact Darlene at the Community Center to set up a time to be available for those interested in receiving solar information.

FY24 Water/Sewer Rate Hearing: The Clerk read the ad as it appeared in The Berkshire Eagle. MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to open the public hearing. 3/0 vote. The TM gave an overview as to how the water and sewer enterprise funds are doing. He stated that water is doing great, but that sewer needs to be raised. Therefore, he is recommending no change in water rates (\$8.22) for FY24, but a 13% change in sewer rates (\$14.35) for FY24. Board members agreed that while they don't like to see increases, it does appear to be necessary. In addition, the TM stated that he is recommending that the minimum sewer use charge be increased from \$35 to \$50 and the minimum water use charge be increased from \$35 to \$40. MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to close the public hearing. 3/0 vote. MOTION by MM, seconded by NM to approve the TM recommendations, and to keep the water rate at \$8.22/1000 gals., and to set the sewer rate at \$14.35/1000gals; further, to set the minimum charge for water at \$40 and for sewer at \$50. 3/0 vote.

NM mentioned that there will be a meeting of the public safety committee on March 1, and that bids are due on the Library dome restoration work in two weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

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