

Minutes of Meeting –January 17, 2024; meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Ed Lane; Dave Roche; Neal Maxymillian; Marybeth Mitts; Max Scherff

Announcements from the Chair: EL discussed the Tuesday Jan. 23 meeting at Town Hall with Weston & Sampson the consultant for the Town on the Rest of River Transportation and Disposal plan. Invited the public to join the meeting to learn more to help draft their own comments to EPA regarding the T&D plan.

MOTION to accept the minutes of January 3 by DR, seconded by NM vote 4/0 MS abstained.

Citizen's Open Forum: None

Consent Agenda:

- 2024 Seasonal population increase estimation.
- Donations acceptance request, Lenox Police Department
- One-Day W/M License Request, Canyon Ranch, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 4-10pm
- Authorize Select Board Member Marybeth Mitts to vote at the MMA Business Meeting – HOLD

MM discussed Massachusetts Municipal Association annual conference and the opportunity to vote on two resolutions, at the MMA business meeting. One on the state-local fiscal partnership and the other on climate change & resilience, both very important issues for rural towns like Lenox. NM asked if there is a subset of MMA for small communities since small towns are unfairly limited due to population density. MM discussed that Western Massachusetts Counties including Franklin, Hampden, and Berkshire do meet to address issues facing rural communities including topics linked to the two resolutions in proposed.

MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda as presented by DR, seconded by NM vote 4/0 MS abstained.

TM gave an update regarding the FY2025 Preliminary Budget. State Administration and Finance and House and Senate budget writers have reached a consensus revenue figure of 2% not as much as hoped but does match assumptions around state aid. Hope to hear more at MMA conference about local aid. Berkshire Health Group will vote on rates so that figure will be available soon to incorporate into the final numbers.

MM explained the letter that will be the cover sheet for the CDBG housing rehab grant application that was discussed and the Board voted to approve at the 1/3/2024 meeting of the Select Board. There is a letter that should be signed by the Board to accompany the application to Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. MM read the letter and presented to the Board for signature. There was some more discussion about the program. EL encourage anyone who wants to apply to act quickly as it is first come first served. MM there will be an informational session on Tuesday Feb. 6, for anyone who is looking for information or to apply. There will be paper applications available.

MOTION to sign the letter to the Massachusetts EOHLC for the Community Development Block Grant program seconded by NM vote 5/0

NM might want to have the Permanent Building Committee meet prior to the next BOS meeting to help inform the budget. Also mentions CPC is reviewing applications tomorrow night for spring.

MOTION to adjourn by DR, seconded by NM vote 5/0 6:23pm