

Minutes of Meeting – February 10, 2021; meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Present: Ed Lane; Marybeth Mitts; Dave Roche; Neal Maxymillian. Warren Archey entered meeting at 7:32pm.

MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to approve the Minutes of January 27. 4/0 vote.

Citizens Open Forum: None.

Consent Agenda: MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to accept donations to the Fire Department; accept a donation to the Police Department; grant an Innholders and Entertainment license to Gateways Inn; grant an Innholders and Entertainment license to Cornell Inn; grant an Innholders and Entertainment License to Apple tree Inn. 4/0 vote.

National Grid Public Hearing: A representative from National Grid came before the Board seeking permission to install three SO poles on West Dugway Road in order to provide electric service for a residence. MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to open the public hearing. 4/0 vote. The representative explained why they are seeking permission to install the poles on West Dugway Road, and answered the Boards' questions. MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to close the public hearing. 4/0 vote. MOTION by EL, seconded by DR to approve the petition as presented. 4/0 vote.

Preliminary FY22 budget: The TM stated that his proposed budget is \$29.62M, and that Berkshire Health Group is a zero percent rate increase; we have funded \$6.1M in OPEB toward a \$17M actuarial liability; he is waiting on the School Department for their final budget. He recommended moving forward with this budget so that the FinCom can begin their review process. Both NM and DR stated their concern that the School Department has not submitted their final budget figure. EL stated that he is happy that we will be funding some capital items this year. (WA entered the meeting.)

Marijuana Shop Discussion: Since several Selectmen had received comments from residents regarding a proposed shop at the Cork & Hearth building, this item was placed on the agenda. Several neighbors from Bramble Lane stated their concerns about the proximity of this property to the Lenox beach, traffic concerns, the character of the area and whether the product could be consumed on that property. DR suggested that two selectmen represent the Town at the Town of Lee meetings regarding this mater. Darlene McCauley stated that there has been talk about only allowing residents of Lenox to utilize the beach, but that would require hiring someone to monitor the parking lot.

Chamber Presentation: Jenn Nacht from the Chamber itemized the many events planned over the next year, and why she is seeking an additional \$25,000 from the Town. She stated that this money would be used primarily for an intern and an administrative assistant. She went on to state that during the past 18 months that she has worked for the Chamber, she has paid their outstanding debt of \$70,000 down to \$14,000. EL stated that he would like to see more detail, and a specific plan for the funding. NM stated that he feels it is important to attract young families to move to Lenox, but we are lacking housing. DR stated that he wasn't happy that this request, once again, was at the last minute in the budget process. MM stated that she feels that this request is justified. Jenn was asked to redo the budget request so that it is more similar to the Town budget forms.

New Business/Liaison Reports: EL stated that there is a Permanent Building Committee meeting on Thursday night to discuss the Library dome. NM stated that if anyone has concerns regarding the Cork & Hearth proposal, they should reach out to Darlene at the Community Center. MM stated that the BRTA has a new contract that may impinge upon the routes in Town, and that there is a survey on line regarding routes for people to complete.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

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