

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MARCH 2ND, 2015 at 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairman Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Chair Thomas E. Buckley, III, Vice-Chair Dianna Provencher, 2nd Vice-Chair Matthew Dennison, Selectwoman Sandra Wilson and Town Administrator Kevin Mizikar were in attendance. Selectmen Belanger was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment.

1. SCHEDULED

A. Sergeant Promotions Pinning Ceremony – Michael Fontaine and Alexander Samia

Mr. Mizikar noted that the Board voted to promote Officers Fontaine and Samia to the position of sergeant. Sergeant Doray noted that Officer Fontaine was hired in 2004 and works as a DARE and field training officer. Officer Fontaine was pinned by his wife Callie. Officer Samia was hired in 2002 and has represented the LPD on the Massachusetts SWAT team in addition to being a firearms instruction, field training officer and a sexual assault investigator. Officer Samia was pinned by his wife Jaime. Both officers were sworn in by the Town Clerk. Chief Hurley could not attend due to a prior engagement but sent his congratulations to both new sergeants and their families. Chief Hurley recognized their years of service to the Town of Leicester and their performance during the promotion process.

B. Recognition of Police Academy Graduates – James Murphy and Michael Lombardozzi

Sergeant Antanavica spoke about the LPD's two latest Police Academy graduates, James Murphy and Michael Lombardozzi. Both attended the State Police Municipal Academy #5 which included over 80 miles of running, 21 weeks of physical training including boxing and MMA, firearms training, over 75 scenario trainings, water rescue, etc.. The Academy typically went from 6:45am-5:00pm during the day with evening and weekend classes. Graduation date was February 13th, 2015. Chief Hurley sent his congratulations on completing the most challenging municipal academy in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, thanked the officers for their commitment to the law enforcement profession and stated they earned the right to serve their community. Mr. Mizikar extended his gratitude for the graduates' courage, discipline and commitment to long hours and looks forward to working with them in the future. The Board also offered their congratulations and thanked everyone for attending the ceremony.

C. Underground Utility Hearing – National Grid (continued from 2/23/15)

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to continue the National Grid hearing to 3/16/15. The motion carried unanimously.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

-None-

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment – Special Municipal Employee Positions

Mr. Mizikar noted that individuals were appointed to EMS positions as special municipal employees several years ago as opposed to designating the positions themselves as special municipal employee positions which is incorrect. A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to designate the positions of

EMS Basic, EMS Paramedic and EMS director as special municipal employee positions. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Buckley asked if the individuals needed to be reappointed to the positions. Mr. Mizikar responded in the negative.

B. Appointment – Health Insurance Advisory Committee

Mr. Mizikar asked that the Board appoint members to the Health Insurance Advisory Committee through June 30th, 2015 to put these appointments on track with the regular annual board/committee appointments. A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison to appoint the following individuals to the Health Insurance Advisory Committee effective March 2, 2015 through June 30, 2015:

- Tim Hickey, Non-Union Employees
- Robert Provost, Highway
- Steve Zecco, Police
- Billy Sylvester, Custodians
- Darlene Day, Food Services Union
- Kelley Southwick, Teachers
- Diane Moffet, Nurses
- Judy Ivel, Retirees

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Right of First Refusal – Mulberry Street (Kettlebrook Construction) M14, A4.2, A4.3

Mr. Mizikar presented a second request to sell Chapter 61 forest lands along Mulberry Street as part of a proposed solar development. The Town has the right of first refusal to buy the land but must match the offer. Mr. Mizikar conferred with Town Departments and Commissions and no one saw the need for the Town to acquire this land. Mr. Mizikar recommended the Town not exercise its right of first refusal.

A motion was made by Mr. Dennison and seconded by Ms. Wilson to waive the Board's right of first refusal to purchase forest land located on Mulberry Street, Parcel M14, A4.2, A4.3. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Reserve Fund transfer request – Veterans Services

Mr. Mizikar presented a request to increase the veterans services line item by \$7,000 to get to Town meeting, at which time an additional \$5,000 will be requested to finish out the fiscal year from another line item in the operating budget. This will fund services to new veterans who have qualified for services under Chapter 115. A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the reserve fund transfer request in the amount of \$7,000 for veterans services. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Buckley asked if this request goes to the Finance Committee next. Mr. Mizikar responded in the affirmative.

E. Vehicle Licenses – Stafford Auto Body

Mr. Mizikar presented a request from Stafford Auto Body to renew their FY'15 licenses late. The deadline for renewal was December 15th, 2015 and 3 letters were sent to the business, the last of which stated the licenses could be forfeited. Mr. Dennison asked if all departments signed off on this request. Mr. Mizikar stated he did not put the business through the full application process as they are an existing business and their information has not changed but the Board has the right to deny their request and require the business to start over as a new application for each of their 3 vehicle licenses (Class II, Auto Body and Motor Vehicle Repair).

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to approve the renewal of Stafford Auto Body's Class II, Auto Body and Motor Vehicle Repair licenses and to send a letter notifying the business that a late renewal next year will result in the forfeiture of licenses and a new application process. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Emergency Police Officers

Chief Hurley requested a second extension of the emergency appointment of Curtis Sampson to augment current staffing levels since one officer is still in the academy. The extension would be for a 60 day period and the officer can only work 30 days in that period. A motion was made by Mr. Dennison and seconded by Ms. Provencher to reappoint Curtis Sampson to the position of emergency police officer for an additional 60 days. The motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

A. Snow and Ice Update

The snow and ice budget is running a \$154,893.47 deficit over its original budget of \$97,500. In FY 2014, the snow and ice budget was slightly less and ran a total of \$123,000 in deficit. The Town is using materials as wisely as possible including bringing on contractors slowly and taking them off the roads as quickly as possible. The Board expressed their gratitude to Tom Wood and the Highway Department for a job well done.

B. FY'16 Budget

No updates at this time.

5. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Mizikar presented highlights from his Town Administrator report including:

- Negotiations with the dispatcher union for a contract to be in place until the regional dispatch center is open
- Ambulance accident during the blizzard was a total loss; a used replacement will likely be purchased
- 6 responses to the Fire Station OPM were received
- MEMA has requested that Worcester County and points east be considered a major disaster area due to the storms from 1/26/15-2/22/15. If approved, up to 75% of snow cleanup costs could be reimbursed.
- The Town received a MIIA grant in the amount of \$4,000 for safety equipment.

Ms. Wilson asked about public health clinics in Town hosted by the regional health alliance and expressed concern that there aren't as many being held as before the Town joined the alliance. Mr. Mizikar said clinics are happening and the Town will do a better job of communicating along with reaching out to the alliance for an update.

6. BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS

Ms. Wilson noted the recycling center is starting its 25th year. It was the 3rd recycling center to open in the state, is self-funded and returns money to the Town. Ms. Wilson asked that this be acknowledged at Town meeting. The Board expressed their gratitude for all the hard work done by Ruth Kaminski who is a volunteer.

Mr. Dennison congratulated the sergeants and police officers on their new positions.

Ms. Provencher noted the recycling center has good books and great conversations and people should go check it out.

Mr. Buckley noted that today is Dr. Seuss's birthday and the primary school celebrated by reading Dr. Seuss books. Mr. Buckley also reminded all residents of daylight savings Sunday morning.

7. MINUTES

-None-

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to enter into executive session at 7:27pm under exception #4 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and reconvene only for the purpose of adjournment. Mr. Buckley declared that to discuss these matters in open session would compromise the position of the Town.

Vote by Roll Call:

Buckley – Aye

Provencher - Aye

Dennison – Aye

Wilson – Aye

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher at 7:50pm. The motion carried unanimously.