

**Board of Selectmen  
July 6, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairman Elaine Puleo, Al Springer, and J. April Stein

**Also present:** Town Administrator Rebecca Torres and Administrative Secretary Leslie Bracebridge

**Meeting opened at 6:35 PM**

Appointments

**In the presence of Police Chief Harding:**

- Privacy constraints around calling seniors to check on well-being during the heat wave.
- **Use of Connect CTY** to suggest heat wave self-care methods and to check on neighbors?
  - Will the public consider that over-use of Connect CTY and start hanging up?
  - Will the Internet be up or down tomorrow?
  - Is there town specific information that we can offer that people cannot get elsewhere?
  - There should be a notice in the next *Our Town* that neighbors need to check on their elderly and shut-in neighbors as TRIAD services have been cut significantly.
  - When the Police Department gets calls from out-of-town relatives to make well-being checks on their elderly relatives they do.
  - Use of Town Hall as an official emergency cooling center requires air-conditioned space and proper management, neither of which are available.
  - People should know that they can always call the Police Department for follow-up.
- The **Fourth of July** was very quiet in town; the Police Department received no complaints.
- There have been **parking overflows from the state beach**, so people are using Locks Pond Road and Lake Wyola Association roads to park. Because the Association roads are private roads the Association needs to develop its own signage and make its own calls for tows.
- The Police Department has experienced website and email interruptions due to Internet and server problems.
- Town Counsel will be used for advice as needed.
- April will meet with the Chief on Friday.
- On July 20 there will be a 24-hour Highway Safety program. There is still no grant money.
- Every ticket has a race box for research into racial profiling.

Topics

**1. End of Fiscal Year**

- a. The region has not sent a final FY 10 transportation invoice.
- b. Unemployment totals remain unknown.
- c. Free cash has been bolstered by \$55,000 by the payment for the 5 Haskins Road house.
- d. There are under spent accounts, a few carry-forwards and few overspent accounts.
- e. The intermittent functioning Internet has caused difficulties for the financial departments in this end of fiscal year period.
- f. Cherry sheet figures are available but have not yet been signed by the Governor. It is hoped that federal funds will still come through to offset the 4% decrease in aid to cities and towns..

**2. Fire Station gasoline spill update, NOI Thursday 7/8. :**

- a. Becky will send soil test results to Ben Fish as soon as she gets them. Samples are expected to be in the mid-range. – 400's. Bids close on the 13<sup>th</sup> for the digging.
- b. There will be second Conservation Commission site visit on Thursday, July 8 at 6:30 PM for the Notice of Intent hearing at 7:30 PM.

### 3. **Update on solar panels:**

- a. The installed solar panels were hooked up and confusion cleared up regarding whether or not a “net-zero” meter was already saving the town money.
- b. Becky is looking at a shut-off switch at the base of the poles for safety for fire fighters.
  - i. Roof systems are more critical for fire safety. This causes second thoughts for solar panels on the roof of the new library.
  - ii. Becky has consulted with Fire Chief Tibbetts who has been getting training regarding solar panels and is training members of his department.
  - iii. The roof panels at the school are much smaller and not a safety concern.
- c. The other two panels for behind town hall are coming in mid-July.

### 4. **4-Town meeting update – next steps:**

- a. Selectmen discussed without conclusion the table arrangement of the June 29 Regional Study Committee meeting and the use of Internet blogs by members of School Committee members in the Amherst-Pelham region.
- b. Pelham is modeling a study committee after Shutesbury’s Education Study Committee.
  - i. Selectmen hope that Leverett will also form a similar study committee.
  - ii. Elaine spoke with acting Superintendent Maria Geryk about study committees.
  - iii. Are problems real and options viable as suggested by some of Amherst School Committee members?
  - iv. Amherst school committee members need to look closer at what their concerns are.
  - v. Further communication is needed.
  - vi. Changes in Union membership now requires only a vote of the School Committee.
- c. Selectmen agree that more work needs to be done.

5. **Vacation** times were discussed.

6. **Selectmen will meet with the Finance Committee on July 13 at 7 PM.**

7. **A letter** concerning passenger railroad improvements on the east side of the Connecticut River was not available for Select Board review.

### Select Board Actions

1. **Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the minutes of June 22, and 28, 2010 as written.**
2. **Selectmen unanimously voted to approve a Blackboard Connect CTY contract for one year from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in the amount of \$2,000.**
3. **Selectmen signed FY 10 vendor warrants totaling \$101,361.73 and FY 11 vendor warrants totaling \$90,668.**
4. **Selectmen signed payroll warrants totaling \$73,871.32.**

### New Topics

1. The **septic system for the new library** will be 4 to 5 feet high and the size of a football field.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Bracebridge  
Administrative Secretary