

**Select Board
Minutes
April 14, 2015**

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm

Present: Rich, Peter, Julie, Margie, and Lisa David Detmold, Mont. Reporter, Denzel H., Jo Ann M.

Fire Chief update

John Ingram and Stewart Olson came in to meet with the board and give an update on the transition to the new chief. John presented a report titled "Report for the First 73 Days." The department responded to 48 calls since John Ingram took over including a barn fire at Roberta Bryant's, a sprinkler malfunction at the Elementary School, and a car fire. John is having department members fitted for uniforms so they are official when they attend meetings and classes. The officers are having meetings about the department. John is in the process of getting a new computer and web-based reporting system. He has met with the Capital Planning Committee about replacing the rescue truck. John, along with a Leverett contingent met with the Town of Amherst to see what Amherst could do to assist Leverett. The departments will continue to work together. Two members from the Fire Department Study Committee met with John to review their recommendations. The force is up to 15 members. John stated that he is impressed with the level of expertise and commitment of the Leverett Dept. Peter read a letter of thanks from a member of the community to the Fire Dept. after a recent incident.

Business:

Motion: To appoint Denzel Hankinson, Tom Powers, and Peter d'Ericco to the Leverett Municipal Light Plant for 6, 4, and 2 year terms respectively. At term of expiration each member will be appointed for 6 year terms. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

Peter reported that the FTTH will be substantially complete by June 30 and complete by Aug. 1. About 90 homes are connected and are "testing" the system.

The minutes of March 24 and April 4 were approved as written.

Motion: To appoint Judy Weinthal to the Affordable Housing Trust. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

The location of the budget on the ATM warrant was discussed. It was agreed to keep it at the beginning of Town Meeting.

The Code Hearing to change the Tree Warden and Asst. Moderator from elected to appointed was opened at 8:00 pm. There were no questions from the public at this time. Margie and Lisa did discuss the process of changing the positions to elected, which requires a town meeting vote this year and a ballot question next year.

Margie told the board that Mayor's for Peace will begin charging 2,000 yen (\$16.70/year) for membership. The board agreed to pay out of Select Board expenses.

Margie read a letter from the Town of Wendell concerning the FRTA. The board agreed that Roy Kimmel could sign the letter on their behalf.

Margie read the Energy Committee's proposed CTY message and all agreed it should go into the upcoming Newsletter instead.

Thank you's, the ATM warrant and the EMPG grant closeout docs. were signed.

The mail was read.

Petition Discussion

The board had invited Bill Stewart to their meeting to discuss a petition he submitted to Town Meeting urging a proposition 2 ½ override instead of the 3.5% reduction in budgets that was part of this year's budgeting process. Bill could not attend but David Powicki, Stacey Lennard, and Isaiah Robison, all who signed the petition, came.

Peter read the petition and suggested that it was a confused petition. It was drafted to Town Meeting but he explained that the Select Board is the only body who can order a prop. 2 ½ override election. The board went on to explain that the reductions they requested were for a one-time event (potential abatements) and that they met with department heads who stated that for one year they could run their department's effectively. An override would raise the taxes permanently. Additionally, the board stated that the budget process began in the fall and has continued since then and been advertised in the Newsletter with various hearings and that at the eleventh hour the petition was not appreciated. They went on to advise how to influence the discussion/decision in a more effective and timely manner for next year should they want to push for an override then.

The board read a question from Dee Ann about retiree health insurance to see if someone cancels insurance if they can get back on Board read the policy and agreed that it says no, one must be an active employee to get health insurance.

Board reviewed the draft letter to folks who wrote letters with their Transfer Station surveys and made changes. Agreed to put it into the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned: 9:50 pm

Minutes taken by Lisa Stratford