

**Select Board
Minutes
September 21, 2015**

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm

Present: Peter D., Julie S., Tom H., Margie M., Lisa S.
Tia Fataruso: Montague Reporter
Terry Allen

Regionalization

Kip Fonsh presented the board with a draft of the Regionalization Agreement. The Agreement is for a pre-K-12 region with a School Committee of seven members. The attorney, Ginny Tate, hired to review the document had some concerns which Kip highlighted for the board. These included the school closure process, the change in the use of school building section, the date concerning the acceptance of new students.

The Regionalization Committee will hold initial forums in each town during October. From January to February the school committees will review a final draft and suggest changes. By March 1 the final draft will be distributed to the four communities for review; from March-May forums will occur in towns again. Kip pointed out that there are political views that may stall the process and the timeframe is already tight. Leverett's forum is set for Oct. 21.

Interviews:

The board interviewed Deb Dunphy and Jason Noschese for the position of Treasurer/Collector. Deb Dunphy has worked in the Northampton Collector's Office. She has more experience in the Collector's role rather than the Treasurer's role. She is used to using Munis software. Her experience in payroll, HR, and budgeting is limited. She was willing to be flexible in her hours at the Town Hall and said that she loves dealing with the public.

Jason Noschese has worked with Dee Ann for 11 years. He wrote the software she uses and updates it for her. He has worked for the Town of Warwick and Ware as the Treasurer/Collector. He has experience with bonding and borrowing. He asked the Select Board about policies for CPA funds and the Capital Planning Committee. He suggested working Thurs, Fri, and Sat.

After the interviews the Select Board agreed that Jason's experience is invaluable and necessary for the Town's needs and that he seemed extremely competent. **Motion: To hire Jason Noschese subject to his ability to be bonded and positive reference checks. Vote: 3-0 in favor.**

Business:

The minutes of September 8 were approved as written.

The Select Board, in light of the Oberprillar's letter to the Planning Board about a solar array, wanted to go on record stating that they support a change in the Zoning Bylaws that would make the installation of small scale ground-mounted solar less cumbersome.

Motion: To hold a Special Town Meeting on October 27. Vote: 3-0 in favor. Due to the fact that the abatement issue with the Kittredge property has still not been resolved the town will need to raise and appropriate the funds set aside for that abatement should it not be resolved in the town's favor.

Additionally, the Well Committee would like to address the possibility of appropriating engineering funds for an extension to the Amherst water line on Amherst Rd. The board asked Margie to send a message to the committee requesting that they meet before Town Meeting to come up with a solid preference for a warrant article.

John Kuczek told Margie that the company that is monitoring the water at the school is doing it for \$50/month which is a good deal. He will not bother renewing his water license. This led to a general question about what ECS is charging for monitoring. Margie reminded the board that there are many wells and households associated with the ECS account but that perhaps the Well Committee could look into other modes of monitoring.

The Records Retention Policy regarding email that the board read since the last meeting was discussed. They agreed that the document had flaws and was cumbersome but also agreed that a town email where all emails generated by town officials, boards, and committees would cc to and would be archived would be a good start. Simplicity of use is critical to cooperation. Tom offered to look into gmail for their archiving ability and report back to the board.

Margie read a letter from the Board of Health to the Housing Court updating them on the positive changes being made at the Montague Rd. apartments. Board had no changes.

The board agreed to grant permission to WolfTree to use the Bill Rivers Conservation area. They will provide proof of insurance.

Lisa will call Heather Hutchinson to see if she is still interested in being on the FRPB.

The board would like to pursue a CPC application for the historic old highway garage. Margie will look at the file Will gave her on the building.

The board reviewed a request for a support letter for an additional legacy project on Cowls land and a note from David Powicki requesting that the board not support the project without a promise of marked trails on the land. Board agreed and Margie will ask David to draft a letter.

Tom reported on the Franklin County Selectman's Association meeting he went to. Speakers addressed the difficulty of doing business in the valley due to permitting and regulations.

The mail was read.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 pm
Minutes taken by Lisa Stratford