**Board of Selectmen Amended Meeting Minutes**

**Rhodes Building, 9/6/2017, 7:00pm**

**Present:** Selectman Martell and Ribeiro, Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant-Susannah Carey, Police Chief Thomann, Robert Thrasher, Courtney Stutz, Burt Franzman, Joan Epstein, Julie Rypysc, Town Clerk-Kathy Martell and Fred Vanderbeck.

**Absent**: Selectman Pearson

**Open:** Selectman Martell opened meeting at 7:00pm.

**New Police Officers-Chief Thomann**

Chief of Police presented Robert Thrasher to fill part-time position open. Recently retired from UMASS PD, he will fill day shifts and help with training. He grew up in Pelham.

Courtney Stutz will fill the auxiliary position open. She is currently at Police Academy. Opportunity to give Courtney a chance to see if she wants to pursue career in Law Enforcement.

Motion to accept Robert Thrasher as part-time officer and Courtney Stutz as Auxiliary Officer, seconded by Selectman Martell, motion passes.

**Request from Historical Society for Harvest Supper 10/14/2017 at 6:30pm**

Event held every year that is approved by SelectBoard. Motion to allow Historical Society to hold Harvest Supper on 10/14/17 in Old Town Hall, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, motion passes.

**Minutes 8/16/2017**

Motion to accept minutes as amended for 8/16/2017, seconded by Selectman Ribeiro, motion passes.

**Public Comment**

2 households present from 133 & 135 Shutesbury Road, who represent the 4% that are not part of the Comcast buildout; Joan Epstein, Burt Franzman, and Julie Rypysc. Discussion if the Town could have the current contract adjusted to include their homes in the buildout, or if the Town could help them financially, since there is a large price tag to receive service from Shutesbury’s new system being created. Since they are eligible, residents received a letter from the Town of Shutesbury looking for commitment to their new service, which requires a non-refundable payment by October. Poles do not extend out to their houses currently along Shutesbury Road. Both households receive their electricity and telephone lines from Shutesbury. Question if funds from Comcast checks received by Town can be used to help residents in this case. No, the money is to be used for Technology upgrades for the Town and School only as specified by Comcast; Cable Franchise Fee account.

Suggestion from Selectman Ribeiro to look into wireless cable through Verizon, more information available at store with regards to price and signal. Select Board will coordinate a meeting with Cable Committee, the Town’s representative from Comcast, Eileen Leahy, and with the 2 households for follow-up discussion.

**Town Officials**

Town Clerk, Kathy Martell, would like to address the past discussions the Board of Selectmen had with the previous Collector/Treasurer regarding complaints towards her. Selectman Ribeiro stated the Board of Selectmen had invited Kathy to meet with the Board for discussion but nothing was ever planned. Kathy will bring a response to the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting on 9/18/17.

The website is in the design phase and there is a mock-up version for the Board of Selectmen to view.

Laserfiche Avante program for Records Digitization will likely be installed in October 2017. Right now, town office is checking with Tech 1 Computers to see if our operating systems are compatible with the new software.

Kathy is currently working with the new Boards & Committees program and continues to input our current data for the Town.

**Liaison Reports**

Town Offices; Selectman Martell; Report read from Edna Holloway, Interim Collector/Treasurer, with latest update on what she has been working on so far.

Highway; Selectman Martell; nothing new.

Fire; Selectman Martell; everything ok.

Police; Selectman Martell; everything fine.

Energy Committee; Selectman Ribeiro; meeting 9/7/17, new members John Larsen & Tony Rogers.

Finance Committee; Selectman Martell; will meet 9/18/17 and in December.

Library; Selectman Ribeiro; Diane Steingart reception; piano concert next week; children’s program to begin 9/25/17; new website is now live.

Elementary School; Selectman Ribeiro; School Committee report on budget shortfall from Sean Mangano with official vote on 9/12/17 with change in budget figures; Principal budgeted for 55 choice kids and have 52, total enrollment is 127 at Elementary School; Mike Morris writing grant to offset school choice/charter school expenses with help from Senator Rosenberg who recommended applying for Commonwealth Community Compact grant with State, which would be applicable to FY19 School year; Survey on charter schools returned and will combine results with Amherst since only 4 (4 from Pelham were too easily identifiable); New guidance counselor at Elementary School-Lamar Baptiste; Announcement in Pelham Slate for opening on School Committee; Money donated to 3rd and 4th grade classrooms from Modestow family; Ron Bohonowitz, Facilities Director, retiring & updated capital plan coming soon.

Regional School; Selectman Ribeiro; Emily Marriott will keep Selectman Ribeiro posted on the meeting that was this evening at 6:30pm.

**Old Business**

Board would like to set the Open Meeting Law session in Pelham for all Board/Committees in town for those who would like to attend, held in Ramsdell room. Recent bill from KP Law showed a $315.00 charge for phone calls from a Pelham Select Board member. Susannah Carey will contact KP Law to schedule.

Minutes from January 11, 2016 joint budget meeting between Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen was discussed regarding deficit on Accountants books. Warrant article for School to receive Chrome books was for $8,000.00, passed at Spring Town Meeting, but the School overspent by $1200.00. Motion to transfer $1200.00 for payments of computers and balance the books for FY17, seconded by Selectman Martell, motion passes.

SonicWall quote for new unit from July 2017. Susannah Carey thought Selectman Pearson was in favor of this price after checking with her contact, but Alisa was not present to discuss. Motion by Selectman Ribeiro to approve the purchase of the new SonicWall equipment as long as the unit will remain current and not need any upgrades by end of the month and the price be kept the same, seconded by Selectman Martell, motion passes.

Selectman Ribeiro stated at the last Board of Selectmen’s meeting she agreed with John Trickey to look into sharing a Collector position with Town of Amherst, but she wasn’t thinking of the impact on those residents who pay their taxes in person who would have to change and go into Amherst to do so if that was the case. John Trickey was thinking of keeping the position under 20 hours so as to not have benefits expense. Tabled until next Finance Committee meeting. If Amherst can do position for less than $26k budgeted then it would work.

**New Business**

Fall Town Meeting is October 16, 2017 at 7pm in Old Town Hall. Community Center bids due 10/11/17 at 2pm. Select Board will post meeting for 10/16/17 at 7:30pm to award the bid after warrant article has been addressed.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Martell, motion passes at 8:28pm.

**Documents Examined**

Minutes 8/16/2017, Resume-Robert Thrasher, Sonic Wall quote from Tech 1 Computers.

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Carey