**Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes**

**11/14/2016, 6:00pm, Rhodes Building**

**Present:** Select Board members Alisa Pearson, Bill Martell, and Jim Doubleday, Lexi Dewey-Executive Director of Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee, Town Clerk-Kathy Martell, Finance Committee members Fred Vanderbeck and John Trickey, IT Committee Chairman-Rusty Rowell, and Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant-Susannah Carey.

**Open:** Selectman Doubleday opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

**Discussion/Action Items**-none.

**Town Officials**-none.

**Public Comment**

Lexi Dewey is the Executive Director of the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee in Belchertown, which also holds a seat on the Drought Task Force in Boston. Lexi lives in town and would like to speak about the drought in our area. Lexi passed out the NOAA October 2016 Hydrological Report and commented on the ongoing drought and rain deficit. This is the 7th driest October in 68 years. In the report (pg 7) there is a list of what cities/towns can do during drought conditions. Information about the drought was printed in the recent Slate publication that was sent to Pelham residents informing private/public water users to conserve as we are all using the same water table. Several towns in Massachusetts were very disorganized when it was time to impose water bans. Towns surrounding Pelham have drought plans, like Amherst, but they are mostly outdated. Since there are no public billboards in our area, Lexi would like to create public messaging to better educate residents. Pelham recently worked on the Hazard Mitigation Plan, but drought was not included. Lexi asked if Lead Testing was done in the Elementary School, and both the Library and School were recently tested. The drought has cities/towns updating their plans for the future and Lexi encourages the Board of Selectmen to send in ideas/questions that arise to her and she will forward them accordingly.

Rusty Rowell, IT Committee Chairman, updated the Board of Selectmen on what the Committee was doing currently with the website and information they were researching. The Committee has talked with the Town of Amherst IT group and is looking for what the best fit for Pelham may be. Two programs of interest are Civic Plus, which Amherst currently uses, and another program mentioned was Open Ledger. Rusty said one possible scenario for Pelham would be that our IT Committee acts as advisers while the Town of Amherst would be the server provider. That server connection could potentially be used directly from our Town Offices, which seems like an inexpensive way to have network connectivity. Rusty will return on November 28, 2016 to discuss further.

**Liaison Reports**-tabled until next meeting.

**Old Business**

Contract between Robert Groves and the Town of Amherst has come back. Dana MacDonald, Conservation Commission, has given the green light to sign and return the contract to Pete Westover.

**New Business**

On a motion by Selectman Martell to extend the probationary period for Nancy Grossman through November 29, 2016, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to extend the Executive Session for Nancy Grossman’s Performance Review to November 28, 2016, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Martell, unanimously approved at 6:50pm.

**Documents Reviewed**

NOAA October 2016 Hydrological Report, Groves and Town of Amherst Contract.

Respectfully submitted, Susannah Carey