**Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes** **August 24, 2015** **Memorial Hall 7:00 pm**

**Call to Order**: Bob Manners called the meeting to order. Other members present: Andrew Baker and Joe Judd. Also present, Maryellen Cranston, interim Town Administrator, and Finance Committee Members, Leo Ojala, John Rees, and John Payne.

**Media Present:** The Greenfield Recorder.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Acceptance of minutes tabled until the next meeting.

**Noteworthy News:**

Note next meeting date Sept. 10, 2015 due to conflict with Labor Day holiday.

**Department Liaison Reports:**

**Police:** Joe reported he has been in discussion with the police chief regarding vehicles making potentially dangerous U-turns in the downtown village. They are working on a solution to the problem.

**Highway Dept.:** Bob reported the department is continuing the process of grading and paving a number of roads. Also, dept. employees will be training and becoming licensed to use equipment that is used to mow/clear areas on the other side of highway guardrails.

**Pratt Memorial Building Committee:** Bob said they are still looking for ideas regarding what to place in the time capsule that will be placed under the library dome as the roof work is completed. Bob said either he or Librarian Laurie Wheeler can be contacted with ideas of what reflects Shelburne in 2015.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Appointments:**

**7:15 – MTRSD Building Sub-committee (for BSE), Buckland Select Board/Finance Committee, Shelburne Finance Committee, Buckland/Shelburne Capital Project Committee:** All of the attending groups/members, (20+) engaged in a lengthy conversation regarding potential repairs needed at BSE. The proposal from the building sub-committee failed at the 2015 Town Meeting. Also attending were George Dole and Christian Whitsett of Jones Whitsett Architects who recently provided a new report regarding potential repairs following a walk-through at the school which was attended by various boards, committee members, and interested parties. Building inspector Jim Hawkins reported the building needs certain repairs but he does not deem it unsafe or in need of closure.

A previous report by Potomac Capital given to the building sub-committee noted estimated repairs of over $800,000. The new report noted repairs needed at approximately $100,000 – which was broken down into high, medium, and low priorities. Select board members stated they wanted to work in cooperation with all involved and work on a clear and transparent report to be able to present to town residents at the next Town Meeting. Many attending stated they had come to listen and come to an understanding of the board’s position/thoughts on the building project and how they will proceed from here. Buckland Finance Committee member Paula Consolo questioned if any repairs could be made prior to Town Meeting. Julia Aron, Chairperson of the building sub-committee stated the committee had created a 15-year plan based on the Potomac report with three, 5-year units addressing the repairs expected to be needed. Julia said the $800,000 figure was an estimate to create a working base to plan.

Following commentary from Shelburne finance committee members the board determined the conversation would continue and the sub-committee needed to develop their plan further. John Payne said he would like to see at least three bids for projects for example.

Bob and Joe noted the town has functioned as a “pay-as-you-go” town for at least 20 years and they prefer not to borrow for projects.

Bob said the children’s safety is the first and foremost concern of the board. Board members said they looked to moving forward and reaching a middle ground.

**Old Business:**

**Tennessee Gas Pipeline Discussion (Committee):** Following a discussion regarding apparent public opinion and board members concerns regarding the pipeline project, Joe made a motion to accept the recommendations of the pipeline committee to formally oppose the Tennessee Gas Pipeline and to cooperate regionally with other towns that are also in opposition of the pipeline. Andrew seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The board asked Maryellen to create a letter noting the formal opposition and to CC Gov. Baker.

**MIIA Rewards Grant:** The board is still reviewing ideas and options and will continue the discussion at the next board meeting.

**Disclosure by Non-elected Municipal Employee of Financial Interest and Determination by Appointing Authority:** At issue was the possible conflict of interest of a non-voting planning board member (Liz Kidder) in relation to her personal operation of an Air B&B. No violation was noted by Ethics authorities. Joe moved to make note of no ethical violations or conflict of interest taking place in relation to Liz Kidder’s positon on the Planning Board and the operation of her business. Andrew seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Van Driver Position at the Senior Center:** Andrew made a motion for Sr. Center Director to hire Eric Temple at a rate of $12.50 per hour contingent on required screening, training, and resolution of possible ethics questions. Joe seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Electricity Net Metering Credits:** The board discussed possible options of using solar net metering credits for the town to save money following a proposal from a solar farm in Hatfield. The board would like to explore further and look at more options and possible sources for net credits.

**Appointment of New Reserve Officer:** The board noted the recommendation of the Chief to hire Brandon Lopez as a Police Reserve Officer. Andrew noted his hiring does not affect the police budget and will provide more options for the dept. The board will meet with Brandon at the next meeting.

**Any Other Business:**

None.

**Correspondence:**

**Board of Agriculture Resignation:** Joe made a motion to accept with regret Kim Stevens’s resignation from the Board of Agriculture. Andrew seconded the motion which carried unanimously

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** Joe presented a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Andrew seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cris Carl