

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2015 – 9:00 AM

On October 26, 2015, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 9:00 AM at the Town Office Building in Lakeville. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burke at 9:03 AM. Selectmen present were: Selectman Burke, Selectman Powderly and Selectman Hollenbeck. Also present were: Rita Garbitt, Town Administrator and Tracie Craig, Executive Assistant. LakeCAM was recording for broadcast.

Request for appointment of Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic

Chairman Burke read the appointment request from Fire Chief Daniel Hopkins for the appointment of John Pytel as a Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Hollenbeck; seconded by Selectman Powderly it was:

VOTED: To appoint John Pytel as a Full Time Firefighter/Paramedic, effective November 3, 2015, contingent upon a one (1) year probationary period effective from the date of appointment.
Unanimous in favor.

New Business

Selectman Powderly asked if the Selectmen's meeting on December 9th could be changed. The suggested date was December 2nd. Ms. Garbitt will check with the Assessors to see if they will be ready to set the tax rate.

Selectman Powderly said that he read in the newspaper that Freetown was appropriating a shortfall in the School budget, which could be a bit of an adjustment catchup. Selectman Powderly asked about the Capital Planning Committee for the Region. Selectman Hollenbeck will check on the status of that committee.

Ms. Garbitt said that New Growth came in over \$300,000. It will make up the shortfall on the 40S money. She still has not heard about the final supplemental budget from the Senate.

Selectman Powderly said we had done a minor amount of work on the tax delinquent Lakeville properties. We ran a recent list, dated October 20th and we should put together a committee where we have the Building Commissioner, Treasurer/Collector, someone from the Assessors' Office and perhaps Ms. Garbitt to visit the properties to decide what we should do. Some of these are vacant land under water; others we should foreclose on. There is a significant amount of money owed. Chairman Burke said the Board had spoken to the Assessors regarding some of the land parcels that have no value and why was it being valued. They were looking at valuing these parcels at either \$1 or one (1) cent so that we are looking at a more accurate number for values. He thought this is a wonderful idea. He has spoken to Ms. Kenney about how we need to enforce this. We need to be on people to pay, and if they can't pay, we need to take action to recover that money. Selectman Hollenbeck said should we talk to the Assessors

about it at the tax rate meeting. Selectman Powderly said we can do that or one of us can begin visiting the top ten (10) properties on the list. There are 23 residents or businesses that owe approximately \$1 million. Selectman Hollenbeck asked that pictures be included with a report. Selectman Hollenbeck said that impacts the tax rate because the total assessed values of the Town should be reduced. Ms. Garbitt said RRG will be able to help with those questions.

Selectman Powderly said he would like to be on the committee. Now that Ms. Kenney has help in her Department, we can work on this. Ms. Garbitt said probably 25% of these properties have been in Land Court for years and are small lots. Selectman Powderly said the top ten (10) we looked at were not necessarily like that. Ms. Garbitt said Ms. Kenney wants to hold auctions because she has people interested in purchasing some of the properties. Selectman Powderly said he doesn't want to confuse those properties with the top ten (10). Selectman Hollenbeck said if she has some that are ready to go, it shouldn't hold these up. Ms. Garbitt said Ms. Kenney would like the Selectmen to say go ahead. Chairman Burke said she doesn't need permission from us. Selectman Powderly said the Building Commissioner might say this is a buildable lot, and he doesn't want to sell it for \$3,000 to a neighbor. If we can market something as a buildable lot, that makes a difference. He would like to start this right away.

Chairman Burke said we only keep the tax money that we are owed. Ms. Garbitt said anything over the opening bid usually goes back to the previous owner. The opening bid is typically taxes, legal fees and anything else owed to the Town. Chairman Burke said we don't get to keep the excess monies, so we don't care what it sells for. Ms. Garbitt said if you can say it is a buildable lot, we can gain interest from the public. Selectman Powderly said there is a property that was a fabulous lot, but the house was torn down and the foundation was gone, so it is now unbuildable. He would give a report back to the Selectmen about the top ten (10) properties.

Selectman Hollenbeck asked when the Assessors come in, will we have property valuations before then? She had questions about that last year. There is a lot of property on the list that is owned by Taunton and Lakeville.

Adjournment

At 9:17 AM, upon a motion made by Selectman Powderly; seconded by Selectman Hollenbeck it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Selectmen's Meeting.
Unanimous in favor.