

Town of Brimfield  
Board of Selectmen  
Town Hall, 21 Main Street  
Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2018

Present: Chair; Michael Miller, Vice Chair; Harold Leaming, member; Paul McCarthy, member; Paul Vandal, member; Michele-Lee Shea.  
recording; Carol Camerota  
Others: Police Chief Kuss, Accountant; Marie Arsenault, Town Clerk; Bob Sullivan, resident; Shelley Winiarski and Dan Camerota

Cable recording: B. Datz

(Miller) call to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Payroll & Warrants:**

Signed by Board

**Minutes:**

Review and approve meeting minutes of January 8, 2018.

**Motion #18-113:** by (McCarthy) move to approve minutes of January 8, 2018, seconded by (Shea), all in favor, (Leaming) abstain

**Review and Action:**

Appointment for Registrar – Town Clerk:

Appointment term for John Boland is up and normally a town would request appointments. However there is no functioning committee. Sullivan would like to nominate John Boland (Democrat) for the Board of Registrars.

**Motion #18-114:** by (Miller) move to accept the appointment of John Boland to the Board of Registrars for a 3 year term, seconded by (Leaming). (Miller) asked if the board could appoint an independent. Sullivan replied that they could but next year he would have a more definitive answer. All in favor.

Police Budget:

Hold

Special & One Day Liquor License:

Application for NE Motel, 30 Palmer Road for a Special & One Day Liquor License for the 3 weeks during the flea market for 2018.

**Motion #18-115:** by (Leaming) move to approve the Special & One Day Liquor License for NE Motel, 30 Palmer Road, seconded by (Shea), all in favor.

Re visit Warrant Article for Treasurer/Collector:

The Warrant Article would change the combined position from elected to appointed. Most towns are changing this position to appointed. If voted on at the Annual Town Meeting in May it would go on the 2019 election ballot, not this years. (Leaming) would also like to make it a 3 year appointment in order for this position to not have to worry about the job every year.

**Motion #18-116:** by (McCarthy) move to support the Warrant Article for changing the Treasurer/Collector position from elected to an appointed 3 year term, seconded by (Leaming), all in favor.

Review Warrant Article for Building repair:

The board is in support of placing the building repair article on the Warrant again this year with a \$50,000 amount.

**Motion #18-117:** by (Shea) move to approve placing the building repair article on the Warrant with a \$50,000 amount, seconded by (Leaming), all in favor.

Engagement services for Scanlon & Associates:

An engagement letter to conduct an audit for Scanlon & Associates was reviewed by the board. (Miller) asked if these services ever go out to bid. Arsenault replied that it does not need to go out to bid, other firms tend to run over \$20,000 for this service and she has been pleased with Scanlon.

**Motion #18-118:** by (Leaming) move to approve chair signing the engagement letter for Scanlon & Associates, seconded by (Shea), all in favor.

Police telephone bill:

Arsenault informed the board that it would be hard to separate out the police phone bills. Currently one of the bills is for the laptops in police cruisers which is paid out through the Selectmen's office. These would not be able to transfer over to the new Mitel system.

Common Victualler Licenses:

**Motion #18-119:** by (Leaming) move to approve 2018 Common Victualler's Licenses for Brimfield House of Pizza, 17 Main Street, MK Fuel, Inc., County Line, 341 Sturbridge Road, Diane Sturtevant, 30 Main Street, MK Fuel, 4 Sturbridge Road and Rusty Corriveau, Auction Barn, 35 Main Street, seconded by (Vandal)

*Hold Motion*

Owner Operator Licenses:

**Motion #18-120:** by (Leaming) move to approve 2018 Owner Operator Licenses for David Lamberto, Hertan's Antique Shows, 6 Mill Lane, Robert Christo, Meadows Antique Show, 40 Palmer Road, BAC Management, Midway, 35 Palmer Road, BAC Management, Dealer's Choice, 71 Palmer Road, Scott Tetreault, Brimfield Antique Market, Rt. 20 & Holland Road, Diane Sturtevant, 30 Main Street and Rusty Corriveau, Auction Barn, 35 Main Street, seconded by (McCarthy), all in favor.

Lodging House:

**Motion #18-121:** by (Leaming) move to approve 2018 Lodging License for Lori Myers, Elias Carter House B & B, 8 N. Main Street, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Results of Municibid sales:

The following surplus items from the Highway Department were posted and sold on Municibid totally \$12,542.

1994 Ford F350	\$ 9,200
2006 Ford E350 Van	\$ 2,721
Undercover Tonneau Cover	\$ 130
Power America Pressure Washer	\$ 290
Ford Front Bumper	\$ 145
Dana Military Hubs	\$ 42
Setina MFG Prisoner Cage	\$ 3
Cat 924G Loader Manual	<u>\$ 11</u>
	\$12,542

**Motion #18-122:** by (McCarthy) move to accept Highway surplus items that were sold on Municibid, seconded by (Leaming), all in favor.

Sr. Tax Work Off:

Mike Defalco has applied for a Sr. Tax Work off position at the Library.

**Motion #18-123:** by (Leaming) move to appoint Mike Defalco as a Sr. Tax Work off at the Library, seconded by (Vandal), all in favor.

Re-visit videography project for Historical:

Bob Datz will be participating with Historical on a project for Opacum Land Trust.

### **Old Business:**

(Leaming) would like to give support to Anne Gobi for the “move over law”. A tow truck driver from Brimfield was killed in 2015. The board along with Fire and Police are in support of a charitable organization to use proceeds to support families of tow truck drivers.

### Grant updates:

(McCarthy) wanted to update the board on several of the grants he has been working on. Lieutenant Governor Polito will come back to Brimfield to sign the Community Compact. It is too late for the IT grant but he will still follow through with an assessment to see what we have now and where our needs would be. Other items to consider are training for Police, domestic violence, opioid addictions and training for Police in handling mentally disabled. He also reached out to the Elementary School about energy efficiency and their lights, windows and doors. (McCarthy) will also have further conversations with Chris Dunphy from PVPC and his description of Brimfield. After (McCarthy) revised the Community Development Strategy, Mr. Dunphy preferred what he had written. (Shea) suggested speaking with the COA Director and she might be able to shed some light on how dire things might be in town. S. Winiarski had some questions and comments about the Tri Town Food Pantry. (McCarthy) briefly explained that previous discussions regarding the pantry, the board was uncomfortable with their numbers. Ms. Winiarski would be happy to help with a pantry in Brimfield. (McCarthy) has also been in touch with the tax title attorneys regarding Trant’s and a Mass Development. The Police Chief added that a Brownfield study done years back showed contaminated levels were not as deep as expected.

### Common Victualler Licenses:

The Treasurer advised the board that with the new municipal modernization law the board could cut the time period for delinquent taxes down from 12 months. This is a long time for payoffs and accrued interest.

***Motion #18-119: Previously made on page 2 approved.***

### Municipal Modernization bill and Warrant Article:

Beaudry explained that as the issuing authority the board can cut the tax delinquent time frame on a Warrant Article and Bylaw. It is currently 12 months but it shouldn’t be less than 6 months. If the board does not act it will remain the same. (Leaming) felt that it was important to work with residents that may have an ebb and flow of income. The board took no action.

### Discuss Constellation Energy contract and reviewing rates:

The Constellation Energy contract is up for renewal in February. (Miller) reached out to the Atlas Retail Energy and was advised to go with a new company called

IGS whose current rate was 0.09125. The contract will be for 2 years. Table until Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Police budget:

(Miller) made comment that he is not against the Chief or the Department. The Chief submitted a letter summarizing a full time force in the next few years. A full time patrol does not necessarily mean a full time officer. The hours of patrolling have steadily increased over the years. (Miller) requested the Chief to search back further. The Chief asked why you would not want police coverage. The concept that we don't have an officer on at all times is mind boggling. Discussion of the State Police coverage time and area.

(Leaming) started working for the town in 2003 and asked if there was an opioid crisis then. There was not. (Leaming) works for the State now and sees what is going on and applauds the attention to having 24 hour coverage. The Chief described a call received this week that required time of experienced officers. Typically the over experienced officers that are being paid \$16 hour leave for better jobs in bigger towns. All 911 calls go to the New Braintree dispatch and then directly to Brimfield.

(Miller) asked if he had a record of all the 911 calls. The Chief did not but can get them. He also stated that it is prudent upon the town to have protection. Officers should be available to provide all sorts of services from dealing with accidents, robberies to medical calls and court appearances.

(Miller) said in fairness to the tax payers he feels the budget has increased 100% in 2 years. If we agree to a full time officer and they go on vacation then we will need another. The public should know what their voting on. The Chief responded that he was only spending 31% of what the average town spends for services which is well below most towns. It is not fair to compare the budget to the tax rate. Easing into the increase over the years and as little shock as possible but still providing the service is better.

(McCarthy) added that the town needs a plan and he would like to see a more itemized tracking of where the money is spent. The Chief asked for them to look at Warren's 2016 budget for a comparison. He currently has no full time, hardly any office space and no clerk. The town has been getting a dollars' worth of service for a dime.

Discussion of officers hours and days worked and (Miller) commented that it was an inconsistent schedule. The Chief replied that the calls are inconsistent. He is hoping for middle ground. Having benefited part time officers the benefits would fluctuate depending on the hours. A full time officer would have to have a better wage, benefits, etc. upwards of \$65,000. A part time officer is better for the town. 20 hours considered part time has always been an industry standard. The police fleet is well maintained and sufficient for an increase in patrol hours.

(Miller) would like to see a spreadsheet before the next meeting showing hours and needs so that the board can better understand the increase. The Chief added that his radios were obsolete and he is budgeting for 2 new radios per year. Even though

the flea market hours are high, there are never more than 8 officers on which is short for what should be on per number of people. The Selectmen increased the hours to 110 after the Boston bombing.

The phone bill for the 3 cruiser lap tops is paid by the BOS and is phone card driven.

**New Business:**

None

**Public Access:**

None.

**Motion #18-124:** by (Leaming) move to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., seconded by (McCarthy), all in favor.

Upcoming Meetings:

Board of Selectmen

February 5, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Recording: Carol Camerota

ACCEPTED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Documents Utilized for this meeting

**MATERIALS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE**

1. Minutes of January 8, 2018
2. Police budget
3. Municibid surplus items sold
4. Atlas Commodities pricing email
5. Municipal Modernization Warrant Article
6. Building repair Article
7. Sr. Tax Work off-M. Defalco
8. Scanlon engagement letter
9. Registrar appointment letter-J. Boland
10. Common Victualler Licenses
11. Owner Operator Licenses
12. Lodging License
13. Historical Opacum Land Trust project letter