**Leverett Select Board**

**Minutes**

**February 21, 2017**

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm

Present: Peter d., Julie S., Tom H., Margie M., Lisa S. Rob (MR), Scott M., Greg W., Phil C., Ann D. (FinCom)

Handouts given at meeting and attached to minutes: CDBG Hearing Agenda and supporting docs

**CDBG Hearing:**

Peter opened the hearing at 7 pm and a motion was made to dispense with the reading of the legal notice. Bruce Hunter and Brian McHugh both spoke about the program in detail. Leverett is the lead town and the grant will be applied for by HRA for Conway, Sunderland, and Deerfield as well for a grant total for all towns of $240,000. Six households are currently on the wait-list.

**Motion: To approve of HRA’s filing of a CDBG grant on behalf of the Town. Seconded. Vote: 3-0 in favor.**

**Executive Order 418:**

Some residents had requested that the town think about how it may deal with potential pressure from the Federal Gov. to seek out illegal immigrants. The board agreed to craft a policy stating that law enforcement officials in the Town would not be taking on anything beyond the work of the Town, state, and upholding of the Constitution. The Town will be taking a strict view of the law. A draft of such policy will be crafted and presented in the next few weeks.

**Police Budget Hearing:**

Scott presented his budget to the Select Board and FinCom. The most significant increase in the police budget was from FRCOG in its attempt to fix (again) the radio communication system. The board had received documentation of these changes just today. Copies were sent home with all board members to read.

Scott also mentioned the Regional Dog Shelter that he thought the town might like to be part of. For $350/yr the shelter is available to the Town 24 hour/day. If a police officer picked up a dog they could bring it directly to the shelter; Scott has had trouble reaching the dog officer. It was suggested that he talk to the dog officer first about her availability and contact information.

The Police Depts. AEDs are old and not compatible with Amherst Ambulance. They may need to be replaced. The board suggested Scott look into grant possibilities.

The replacement of a police cruiser caused confusion since it was not the same one that is on the Capital Schedule (CS). The group then remembered that the former Chief had requested to keep his cruiser, maintain it within his budget and that it would not be replaced in the future. A closer look at the CS showed that there may need to be several corrections and a larger discussion among department heads, Select Board, Finance Committee, and Capital Planning. A meeting will be set up.

**Highway Budget:**

Highway Superintendent, David Finn, had minimal changes to the budget; the largest one being in the blacktop line. He would like to try a new sealant on some the blacktop roads with the most cracking. He gave an update on bridges and how he will deal with them. The Coke Kiln Rd. Bridge is being planned by an engineer and will be replaced soon with composite, strength-tested beams. Dudleyville Rd. needs new decking which will be paid for with Chapter 90 funds. And Rattlesnake Gutter Rd. will be fixed by the Highway Dept. David increased the training line item as he has two new employees. Lastly, there is a vehicle replacement on the schedule that David would like to change to a heavier truck—to be discussed at the joint SBd/FinCom/Capital Planning meeting.

**Business:**

The draft agreement with Amherst Regional School was not signed.

The issue about heating the downstairs hall and bathroom will be put on the capital list to be discussed at a future meeting.

Tom is going ask Barbara Tiner if she would serve as the FRCOG representative.

Margie will draft a letter in response to Michael Morris’ letter about the request to increase enrollment at the Chinese Immersion School.

The Accounting Contract with the FRCOG was signed.

Contract documents with DEP and thank you letters were signed.

The minutes of 2/7/2017 were accepted.

**Motion: To appoint Maggie Kraus to the Conservation Commission and to appoint Jono Neiger to the Conservation Commission contingent on ConCom approval. Vote: 3-0 in favor.**

**Motion: To go into executive session to discuss the Boss case and not to return to regular session (9:25 pm) d’Errico, aye; Shively, aye; Hankinson, aye.**