



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: Monday, August 12, 2013
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chair Woodbury, Vice Chair Berthiaume, Clerk Stevens, Members Fritze and Pepe and Administrator Gaudette.

At 6:05 p.m. Chairman. Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2013 Business Meeting (Berthiaume/ Fritze) passed 5 /0.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2013 Workshop (Berthiaume/ Fritze) passed 4 /0. Mr. Pepe abstained.

Citizen Input

None

Toll Booth Request

Mr. Berthiaume and Mr. Pepe recused themselves citing a potential conflict.

Scott Peterson with the Leicester/Spencer Fraternal Order of Eagles asked for permission to hold a Toll Road on October 5th at the intersection of Routes 9 and 31. Mr. Peterson explained this organization is new to the area and is similar to the Knights of Columbus. They are working to raise funds for a facility. The mission of the Eagles is to give back to the community. If approved, they will obtain liability insurance and submit a copy to the Town Administrator.

A motion to approve the request of the Leicester/Spencer Fraternal Order of Eagles to hold a Toll Booth on October 5, 2013 (Stevens/Fritze) passed 3/0.

Communications

Appreciation to Aaron Keyes, Kyle Sullivan and Andrew Rutkin for Sound System Renovations to McCourt Social Hall

Mr. Berthiaume praised Aaron Keys, Kyle Sullivan and Andrew Rutkin for voluntarily rewiring the McCourt Social Hall to improve the sound quality of televised meetings. chairman Woodbury thanked them on behalf of the entire Board.

Old Business

Discussion with E. Brookfield Selectmen Re: 9/10/13 Special Town Election

Chairman Woodbury introduced E. Brookfield Selectmen Leo Fayard, Joe Fish, and Larry Gordon, who were invited to participate in the discussion.

Administrator Gaudette noted a Special Election is being held on September 10th from 12-8 p.m.

Mr. Fayard mentioned that there are many misinformed people relative to an override. In the event the State sets the budget, there is a concern it will not be a lower amount. Mr. Gaudette added that the State told him they would work with the Town to determine a feasible number.

Mr. Berthiaume offered to invite both School and Town officials to speak on the "Talk of the Town" program. Mr. Fayard is of the opinion that there isn't much more the School can offer in terms of budget information. Chairman Woodbury noted that both Boards have an obligation to educate people by providing as much information as necessary.

Mr. Gaudette said the Town has put out information that relates to the impact on the tax rate. He questioned whether Towns are prepared to provide specific details on municipal budget cuts. In the event the override fails, the next step is a district-wide meeting.

It was agreed that both Towns will have public hearings/informational sessions. E. Brookfield will be on August 26th and Spencer on August 27th.

Al Atchue, Meadow Rd., asked why there has been no mention of the addition or renovations for David Prouty High School. Mr. Berthiaume said a Building Committee meeting will be held next week to review options.

Discussion: Transfer Station – Steve Tyler, U&F Superintendent

Recycling Update

Mr. Tyler reported:

- The Casella single stream recycling option stands as originally proposed. In addition, Casella representative Shaunna Shiller will present a proposal on curbside pick up.
- E. L. Harvey and Sons recycling requires sorting and involves more work as opposed to single stream, however they will deal with transporting and hauling trash.
- Blackstone does not offer an option to deal with trash.

The existing Wheelabrator contract expires in 2016. Mr. Gaudette noted that both Wheelabrator and We-Care require operating expenses in addition to recycling and transportation.

Mr. Tyler introduced Shaunna Shiller from Casella.

Ms. Schiller presented the benefits of a curbside operation. This proposal is for curbside for the entire Town with the use of toters for both trash and recycling.

- The program is fee based, not tax based. Each resident pays the Town directly
- The Town sets up an enterprise account through the Assessor's Office
- All residents are automatically in the program unless they opt out
- Currently 37% of residents use the transfer station, that number is expected to increase to 98% with curbside
- By going with a fee based program, there is an immediate savings of \$130,000 from the existing budget
- Fewer haulers result in less wear and tear on the roads
- The estimated average cost is \$110,000 per quarter
- Toters may be purchased by the hauler and built into the contract price or be purchased outright by the Town

Mr. Berthiaume wants to keep the Transfer Station open one day per week. Mr. Schiller explained this would defeat the purposes of the program. There was some discussion about keeping Transfer Station open for disposal of metal and other items.

Mr. Stevens noted that people have the option to continue with their current curbside hauler, though most will likely switch due to the lower cost.

Mr. Pepe asked how trash is handled on roads that are too narrow for trucks. Ms. Schiller will check into this.

Mr. Fritze asked about replacements for broken toters and how it works with the overflow bags on the side of the toter. Ms. Schiller said they need to be the pay as you go bags.

The Board thanked Ms. Schiller and Mr. Tyler.

Mr. Tyler said he wanted to bring the proposal before the Board to determine whether or not to go before the community.

New Business

Action Item: CMRPC Delegate and Alternate Appointments

Administrator Gaudette reported that annual appointments to the CMRPC are due and recommends reappointing Steve Tyler as the BOS representative. The Planning Board recommends appointing Jim Whalen as the Planning Board alternate. Meeting attendance provides the Town with credit for hours to be used for services.

A motion to appoint Steve Tyler as the BOS representative to the CMRPC and Jim Whalen as alternate to the CMRPC (Berthiaume / Pepe) passed 5/0.

Action Item: Review and Set Town Fee Schedules

Administrator Gaudette recommends tabling until next week's Workshop. In the meantime, he asked Board members to get back to him if they would like more information or to have a department representative present at the Workshop. Mr. Pepe would like to have Building Inspector Bill Klansek and Board of Health Director Lee Jarvis present to explain proposed increases.

Town Administrator's Report

Action Item: CIC Contract Stormwater Consultant: Tata & Howard

Administrator Gaudette reported that consultants Tata and Howard were involved in the previous CIC Stormwater grant and recommends utilizing them for the new grant. The CIC Steering Committee works to negotiate fees with vendors and is in favor of this contract. The total grant amount is \$200,000, and the total amount for this contract is \$91,750.

A motion to authorize Administrator Gaudette to negotiate the contract with Tata & Howard as presented (Berthiaume / Pepe) passed 5/0.

Bid Update

None

Board Liaison Reports

None

Citizen Input

Kurt Nordquist, Gale Dr. asked the Board to check on details of the Wheelabrator Contract and when it expires. He said people want to keep the Transfer Station open as reflected in the results of the 2012 resident survey.

Mike Toomey commented on the following:

- Advised the Board to address organic food waste and cautioned that curbside proposals offer an initial cost savings and then rates increase. He suggests a "Pay as you Throw" program to keeps rate low. He also noted that the schools use a separate hauler.
- He is frustrated with present stormwater reviews in Town noting that the Planning Board has deferred to the Conservation Commission on one project in particular. He wants to ensure the rural character is addressed and feels that the project on Route 49 is inconsistent with the Town's Master Plan.

Chairman Woodbury said he researched this and the Town is exercising due diligence.

- Mr. Toomey noted water quality monitoring should be done at the beginning to get a baseline and then assess at a later date.
- He suggests utilizing the Spencer Fairgrounds to bring in fees, such as hosting rallies with overnight campers. Also, would like to see water and bicycle trails near Powder Mill Park.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Selectmen Pepe – Feasibility of Flea & Farmers Markets at Fairgrounds

Mr. Pepe has been thinking about cultural/economical ideas for the Town. He would like to explore the feasibility of holding flea and/or farmers markets at the Fairgrounds. The Board agreed. Mr. Pepe will keep them updated. Mr. Fritze advised him to work with the Agricultural Commission since they rent the Fairgrounds from the Town.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials:

Curbside Pickup Presentation
Town Fee Schedules
CIC Stormwater Contract