



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Date: Monday, December 9, 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 6:00 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

*A motion to approve the minutes of the November 25<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.*

### **Citizen Input**

Don Nussey, Pond St. said he was disappointed that sand/sale is no longer available at Highway Department.

Bob Cirba, 23 Summit St., said he was concerned about budget cuts, especially those affecting senior citizens, which include the new Senior Center and Senior Tax Abatement Program. He questioned providing funding to the Spencer Rescue Squad and other organizations and asked the Board to provide support to the seniors.

Administrator Gaudette pointed out that funding allocated to relocate the Senior Center was used to help cover the budget shortfall. Difficult decisions were made resulting in a variety of reductions; the Board will analyze the budget in detail and make decisions in all areas beginning in January.

### **Communications**

The Christmas Parade of Lights will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. A rain /snow date is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

#### **Action Item: Vote on Availability of Sand/Salt to Public and to SEBRSD**

Highway Department Supervisor Eben Butler estimated the cost to provide sand/sand in 2012 was between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

Highway Superintendent Steve Tyler noted that sand should not be stored at the Highway Barn since it is a Zone 2 location and there is potential for water runoff issues. He suggested keeping it at the Transfer Station.

There was discussion on whether or not to continue having sand available to residents and to the SEBRSD, due to the cost. Mr. Woodbury does not want to continue this service considering the budget constraints. Mr. Stevens would like to continue, noting winter is upon us and it is a good faith gesture. Mr. Pepe believes the Transfer Station location will prevent abuse and result in a significant reduction in the expense.

*A motion to move sand/salt to the Transfer Station and limit the amount allowed to four of the five gallon pails at one time for Spencer residents (Berthiaume/Stevens) passed 4/1.*

*A motion not to supply sand to the SEBRSD (Fritze/Berthiaume) passed 4/1.*

Mr. Stevens believes it is a show of good faith to continue to provide sand to the SEBRSD. Mr. Pepe noted by providing this service, Spencer is essentially supporting schools in E. Brookfield.

### **Discussion: Council on Aging Director Pam Woodbury**

Council on Aging Director Pam Woodbury expressed frustration over having \$10,000 cut from a \$15,000 program, while \$25,000 is being spent to provide sand. Seniors are losing important services and her job is to be their advocate and to assist with services including financial, medical and fuel assistance. She asked the Board to come to the Center and talk with the seniors to learn more about situations they are up against.

Selectmen Berthiaume said the Town has worked to support seniors by creating a space at the Fish and Game Club specifically for the Council on Aging and increased the amount of hours for the Director position.

Selectmen Stevens noted that the Board and the Administrator worked to keep the tax rate down which resulted in the reductions. He plans to visit seniors at the center in the near future.

### **Discussion: FY2014 CDBG Community Development Strategy Forum**

Elizabeth Rairigh, Senior Planner with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), explained that CDBG is a HUD program, and in the case of Spencer is funded competitively by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. Spencer's 2013 Community Development Strategy (CDS) was successful and can be used for the next grant application in FY14, which is due on February 14, 2014.

Ms. Rairigh referred to the priority projects listing from the FY13 CDS, and stated that it still reflects the Town's priority projects, especially as it pertains to the Southside neighborhood and ongoing housing rehabilitation efforts. Design funding was granted in FY12 for Mechanic Street infrastructure work, and the next step will be to obtain construction funding for this project in FY14, as well as to pursue design funding for other streets in the neighborhood, including Chestnut Street. The grant application being considered is between \$800,000 and \$900,000. A public hearing on the application will be held in January.

Mr. Stevens asked about the process to modify the CDS or how to place a different

emphasis on the projects such as free market ideas and less preservation restrictions. Ms. Rairigh said that would be open for discussion in FY15.

### **Discussion: RFP for Solar Farm on Landfill**

A draft RFP was previously done for the landfill. There is concern over the cap, which cannot be punctured due to environmental risks. Mr. Gaudette advised the Board to follow the process used for the Sugden Block project. He will conduct research with Mr. Tyler and report back.

### **Old Business**

#### **Discussion: Follow-up on Representatives for SEBRSD Collective Bargaining**

E. Brookfield Selectmen informed Mr. Gaudette that they are in process of selecting an alternate member.

### **Town Administrator Report**

#### **Fall Special Town Meeting Follow-up**

Administrator Gaudette reported that close to one hundred residents attended the December 5<sup>th</sup> STM. He and Mary Williams are working with the DOR to finalize the tax rate.

#### **FY15 Budget Process and Goals Discussion**

Mr. Gaudette advised his staff to analyze their budget in terms of core/essential services versus elective/non-essential services. He will continue to look at reprioritizing, regionalizing and restructuring, where feasible.

The FY15 budget calendar and budget requests will be reviewed next week.

### **Board Liaison Reports**

Mr. Pepe will attend a Sugden Block Committee meeting on Tuesday.

### **Citizen input**

Kurt Nordquist, Gale Dr., said that in his opinion many residents are willing to support a small override to continue services, including funding the Senior Center.

### **Board Member and Staff Comments**

None

### **Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶ 3, for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation**

*At 7:35 pm a motion to meet in Executive Session (Berthiaume/Pepe) in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A § 21 (a), ¶ 3, for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect collective bargaining or litigation, and not to reconvene except to adjourn passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.*

***A motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.***

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials:

Town of Spencer 2013 Community Development Strategy (CDS)